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PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

FIRST SESSION OF THE FOURTH LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Vol. LV (Nos. 1 to 7)

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Government of Madras

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LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

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PERSONNEL OF THE GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

Governor of Madras.

His Excellency Lieut.-Col. the Right Hon. Sir GEORGE FREDERICK STANLEY, P.C., G.C.I.E., C.M.G. Took his seat on the 12th November 1929.

Members of the Executive Council.

1. The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur, Kt., Home Member. Took his seat on the 30th March 1925 and is in charge of the following portfolios :—

I.—Provincial Subjects.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Police, including Railway Police and C.I.D. | 12. Government Houses, Staff and equipment of His Excellency the Governor. |
| 2. Regulation of betting and gambling. | 13. Stationery and Government Presses. |
| 3. Prevention of cruelty to animals. | 14. Elections for Indian and Provincial legislatures. |
| 4. Control of poisons. | 15. Industrial matters included under the following heads :— |
| 5. Control of vehicles. | (a) Factories. |
| 6. Control of dramatic performances and cinematographs. | (b) Settlement of labour disputes. |
| 7. Control of newspapers, books and printing presses. | (c) Boilers. |
| 8. Laccadives. | (d) Gas. |
| 9. European vagrancy. | (e) Smoke nuisances. |
| 10. European and Anglo-Indian education. | (f) Welfare of labour including depressed classes. |
| 11. Regulation of medical and other professional qualifications and standards. | 16. Criminal tribes. |

II.—Central Subjects.

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------|
| 1. Control of petroleum and explosives. | 3. Arms and ammunition. |
| 2. Central police organization. | 4. Emigration and immigration. |
| | 5. Pilgrimage to the Hedjaz. |
2. The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR, Law Member. Took his seat on the 25th April 1928 and is in charge of the following portfolios :—

I.—Provincial Subjects.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Administration of justice, including constitution, powers, maintenance and organization of courts of civil and criminal jurisdiction within the province. | 3. Administrator-General and Official Trustees. |
| 2. Provincial Law reports. | 4. Escheats. |
| | 5. Coroners. |
| | 6. Treasure trove. |
| | 7. Non-judicial and judicial stamps. |
| | 8. Prisons and prisoners. |

I.—Provincial Subjects—cont.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 9. Industrial matters included under the following head:
Electricity, including hydro-electric scheme. | 10. Forests (including Cinchona) except panchayat forests.
11. Minor ports. |
|---|--|

II.—Central Subjects.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Civil law.
2. Inventions and designs.
3. Copyright.
4. Criminal law
5. Major ports. | 6. Shipping and navigation.
7. Lighthouses.
8. Port quarantine and marine hospitals. |
|--|--|

3. The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL, C.S.I., C.I.E., C.B.E., V.D., I.C.S., Member in charge of Revenue. Took his seat on the 29th June 1929 and is in charge of the following portfolios :—

I.—Provincial Subjects.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Land Revenue administration as described under the following heads, namely :—
(a) Assessment and collection of land revenue.
(b) Maintenance of land records; survey for revenue purposes; records of rights.
(c) Laws regarding land tenures; relations of landlords and tenants; collection of rents.
(d) Court of Wards, encumbered and attached estates.
(e) Land improvement and agricultural loans.
(f) Colonization and disposal of crown lands.
(g) Management of Government estates.
(h) Panchayat forests. | 4. Inland waterways including shipping and navigation thereon.
5. Economic condition including wages and prices and famine-relief.
6. Land acquisition, excepting notifications under subsection (1) of section 4 and declarations under subsection (1) of section 6 of the Land Acquisition Act, 1894, where the public purpose referred to in the said sub-sections appertains to a transferred subject.
7. Development of mineral resources.
8. Protection of wild birds and animals.
9. Pounds and prevention of cattle trespass.
10. Provincial Gazetteers.
11. Agency tracts.
12. Fortnightly reports and preliminary special reports to the Government of India.
13. General service questions.
14. Office procedure.
15. Secretariat.
16. Matters of a general nature not allocated elsewhere. |
| 2. Yeomials, inams and hereditary pensions.
3. Water-supplies, irrigation and canals, drainage and embankments; water storage and water power. | |

II.—Central Subjects.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Geological survey.
2. Mineral development.
3. Botanical survey.
4. Survey of India.
5. Zoological survey.
6. Meteorology.
7. Census and Statistics. | 8. Territorial changes.
9. Immovable property in possession of the Governor-General in Council.
10. All-India services.
11. Public Services Commission.
12. Reforms. |
|--|--|

4. The hon. Mr. H. G. STOKES, C.S.I., C.I.E., I.C.S., Finance Member. Took his seat on the 19th March 1930 and is in charge of the following portfolios :—

I.—Provincial Subjects.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Provincial finance.
2. Pensions.
3. Local Fund audit. | 4. Preservation and translation of ancient manuscripts.
5. Central Record office. |
|--|--|

II.—Central Subjects.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. (a) Defence of India.
(b) Naval and Military works and cantonments.
2. External relations, including naturalization and aliens and pilgrimage beyond India except to the Hedjaz.
3. Relations with States in India.
4. Political charges.
5. Communications.
6. Posts and telegraphs and telephones, including wireless installations.
7. Sources of all-India revenues.
8. Currency and coinage. | 9. Public debt of India.
10. Savings banks.
11. Indian Audit Department.
12. Commerce, including Banks and Insurance.
13. Trading Companies and other Associations.
14. Opium (central questions regarding —).
15. Central Research.
16. Ecclesiastical.
17. Archæology.
18. Regulation of ceremonial, titles, orders, precedence and civil uniform.
19. Subjects not allocated elsewhere. |
|--|--|

Ministers.

1. The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU, Minister for Local Self-Government. Took his seat on the 27th October 1930 and is in charge of the following portfolios :—

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Local Self-Government including village panchayats. | 5. Adulteration of food-stuffs and other articles. |
| 2. Medical administration. | 6. Light and feeder Railways and Tramways within municipal areas. |
| 3. Public Health and Sanitation and Vital Statistics. | |
| 4. Religious and Charitable Endowments. | |

2. The hon. Mr. P. T. RAJAN, Minister for Public Works. Took his seat on the 27th October 1930 and is in charge of the following portfolios :—

- | | |
|--|----------------------------|
| 1. Agriculture. | 4. Co-operative societies. |
| 2. Civil Veterinary Department. | 5. Registration. |
| 3. Public Works (Buildings, Roads, Ferries, Ropeways, etc.). | 6. Weights and Measures. |

3. The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR, Minister for Education and Excise. Took his seat on the 27th October 1930 and is in charge of the following portfolios :—

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Education (other than European and Anglo-Indian education). | 4. Fisheries |
| 2. Excise. | 5. Libraries, Museums and Zoological Gardens. |
| 3. Development of industries. | 6. Pilgrimages within British India. |

PRINCIPAL OFFICERS OF THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

President.

The hon. Mr. B. RAMACHANDRA REDDI.

Deputy President.

M.R.Ry. Rao Bahadur G. JAGANNADHA RAJU Garu.

Panel of Chairmen

Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED.

„ F. E. JAMES.

M.R.Ry. Rao Sahib BADETI VENKATARAMAYYA.

„ T. S. RAMASWAMI AYYAR AVARGAL.

Secretary to the Council.

M.R.Ry. Rao Bahadur R. V. KRISHNA AYYAR AVARGAL, B.A., M.L.

Assistant Secretary to the Council.

M.R.Ry. D. K. V. RAGHAVA VARMA Garu, B.A., B.L.

LIST OF MEMBERS OF THE MADRAS
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Name of member.	Name and class of constituency.
1. Abdul Hameed Khan Sahib Bahadur.	Madras City, Muhammadan Urban.
2. Ahmed Miran Sahib Bahadur, Moulvi Hafiz Anumanthakudi Mustafa.	Ramnad <i>cum</i> Tinnevely, Muhammadan Rural.
3. Alaganuan Chettiyar, Rao Sahib A. S.	Madura, N.-M. Rural.
4. Alamelumangathayarammal, K.	NOMINATED.
5. Alladi Krishnaswami Ayyar, Diwan Bahadur.	NOMINATED.
6. Annamalai Chettiyar, S. A. A.	Nattukottai Nagarathars' Association.
7. Arasu, V. T.	NOMINATED.
8. Ari Gowder, H. B.	The Nilgiris, N.-M. Rural.
9. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar, Diwan Bahadur R. N.	Central Districts (Indian Christian).
10. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed Sahib Bahadur.	Central Districts, Muhammadan Rural.
11. Basu Dev, C.	NOMINATED.
12. Bayabani Sahib Bahadur, S. M. K.	Ceded Districts, Muhammadan Rural.
13. Bayappa Reddi, P.	Anantapur, N.-M. Rural.
14. Bhanaji Rao, A. V.	NOMINATED.
15. Birley, Frank	Madras Chamber of Commerce.
16. Browning, W. M.	European.
17. Campbell, C.S.I., C.I.E., C.B.E., V.D., I.C.S., The hon. Mr. A. Y. G.	EX-OFFICIO.
18. Chinnu Pillai alias Nadimuthu Pillai, A. P. N. V.	Tanjore, N.-M. Rural.
19. Davis, O.B.E., J. A.	Anglo-Indian.
20. Devadasan, M.	NOMINATED.
21. Dharmalingam Pillai, Rao Sahib V.	NOMINATED.
22. Dorai Raja, S. N.	NOMINATED.
23. Duraiswami Reddiyar, K. M. ...	South Arcot, N.-M. Rural.
24. Ellappa Chettiyar, Rao Bahadur S.	Salem, N.-M. Rural.
25. Foulkes, R.	NOMINATED.
26. Gopalaswami Mudaliyar, Diwan Bahadur M.	Bellary, N.-M. Rural.
27. Harischandrudu Nayudu, A. ...	Godavari East, N.-M. Rural.
28. Hearson, H. F. P.	Madras Chamber of Commerce.

Name of member.	Name and class of constituency.
29. Hilton Brown, I.C.S.	NOMINATED.
30. Indrayya, C.	Godavari West, N.-M. Rural.
31. Jagannadha Raju, Rao Bahadur G. (Deputy President).	Vizagapatam, N.-M. Rural.
32. Jagannatham, H. M.	NOMINATED.
33. James, F. E.	Madras Planters.
34. Jayaram Nayudu, Rao Sahib C.	Chingleput, N.-M. Rural.
35. Kesava Ramamurthi Nayudu, K.	Cocanada City, N.-M. Urban.
36. Khalif-ul-lah Sahib Bahadur, Khan Bahadur P.	Madura and Trichinopoly <i>cum</i> Srirangam, Muhammadan Urban.
37. Kolanda Reddi, Rai Sahib C. ...	Kistna, N.-M. Rural.
38. Kondappa, A.	Anantapur, N.-M. Rural.
39. Koti Reddi, K.	Cuddapah, N.-M. Rural.
40. Krishnamurti, Rao Sahib D. ...	NOMINATED.
41. Krishnan, C.	NOMINATED.
42. Krishnan Nayar, The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M.	EX-OFFICIO.
43. Kumara Raja of Venkatagiri (Raja Velugoti Sarvagnya Kumara Krishnayachendra Bahadur Varu).	Nellore, N.-M. Rural.
44. Kumaraswami Reddiyar, The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. (Minister).	Tinnevely, N.-M. Rural.
45. Kuppaswami, J.	Guntur, N.-M. Rural.
46. Luker, A. T.	Madras Trade Association.
47. Madanagopal Nayudu, R.	Madras City, N.-M. Urban.
48. Madhusoodhanan Thangal ...	NOMINATED.
49. Maharaja of Venkatagiri (Sir Raja Velugoti Sri Govinda Krishna Yachendrule Varu Bahadur, K.C.I.E., Lieutenant-Colonel).	North Central Landholders.
50. Mahboob Ali Baig Sahib Bahadur.	Northern Circars, Muhammadan Rural.
51. Mahmud Schamnad Sahib Bahadur, Khan Bahadur.	South Kanara, Muhammadan Rural.
52. Manikkavelu Nayakar, M. A. ...	North Arcot, N.-M. Rural.
53. Moidoo Sahib Bahadur, Khan Bahadur T. M.	Malabar, Muhammadan Rural.
54. Moses, P. C.	Northern Districts (Christian).
55. Muhammad Meera Ravuttar Bahadur, K. P. V. S.	Madura <i>cum</i> Trichinopoly, Muhammadan Rural.
56. Muniswami Nayudu, The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. (Minister).	Chittoor, N.-M. Rural.
57. Muniswami Pillai, Rao Sahib V. I.	NOMINATED.
58. Murugappa Chettiyar, Diwan Bahadur A. M. M.	Ramnad, N.-M. Rural.
59. Muthiah Chettiyar, M. A. ...	Southern India Chamber of Commerce.

Name of member.	Name and class of constituency.
60. Muthu Chettiyar, P. C. ...	Madura, N.-M. Rural.
61. Nachiyappa Gounder, A. ...	Salem, N.-M. Rural.
62. Nallathambi Sarkari Manradar, Rai Bahadur N.	Coimbatore, N.-M. Rural.
63. Nanjappah Bahadur, Subadar-Major S. A.	NOMINATED.
64. Narasa Reddi, T. ...	Cuddapah, N.-M. Rural.
65. Narasimbaswami, D. V. ...	Godavari East, N.-M. Rural.
66. Narayanan Nambiyar, V. P. ...	Malabar, N.-M. Rural.
67. Narayanaswami Pillai, T. M. ...	Trichinopoly, N.-M. Rural.
68. Natesa Mudaliyar, Rao Bahadur C.	Madras City, N.-M. Urban.
69. Palat, R. M., alias Ravunni Menon.	West Coast Landholders.
70. Pannirselvam, Rao Bahadur A. T.	Tanjore and Trichinopoly cum Madura (Christian).
71. Parthasarathi Ayyangar, C. R.	Chittoor, N.-M. Rural.
72. Pate, I.C.S., H. R.	NOMINATED.
73. Patnaik Mahasayo, Sriman M. G.	Ganjam, N.-M. Rural.
74. Patro, Kt., Rao Bahadur Sir A. P.	Ganjam, N.-M. Rural.
75. Pattabhiramayya, K. ...	Kistna, N.-M. Rural.
76. Pocker Sahib Bahadur, B. ...	Malabar, Muhammadan Rural.
77. Premayya, G. R. ...	NOMINATED.
78. Rajagopala Pillai, P. V. ...	NOMINATED.
79. Raja of Bobbili (Ramakrishna Ranga Rao Sri Ravu Swetachallapathi).	Vizagapatam, N.-M. Rural.
80. Raja of Kallikota (Raja Sri Ramachandra Marada Raja Deo Garu).	Northern Landholders, I.
81. Raja of Parlakimedi (Sri Sri Sri Krishna Chandra Gajapathi Narayana Deo).	Ganjam, N.-M. Rural.
82. Rajan, The hon. Mr. P. T. (Minister).	Madura, N.-M. Rural.
83. Ramachandra Padayachi, P. K.	South Arcot, N.-M. Rural.
84. Ramachandra Reddi, The hon. Mr. B. (President).	Nellore, N.-M. Rural.
85. Ramalinga Chettiyar, Rao Bahadur T. A.	Coimbatore, N.-M. Rural.
86. Ramakrishna Reddi, A. ...	Kurnool, N.-M. Rural.
87. Raman Menon, K. P. ...	Malabar, N.-M. Rural.
88. Ramamurti, Pandit Ganala ...	NOMINATED.
89. Ramamurti, I.C.S., S. V. ...	NOMINATED.
90. Ramaswami Ayyar, T. S. ...	Madras University.
91. Ramaswami Mudaliyar, V. M.	North Arcot, N.-M. Rural.
92. Ranganatha Mudaliyar, A. ...	Bellary, N.-M. Rural.
93. Ranganatha Mudaliyar, G. ...	Tanjore, N.-M. Rural.

Name of member.	Name and class of constituency.
94. Ranganatha Mudaliyar, M. D. T.	Tinnevely cum Palamcottah, N.-M. Urban.
95. Rangaswami Reddi, M. B. ...	North Arcot, N.-M. Rural.
96. Ratnasabhapat Mudaliyar, Diwan Bahadur C. S.	Coimbatore, N.-M. Rural.
97. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti ...	Madras City, N.-M. Urban.
98. Satyanarayana Choudari, C. ...	Guntur, N.-M. Rural.
99. Sesha Reddi, B. P. ...	Kurnool, N.-M. Rural.
100. Shetty, A. B. ...	South Kanara, N.-M. Rural.
101. Simbachalam Pantulu, Gade ...	Guntur, N.-M. Rural.
102. Singam Ayyangar, K. ...	Trichinopoly cum Srirangam, N.-M. Urban.
103. Siva Raj, N. ...	NOMINATED.
104. Sivasubrahmanya Ayyar, K. S.	Tanjore, N.-M. Rural.
105. Soundara Pandian, W. P. A. ...	NOMINATED.
106. Sriramulu, G. ...	NOMINATED.
107. Sreshta, M. S. ...	West Coast Christian.
108. Srinivasa Ayyangar, T. C. ...	Ramnad, N.-M. Rural.
109. Srinivasan, Rao Bahadur R. ...	NOMINATED.
110. Stokes, C.S.I., C.I.E., I.C.S., The hon. Mr. H. G.	EX-OFFICIO.
111. Subbarayan, Dr. P. ...	South Central Landholders.
112. Subrahmanyam Chetti, Rao Sahib P.	NOMINATED.
113. Subrahmanya Bhatt, U. C. ...	Kanara South, N.-M. Rural.
114. Sundara Rao Nayudu, T. ...	Madras City, N.-M. Urban.
115. Swami Sahajanandam, A. S. ...	NOMINATED.
116. Syed Tajuddin Sahib Bahadur, Khan Sahib.	Tanjore, Muhammadan.
117. Thomas, Daniel ...	Ramnad cum Tinnevely, Christian.
118. Usman Sahib Bahadur, Kt., The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir Mahomed.	EX-OFFICIO.
119. Vasudeva Pillai, V. G. ...	NOMINATED.
120. Vedachala Mudaliyar, M. ...	Chingleput, N.-M. Rural.
121. Venkatarama Ayyar, K. R. ...	Madura City, N.-M. Urban.
122. Venkataramayya, Rao Sahib Badeti.	Godavari West, N.-M. Rural.
123. Venugopal Nayudu, Rao Bahadur R. K.	South Arcot, N.-M. Rural.
124. Watson, I.C.S., H. A. ...	NOMINATED.
125. Yahya Ali Sahib Bahadur Khan Bahadur.	East Coast Muhammadan—Rural.
126. Yakub Hasan Sahib Bahadur ...	North Arcot cum Chingleput.
127. Zamindar of Bodinayakkanur (Kamaraja Pandia Nayakar, T. V. K.)	Southern Landholders.

Name of member.	Name and class of constituency.
128. Zamindar of Chemudu (Sri Vyricherla Narayana Gajapati Raju).	Vizagapatam City, N.-M. Urban.
129. Zamindar of Ettavapuram (Raja Jaga Veera Rama Kumara Venkateswara Ettappa Nayar Ayyan).	Tinnevely, N.-M. Rural.
130. Zamindar of Minampalli (K. C. M. Venkatachala Reddiyar).	Trichinopoly, N. M. Rural.
131. Zamindar of Mirzapuram (Mirzapuram Raja alias Venkataramayya Appa Rao).	Northern Landholders, II.

THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OF THE GOVERNOR OF MADRAS.

OFFICIAL REPORT.

*First Session of the Fourth Legislative Council under the
Government of India Act, 1919.*

Tuesday, the 24th February 1931.

The House met at eleven of the clock, Mr. President (the hon. Mr. B. RAMACHANDRA REDDI) in the Chair.

PRESENT:

Usman Sabib Bahadur, *Kt.*, The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir Mohamed.
Krishnan Nayar, *Kt.* The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M.
Campbell, *c.s.i.*, *c.i.e.*, *c.b.e.*, *v.d.*, *I.C.S.*,
The hon. Mr. A. Y. G.
Stokes, *c.s.i.*, *c.i.e.*, *I.C.S.*, The hon. Mr. H. G.
Muniswami Nayudu, The hon. Diwan Bahadur B.
Rajan, The hon. Mr. P. T.
Kumaraswami Reddiyar, The hon. Diwan Bahadur S.
Abdul Hameed Khan Sahib Bahadur.
Ahmet Meeran Sahib Bahadur.
Alamelumanga Thayaramma, Mrs. K.
Arasu, Mr. V. T.
Ar Gowder, Mr. H. B.
Arogyaswami Mudaliyar, Diwan Bahadur R. N.
Bashier Ahmed Fayed Sahib Bahadur.
Basu Dev, Mr. C.
Bhanoji, Rao, Mr. A. V.
Browning, Mr. W. M.
Davis, *c.b.e.*, Mr. J. A.
Devadason, Mr. M.
Dharmalingam Pillai, Rao Sahib V.
Duraiswami Reddiyar, Mr. K. M.
Foulkes, Mr. R.
Henson, Mr. H. F. P.
Hilton Brown, *I.C.S.*, Mr.
Jagannadha Raju, Rao Bahadur G.
Jagannatham, Mr. H. M.
Jayaram Nayudu, Rao Sahib C.
Kesava Ramamurti Nayudu, Mr. K.
Kolanda Reddi, Rai Sahib C.
Kondappa, Mr. A.
Kumara Raja of Venkatagiri.
Luker, Mr. A. T.
Madanagopal Nayudu, Mr. R.
Madhusoodhanan Thangal.

Mahboob Ali Baig Sahib Bahadur.
Mahmud Schamnad Sahib Bahadur, Khan Bahadur.
Manikkavelu Nayakar, Mr. M. A.
Moidoo Sahib Bahadur, Khan Bahadur T. M.
Moses, Mr. P. C.
Muhammad Meera Ravuttar Bahadur, K. P. V. S.
Muniswami Pillai, Rao Sahib V. L.
Murugappa Chettiyar, Diwan Bahadur A. M. M.
Muthiah Chettiyar, Mr. M. A.
Muthu Chettiyar, Mr. P. C.
Nachiappa Gounder, Mr. K. A.
Nalatiambi Sarkarai Mandradiyar, Rai Bahadur N.
Nanjappa Bahadur, Subadar Major S. A.
Naras Reddi, Mr. T.
Narasimhaswami, Mr. D. V.
Narayanan Nambiyar, Mr. V. P.
Natesa Mudaliyar, Rao Bahadur C.
Palat, Mr. R. M.
Pannirselvam, Rao Bahadur A. T.
Parthasarathi Ayyangar, Mr. C. R.
Pate, *I.C.S.*, Mr. H. R.
Patnaick Mahasayo, Sriman M. G.
Patro, *Kt.*, Rao Bahadur Sir A. P.
Pocker Sahib Bahadur, B.
Premayya, Mr. G. R.
Raja of Bobbili.
Rajagopala Pillai, Mr. P. V.
Ramachandra Padayachi, Mr. P. K.
Ramakrishna Reddi, Mr. A.
Ramalinga Chettiyar, Rao Bahadur T. A.
Ramamurti, Pandit Ganala.
Ramamurti, *I.C.S.*, Mr. S. V.
Ramswami Ayyar, Mr. T. S.
Ramswami Mudaliyar, Mr. V. M.
Ranganatha Mudaliyar, Mr. A.
Ranganatha Mudaliyar, Mr. G.
Ranganatha Mudaliyar, Mr. M. D. T.
Rangaswami Reddi, Mr. M. B.

[24th February 1931]

PRESENT—cont.

Ratnasabhapati, Mudaliyar, Diwan Bahadur C. S.
Sami Venkatachalam Chetti, Mr.
Sesha Reddi, Mr. B. P.
Shetty, Mr. A. B.
Simbachalam, Mr. Gade.
Siva Raj, Mr. N.
Soundara Pandian, Mr. W. P. A.
Sreshtha, Mr. M. S.
Srinivasa Ayyangar, Mr. T. C.
Srinivasan, Rao Bahadur R.
Sriramulu, Mr. G.

Subbarayan, Dr. P.
Subrahmanya Bhatt, Mr. U. C.
Subrahmanyan Chetti, Rao Sahib P.
Sundara Rao Nayudu, Mr. T.
Syed Tajuddin Sahib Bahadur, Khan Sahib.
Vasudeva Pillai, Mr. V. G.
Venkataramayya, Rao Sahib Badeti.
Venugopal Nayudu, Rao Bahadur R. K.
Watson, I.C.S., Mr. H. A.
Yakub Hassan Sahib Bahadur.
Zamindar of Minampalli.

I.—SWEARING IN OF MEMBERS.

The following Members made the prescribed oath or affirmation of allegiance to the Crown and took their seats:—

1. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO.
2. Rao Bahadur A. T. PANNIRSELVAM.
3. Rao Bahadur R. SRINIVASAN.

[Note.—An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.]

II.—RESOLUTIONS OF CONDOLENCE AT THE DEATH OF THE MAHARAJA OF JEYPORE AND PANDIT MOTILAL NEHRU.

(i)

* The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—
“Mr. President, Sir, it is my painful duty this morning to bring to your notice the death of Maharaja Sri Ramachandra Deo, the Maharaja of Jeypore.

“The Maharaja was born on the 31st December 1893. He was educated privately under Dr. Marsh. He succeeded to the Estate which consists of about 14,000 square miles in 1920 and is the largest in the Presidency. The title of Maharaja was conferred on him by His Excellency the Viceroy in June 1922. He was a patron of art and letters. Among his munificent gifts are a lakh of rupees to the Andhra University and another lakh to the projected Das-Brwin School at Dehra Dun, besides innumerable gifts to the Vizagapatam district. He had been since 1928 Pro-Chancellor of the Andhra University. He was nominated to the Legislative Council in 1921 and renominated in 1926 and 1930. His chief recreation was shooting.

“He and his ancestors have been noted for their loyalty to the British Rule.

“I now beg to move—

‘That an expression of the sincere regret of this Council at the death of Maharaja Sri Ramachandra Deo, the Maharaja of Jeypore, and of deep sympathy with his family be placed on record and conveyed to them.’”

* Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN:—“Mr. President, Sir, I rise to second this resolution, and in doing so, I associate myself with all that has been said by the hon. the Leader of the House. I think the death of the Maharaja of

RESOLUTIONS OF CONDOLENCE AT THE DEATH OF THE MAHARAJA OF JEYPORE AND PANDIT MOTILAL NEHRU. 13

24th February 1931] [Dr. P. Subbarayan]

Jeypore is a great loss to the community to which he belonged, viz., the landholders of this province; because, he took a deep and abiding interest in all things that concerned the landholders and the landed interests of this Presidency. He also took a keen interest in the Andhra University, and I am sure his loss will be very much deplored by the country at large.”

* The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU:—“Sir, I associate myself with the sentiments expressed by the previous speakers, and commend this resolution to the acceptance of this Council.”

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—“The question is—

‘That an expression of the sincere regret of this Council at the death of Maharaja Sri Ramachandra Deo, the Maharaja of Jeypore, and of deep sympathy with his family be placed on record and conveyed to them.’”

The resolution was carried *nem. con.* all the Members of the Council standing.

(ii)

* Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN:—“Sir, I beg to move the following resolution, as this happens to be the first meeting of the Legislative Council after the death of that great National Leader, Pandit Motilal Nehru:—

‘That this Council places on record its deep sense of sorrow at the death of Pandit Motilal Nehru and sends its heart-felt sympathy to Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru in the great loss he and the country have sustained.’

“Sir, I think few words are needed from me to commend this resolution to the House. Whatever may be the different feelings about the political opinions of Pandit Motilal Nehru, no one can gainsay the fact that he was a leading figure in the national life of India; and his loss just at this moment is to be deplored because every one knows that his great services as a negotiator would have been of great use to the country at large, now that negotiations have begun. I therefore propose this resolution.”

* The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—“Sir, in seconding this resolution and speaking on behalf of the Government of Madras, I should like to say that we received the news of the death of Pandit Motilal Nehru with great sorrow. Had he been spared, I have no doubt that he would have rendered signal services to his country at this most difficult juncture.”

* The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU:—“Sir, I associate myself with the sentiments that have been expressed in regard to the death of Pandit Motilal Nehru. He was a great patriot; he had the interests of his country at heart above everything else; and he has, I think, sacrificed his life at the altar of the motherland. That he has been removed from us by the cruel hand of death just at this moment, every son of India must deplore; because, Sir, his presence to-day would have been of the greatest assistance in solving the many problems which are ahead of us—especially in giving a shape to the conclusions of the Round Table Conference in which if the Congress agrees to participate, his assistance would have been of great value. His loss is one which could not be made good, and I am sure that India has lost a great deal in the death of this great patriot.”

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The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"The question is—

'That this Council places on record its deep sense of sorrow at the death of Pandit Motilal Nehru and sends its heart-felt sympathy to Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru in the great loss he and the country have sustained'."

The resolution was carried *nem. con.*, all the Members of the Council standing.

III.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS

Government Press

Retrenchment in the supervising staff of the Government Press.

* 405 Q.—Mr. C. BASU DEV: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether there is any proposal to amalgamate the Madras Government Stationery Department and the Madras Government Press and if the answer is in the affirmative in whose charge the Government propose to place the amalgamated department;

(b) what is the cost of the maintenance of the supervising staff and the charges for workmen in the Government Press branches in Mint Buildings and Mount Road respectively;

(c) whether the Government have investigated the matter that, in other local presses where considerable good and accurate work is turned out, the cost of the supervising staff is very much below the charges paid to the workmen; and

(d) whether the Government propose to take any steps to effect retrenchment in the supervising staff?

A.—(a) A preliminary examination is being made as to the feasibility or the advisability of amalgamating the Stationery and Printing departments. The examination is still in its initial stages and individual matters of detail such as that mentioned in the latter portion of the question have not yet come up for consideration.

(b)

	Cost of supervision, 1929-30.	Cost of workmen and clerks, 1929-30.
	RS.	RS.
Mint Buildings Press	56,667	3,75,399
Mount Road Press	19,966	1,51,742

(c) & (d) No.

Mr. C. BASU DEV :—"With regard to clauses (c) and (d), may I know if the Government will collect the information?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—"No necessity, Sir, as far as I can see."

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Expenditure on linotype and monotype machines in the Government Press.

* 406 Q.—Mr. C. BASU DEV: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) what is the total amount till now expended by the Government on linotype machines for the Government Press, how many were purchased and what is the cost of each;

(b) how many of them are now idle, how many are working, how many are broken;

(c) what is the kind of printing work that is being done on these machines;

(d) whether the Government are satisfied that the introduction of linotype machines and the monotype machines effect economy in the cost of production;

(e) if the answer to (d) is in the affirmative whether the Government will place on the table of the House the relative particulars of cost in production by the machinery and by hand composing;

(f) if the answer to (d) is in the negative what are the reasons for this expenditure on machines the use of which is not profitable; and

(g) how much the Government expended on monotype machines and how much more they propose to spend in connexion with this machine?

A.—(a) Twenty-five Linotype machines have been purchased from 1913 to 1929 at a total capital cost of Rs. 3,55,696-10-0 as per details given below :—

Year in which purchased.	Number of machines purchased.	Cost of each.
		RS. A. P.
1913	2	10,192 10 0
1915	1	10,400 0 0
1920	1	11,699 0 0
1924	3	18,192 0 0
1925	6	15,023 8 0
1926	6	14,392 2 0
1929	6	13,690 7 0

(b) No machine is idle. All are working.

(c) The machines are employed mainly on the composing work for documents of the Printing and Translation department of the High Court but they take up work of all other classes as required.

(d) Yes. The unit cost of linotype composition for the year 1929-30 was 23 per cent below the cost of hand composition. The Monotype machines have been recently installed and the indications are that the results will be no less satisfactory.

(e)—

	Cost per page foolscap size page.
	RS. A. P.
Mint Buildings Press—	
Hand composition	2 1 6
Linotype composition	1 9 11

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(f) The question does not arise.

(g) Rs. 57,136-8-0. There is no proposal for the present to purchase additional monotype machines.

Mr. C. BASU DEV :—“ May I know, with reference to the answer to clause (e) of the question, whether the cost of linotype composition includes the amount of depreciation of machinery, interest charges, etc. ? ”

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—“ Yes, Sir.”

Police

Acquisition of play-grounds in Vellore by the Police.

* 407 Q.—Mr. M. A. MANIKKAVELU NAYAKAR : Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether a large piece of land west of George Union Club in Vellore was being used as play-ground by school boys for a long time ;

(b) whether that piece of land had now been taken up by the police ; and

(c) whether the Government will be pleased to allow the use of the land as play-ground and allot the police, if they really want, some land somewhere else ?

A.—(a) It is reported to have been so used by the Principal, Voorhees College, Vellore, and the Chairman, Municipal Council, Vellore.

(b) A portion of it has been taken up by the police for parade purposes.

(c) The matter is under consideration.

Mr. M. A. MANIKKAVELU NAYAKAR :—“ Sir, will the Government be pleased to allot land for the Police parade in some other place and not deprive the school boys of the play-ground that they have been using up to now ? ”

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—“ I have said here in the answer, Sir, that the matter is under consideration.”

Mr. M. A. MANIKKAVELU NAYAKAR :—“ May I know if it will be favourable, Sir ? ”

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—“ I cannot say, Sir, at present.”

Alleged heavy work done by the clerks of the District Superintendent of Police, Chittoor.

* 408 Q.—Mr. C. R. PARTHASARATHI AYYANGAR : Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the clerks of the District Superintendent of Police, Chittoor, are working with lamps till 10 p.m. and if so, why ?

A.—The Government have no information.

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Mr. C. R. PARTHASARATHI AYYANGAR :—“ May I know if the Government have called for the information ? ”

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—“ I do not think there is any necessity to call for the information. I may say, however, for the information of the hon. Member that the Government increased the staff by two clerks last May.”

Mr. C. R. PARTHASARATHI AYYANGAR :—“ So, there will not be that over-working on the part of the staff in future ? ”

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—“ I hope so, Sir, if there has been over-working.”

Civil Justice

Pending suits in the District and Sub-Courts of North Arcot in 1910.

* 409 Q.—Mr. C. R. PARTHASARATHI AYYANGAR : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state the number of suits, appeals and sessions cases pending on the files of the District and Sub-Courts of North Arcot in June 1910, when the Sub-Court of North Arcot was made permanent ?

A.—The Government have called for the information.

Mr. C. R. PARTHASARATHI AYYANGAR :—“ May I know if the information has been received ? ”

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—“ I may say that after this printed answer was given, the information has been received. The information which my hon. Friend wants for June 1910 is not available, as the records have been destroyed ; but I have here information for 31st December 1910. It is as follows : In the District Court of North Arcot, the number of ordinary and summary suits was 42, appeals 82 and sessions cases 2 ; in the temporary Sub-Court of Chittoor, the number of pending ordinary and summary suits was 37, and the number of appeals was 59.”

Proposed transfer of the Tiruppattur District Munsif's area to the Chittoor District Court.

* 410 Q.—Mr. C. R. PARTHASARATHI AYYANGAR : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether there were any proposals to transfer the jurisdiction of the Tiruppattur District Munsif's area to the Chittoor District Court ;

(b) if so, when and for what purpose ; and

(c) what became of the proposals and why they were not carried into effect ?

A.—(a) Yes.

(b) As a result of the conference held in 1923 by the hon. Sir K. Srinivasa Ayyangar (then Law Member) with the judicial officers in the districts of North Arcot and Chittoor, certain proposals for the readjustment of the territorial jurisdiction of the Civil Courts of the North Arcot and Chittoor districts were formulated. One of the proposals was to abolish the Sub-Court at Vellore and to transfer the jurisdiction of the Tiruppattur District Munsif's area to the judicial district of Chittoor.

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- (c) The High Court which was consulted on the proposal did not recommend it as the people affected did not desire the change. The Government accepted the recommendation of the High Court.

Mr. C. R. PARTHASARATHI AYYANGAR:—"Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state, in view of the changed conditions, having regard to the paucity of work now and also to the increase in the number of munsif's courts in the North Arcot district, whether the matter will be reconsidered in the light of statistics at present available?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"I am afraid there is some misunderstanding. The information that I gave in answer to question No. 409 was with reference to the 31st of December 1910, i.e., about 21 years ago. Does my hon. Friend want me to consider present statistics with reference to question No. 410."

Mr. C. R. PARTHASARATHI AYYANGAR:—"Yes, Sir."

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"I shall consider the matter."

Equal distribution of the munsifs under the District Courts of Vellore and Chittoor.

* 411 Q.—Mr. C. R. PARTHASARATHI AYYANGAR: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether any steps have been taken to distribute the munsifs equally between the District Courts of Vellore and Chittoor; and, if so, with what result; and

(b) if not, why?

A.—(a) Yes. The number of District Munsif's Courts in North Arcot now is six and that in Chittoor is four.

(b) Does not arise.

Restoration of the old judicial district of North Arcot.

* 412 Q.—Mr. C. R. PARTHASARATHI AYYANGAR: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) why the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee for the restoration of the old judicial district of North Arcot have not been carried into effect; and

(b) the cost of the judicial establishment (i) in the old North Arcot district prior to 1917 and (ii) in Chittoor and North Arcot districts in 1928-29?

A.—(a) No such recommendation was made by the Retrenchment Committee.

(b) The Government have called for the information.

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Land Assignment

Audit of accounts maintained by the Nandanar school.

* 413 Q.—Mr. M. A. MANIKKAVELU NAYAKAR: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) how many acres of land were assigned in Kallipadi village, Chidambaram taluk, for the maintenance of the Nandanar school at Chidambaram;

(b) what is its present income;

(c) how much grant the school gets from the provincial funds besides the income from the lands;

(d) whether the Tahsildar of Chidambaram audits the accounts of the school or the income of the lands on behalf of the Collector;

(e) what is the specific order of the Government under which he prepares and sends up his report to the Collector;

(f) whether the Government have received any report that the maintenance of accounts in the school is not satisfactory;

(g) whether the copy of such report was refused when applied for by the authorities who maintain the accounts and if so, why;

(h) whether any explanation was called for from the party as to the alleged unsatisfactory nature of maintaining accounts;

(i) whether any amount was found to be unaccounted for or misappropriated and whether any definite statement will be made with regard to the same; and

(j) whether the Government will be pleased to place before the Council all the papers including the correspondence of the Kalvikazhagam with the Collector and with the Director of Public Instruction in connexion with the report made by the Collector?

A.—(a) 51.60 acres.

(b) According to the audited statement for the year ending 31st March 1930, the income was Rs. 889-1-1.

(c) The teaching grant paid to the school for 1929-30 was Rupees 1,948.

(d) to (j) The Government have not the information but have called for a report.

Assignment of certain lands to Brooke Bond Tea Estate (India) Company.

* 414 Q.—Mr. K. R. VENKATARAMA AYYAR: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have sanctioned the assignment of any lands in the Suruli Hills or Cumbum Forests in the Periyakulam taluk, Madura district, to the Brooke Bond Tea Estate (India) Company, Limited, and, if so, what is its extent and on what terms the assignment has been sanctioned;

(b) whether any and what steps were taken to notify the proposal for assignment and invite objections, if any, from the local agriculturists, or to ascertain the injurious effects, if any, of the denudation of a large extent of forest land on rainfall and the supply of water in the Suruliyar river and the Periyar system;

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(c) whether the Government is aware of the deep discontent among the ryots of the Cumbum valley caused by the assignment or rumour thereof; and

(d) whether the Government will be pleased to consider the desirability of ordering the company to stop all further operations pending a detailed enquiry as to whether the assignment can be confirmed or has to be cancelled?

A.—(a) In February 1929, the Government sanctioned the assignment of an extent of 10,730 acres of disafforested land in the Cumbum valley in the Madura district, less the areas covered by main streams and their margins and by roads, to the Madras Tea Estates, Limited, and directed the survey of the land before it was finally granted. The survey has been completed and the extent to be finally assigned is 9,894.62 acres. The conditions of the grant are appended* to this answer. No assignment was made to the Brook Bond Tea Estate (India) Company, Limited.

(b) The proposal to di-afforest and assign the land for the plantation of tea, coffee and cardamoms, was notified in the issues of the *Fort St. George Gazette*, dated 3rd December 1928 and 11th December 1928, and also in the *Madura District Gazette*. Before approving the disafforestation the Government satisfied themselves that the interests of irrigation would not suffer.

(c) No.

(d) No, the Government do not consider that there is any need for further enquiry.

Diwan Bahadur C. S. RATNASABHAPATI MUDALIYAR :—“ With reference to condition No. 5 where it is stated that ‘ the grantee shall pay assessment at Rs. 3 an acre on the lands assigned and developed by cultivation,’ may I know what the Government mean by the words ‘ and developed by cultivation ’? Is it after the trees bear fruits or as soon as the trees are planted that the higher assessment of Rs. 3 is to be paid? ”

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL :—“ I think, Sir, the higher assessment will come into force as soon as the land is cultivated.”

Diwan Bahadur C. S. RATNASABHAPATI MUDALIYAR :—“ I want to know what the hon. Member means by ‘ developed by cultivation ’—whether as soon as the trees are planted or as soon as they begin to bear fruits? ”

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL :—“ As soon as the trees are planted.”

Land Revenue

Memorial for remission of land tax, etc., by the village panchayat of Theyyar.

* 415 Q.—Mr. M. A. MANIKKAVELU NAYAKAR: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether the village panchayat of Theyyar, in Wandiwash taluk, North Arcot, have made any representations regarding remission of land-tax, clearing of silted lands, and supply of building materials;

* Printed as Appendix I on pages 56-57 *infra*.

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(b) if so, what action has been taken by the Government on such representations; and

(c) if no action has been taken, why and for what reason action was not taken?

A.—(a) to (c) No such representation has been received by Government.

Publication of the revised Board's Standing Orders.

* 416 Q.—Mr. C. R. PARTHASARTHI AYYANGAR: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state when the revised edition of the Board's Standing Orders will be ready for sale and the reason for the delay in publishing the same?

A.—The revised edition is expected to be ready for sale in about three months. The delay is mainly due to the fact that all amendments issued up to 30th September 1930 are being incorporated and a fresh index is being prepared.

Minor Irrigation

Abolition of the post of minor irrigation supervisors.

* 417 Q.—Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the supervisor for minor irrigation works in the Tinnevely district has been in the district for over twelve years;

(b) if so, what are the special reasons for his continuous detention in the same district for such a long period;

(c) whether it is a fact that the said supervisor has been teasing the poor ryots and that there have been frequent skirmishes between them and the said supervisor; and

(d) why the assurance given by the hon. the Revenue Member on 14th March 1923 to abolish this post has not been given effect to up to this date?

A.—(a) & (c) The Government have not the information.

(b) Unless transferred by the Board of Revenue for any reason minor irrigation supervisors will ordinarily continue to serve in the district where they are.

(d) In 1923 the Government directed that the posts of minor irrigation supervisors should be abolished as vacancies occurred. In pursuance of this order five posts were abolished, but the post of the minor irrigation supervisor, Tinnevely, was not one among them. Contrary to expectation, however, the Public Works Department was not able to render any material assistance in the execution of minor irrigation works, and practically the whole work of repair continued to fall on the minor irrigation staff. In 1927 therefore the Government cancelled the order directing the abolition of these posts, and restored the posts which had been abolished.

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Railways*Alleged accident in Valappadi railway station.*

* 418 Q.—Subadar Major S. A. NANJAPPA Bahadur: Will the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to state whether he knows of a serious accident that occurred in Valappadi railway station (Salem-Attur new extension) as a result of which many coolies have been killed and if so—

- (a) the number of coolies who have been killed;
- (b) the number of coolies who have been injured;
- (c) whether any inquiry has been held to find out how the accident occurred and by whose fault; and
- (d) whether any pension or compensation has been paid to the dependants of the deceased and injured men?

A.—Yes.

- (a) Six.
- (b) Fifteen of whom three died later.
- (c) Yes, by the Senior Government Inspector of Railways.
- (d) The Government have no information. As the hon. Member is aware, the administration of Railways is a Central subject and the Local Government have no jurisdiction in the matter.

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—“Sir, in answer to clause (c), it is stated that the Senior Government Inspector of Railways has made an enquiry. May I know what the report of the Inspector is?”

The hon. Mr. H. G. STOKES:—“The report of the Inspector was addressed to the Railway Board, and Government are not at liberty to place that document before the House. The general conclusion, however, was that the guard of the ballast train was responsible in that the guard contravened certain rules for the protection of ballast trains and other Railway regulations and was further guilty of negligence. That was the general conclusion of the Government Inspector.”

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—“In regard to (d), the answer is that the Government have no information. Will the Government find out the information?”

The hon. Mr. H. G. STOKES:—“The matter is one of Railway Administration. As stated already, the administration of railways is a Central subject, and this question should properly be addressed to the authorities concerned in the central legislature.”

Local Boards*Restoration of roads washed off by floods in North Arcot district.*

* 419 Q.—Mr. M. A. MANIKKAVELU NAYAKAR: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state what steps the Government have taken or propose to take to impress on the local boards in the North Arcot district the necessity for restoring the roads washed off during the recent heavy rains?

A.—The Government contemplate no special action in the case of local bodies in the North Arcot district.

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Public Health*Action taken on the recommendations of the Malarial Officer.*

* 420 Q.—Mr. K. KOTI REDDI: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state what steps have so far been taken on the specific recommendations of the Malarial Officer in order to prevent the increase, if not the extinction of malaria in the Presidency?

A.—A copy of a report on the subject received from the Special Malaria Officer is laid on the table.^a

Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGVASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—“Sir, the question asks ‘what steps have so far been taken on the specific recommendations of the Malaria Officer in order to prevent the increase, if not the extinction, of malaria in the Presidency’; and the reply is that we are referred to the report of the Malaria Officer. May I know what action has been taken on the report?”

The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU:—“The report which was placed on the table was received about three months ago, and paragraphs 9 to 13 of the report refer to the specific action taken on the recommendations contained in the previous report.”

Mr. T. S. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—“May I know whether the recommendation that a separate board should be constituted has been considered by the Government?”

The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU:—“The report has just been received.”

Agriculture*Working of the Taliparamba Agricultural Middle school.*

* 421 Q.—Mr. A. B. SHETTY: Will the hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the remarks of the Director of Agriculture in the latest report on the working of the Department of Agriculture on the working of the Taliparamba Agricultural Middle school;

(b) whether it is a fact that there is not even one Kanarese-knowing member on the staff of the Taliparamba Agricultural Middle school;

(c) what the staff employed is and what are their qualifications; and whether the headmaster is a qualified teacher under educational rules;

(d) whether any qualifications for admission into the school have been prescribed and whether in the same class pupils of varied educational attainments from standard III to Secondary School-Leaving Certificate are being taught;

(e) whether the Government have considered the desirability of remodelling the whole institution before condemning it as the present Director of Agriculture has chosen to do in his administration report; and

(f) whether Government have considered the question of recruiting maistris employed under demonstrators from among the passed students of the school with better prospects and chance of denomination?

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A.—(a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) A Headmaster who is an S.S.L.C. and a second teacher both of whom are L.Ags. belonging to the upper subordinate cadre of the Agricultural department and also a non-technical teacher who is a secondary-grade trained S.S.L.C. The headmaster is not qualified under the rules of the Educational department.

(d) The intention is to restrict admission to boys who have passed V standard. Owing to inadequate strength of pupils this intention is in practice departed from generally and in the I year's class, pupils of IV standard also have been admitted this year.

(e) No. The present Director has merely stated the facts and drawn a conclusion. Attention is invited to the Government review on the Administration Report referred to wherein it has been stated that before closing the school the Government wish to watch its working for a few years more and review the situation again.

(f) The purpose of the school is to provide for the sons of cultivators a vernacular course of instruction in the principles of agriculture so that the pupils shall go back to their lands and be better cultivators. The Government do not propose to make the school a training ground for aspirants to the posts of maistris who can be trained more cheaply.

Mr. A. B. SHETTY :—" May I know whether the school is meant for the benefit of Malabar alone or for the whole West Coast ? "

The hon. Mr. P. T. RAJAN :—" West Coast. "

Mr. A. B. SHETTY :—" May I know why no Kanarese knowing teacher has been placed on the staff ? "

The hon. Mr. P. T. RAJAN :—" Probably many Kanarese-knowing pupils do not go to the school. "

Mr. A. B. SHETTY :—" May I know whether Government have any proposal under consideration so as to make the school more popular ? "

The hon. Mr. P. T. RAJAN :—" The hon. Member's suggestion will be considered. "

Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" May I know if students from South Kanara who are all Kanarese, are not now being forced to go to the Taliparamba Agricultural School ? "

The hon. Mr. P. T. RAJAN :—" I want notice, Sir. "

Fisheries

Work done at the Tanur Research station.

* 422 Q.—Mr. A. B. SHETTY : Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Excise be pleased to state—

(a) what the nature of the work turned out at the Tanur Research station is ;

(b) whether the officer in charge now possesses qualifications necessary for research work ;

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(c) whether the Government as a measure of economy are contemplating to close down the station as no research work is being done there ;

(d) whether the officer in charge of the station is now on leave and if so, how long since has the post been kept vacant ; and

(e) whether arrangements have been made to carry on the work in the station ?

A.—(a) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to pages 146—148 of the Fisheries Committee Report which was placed at the disposal of the Press.

(b) No.

(c) No.

(d) Yes. From 1st November 1930.

(e) Arrangements have been made to carry on the routine work of the station.

Mr. A. B. SHETTY :—" May I know why a research station is not placed in charge of an officer who possesses research qualifications ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR :—" It is not correct to call it a 'Research station' ; it is called an experimental station. The Government are trying to get a man with some qualifications, but they have not been able to get one. The matter is now in the hands of the Madras Service Commission. "

Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" May I draw the attention of the hon. the Minister to the wording 'Research station' ? As a matter of fact it is not true to call it a Research station, as the work done there for several years cannot be called 'Research'. "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR :—" In the Government records it is called an 'Experimental station,' not exactly a Research station and the Tanur station is for doing experiments. "

Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" As a matter of fact, they are manufacturing fish-oil and other things there and are not carrying on research work. "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR :—" You may call it by any name you like. "

Socio-economic work by Inspectors of Fisheries.

* 423 Q.—Mr. A. B. SHETTY : Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Excise be pleased to state—

(a) whether Inspectors of Fisheries are required to attend to scientific and socio-economic work besides inspection of fish-curing yards ; and, if so, the proportion of time devoted to each branch of work ; and

(b) what qualifications have been prescribed for Inspectors of Fisheries so as to be competent for the various items of work attended to by them ?

A.—(a) The duties of Inspectors of Fisheries consist of—

(i) supervision of fish-curing yards ;

(ii) supervision of oil and guano factories ;

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- (iii) supervision of fisheries schools; and
- (iv) general supervision over co-operative societies.

Inspectors on the East Coast have not got the duties enumerated in items (ii) to (iv) above.

The Inspectors of Fisheries working in Vizagapatam and under the Assistant Director of Pearl and Chank Fisheries do scientific work in addition to supervision of fish-curing yards.

It is difficult to say what proportion of their time Inspectors devote to each item of work.

- (b) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to rule 5 (a) (i) of the Madras Fisheries Subordinate Service rules published at pages 1778—1780 of Part I of the *Fort St. George Gazette*, dated 1st October 1929, as amended by Notification No. 127, dated 21st August 1930, published at pages 1292—93 of Part I of the *Fort St. George Gazette*, dated 2nd September 1930.

Mr. A. B. SHETTY:—“ May I know whether Inspectors of Fisheries possess the qualifications required for the duties assigned to them ? ”

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR:—“ For Inspectors of Fisheries, qualifications have been prescribed under the Statutory Rules and there were no special qualifications prescribed for them before the Subordinate Services Rules were framed. ”

Provision for training for secondary grade teachers in the Fisheries Training Institute, Calicut.

* 424 Q.—Mr. A. B. SHETTY: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Excise be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government propose to provide training for the secondary grade teachers in the Fisheries Training Institute, Calicut;

(b) whether the required staff employed in the higher elementary schools maintained by the Fisheries Department are all qualified secondary grade teachers trained in the institute;

(c) whether it is a fact that, under the rules of the Education Department, vocational training can be given only to pupils reading in Standard IV and above;

(d) whether ‘ fisheries ’ is treated by the Education Department as one of the recognized subjects for vocational training; and

(e) whether the Government have considered the necessity to raise as many elementary schools as possible to the higher elementary grade in order to impart knowledge in fisheries apart from giving fisheries bias in the schools maintained by the Fisheries Department?

A.—(a) No. The Director of Fisheries has been permitted as a special case to provide secondary grade training for the men already admitted into the Institute.

(b) There is one qualified secondary grade teacher trained in the Fisheries Training Institute in one of the two higher grade elementary schools maintained by the Fisheries Department.

(c) & (d) Vocational training is not given in schools under the control of the Education Department. The rules framed under the Madras Elementary Education Act, 1920, provide for the imparting of “ practical instruction ” which should

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ordinarily have reference to the chief occupations or industries of the locality and the class of pupils. Such instruction should not be introduced in standards below the fourth without the previous approval of the Director of Public Instruction.

(e) No.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Electricity

Possibilities of electric power for agricultural purposes.

425 Q.—Mr. K. KOTI REDDI: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state what steps the Government have so far taken to investigate the possibility of supplying electric power for pumping water from wells and for other agricultural or industrial uses by means other than hydro-electric power and with what result?

A.—No such investigations have been undertaken by Government.

Minor Irrigation

Scarcity of water-supply for lands under the Cumbum tank.

426 Q.—S. M. K. BAYABANI SAHIB Bahadur: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) the total extent of land cultivated under the Cumbum tank (Kurnool district) and the land-cess that is collected every year thereon;

(b) whether it is a fact that the tank is being dried up almost every year for the past thirty years;

(c) whether successive failure of crops has affected the population of several villages that depend upon this tank for their water-supply, particularly Cumbum village;

(d) whether the Government have any plan under consideration for constructing a reservoir for supplying water to this tank;

(e) whether it is a fact the failure of rains has resulted in the total failure of paddy crops during this fasli; and

(f) if so, whether the Government has decided to grant remission to the ryots?

A.—(a) The following statement shows the extent of land cultivated and the revenue under the tank since 1919-20 :—

Year.	Total area irrigated.	Gross revenue.
	ACS.	RS.
1919-20	8,919	36,594
1920-21	5,686	8,997
1921-22	7,843	15,886
1922-23	9,417	38,042
1923-24	9,963	40,003
1924-25	8,964	36,534
1925-26	7,406	35,736
1926-27	5,890	30,449
1927-28	8,715	36,947
1928-29	5,839	26,864

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- (b) The Government have no information.
 (c), (e) & (f) The Government have no information but have called for a report.
 (d) No.

Village Establishments

Increased pay for headmen in Arni jaghir.

427 Q.—Mr. M. A. MANIKKAVELU NAYAKAR: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) the number of headmen or triune officers working on the estate of Arni jaghir in the North Arcot district and their individual pay;

(b) whether the jaghir administration contributes any amount towards the pay of the headmen; and

(c) whether any appeals or representations were made to the Board of Revenue regarding the increase in the pay of the headmen to Rs. 14 and, if so, with what effect?

A.—(a) The number of headmen in the estate is 70 and that of triune officers 16. The Government have no information as to their individual pay.

(b) & (c) The Government have not the information.

Sanction of a talaiyari for Kayapakkam group in Arni.

428 Q.—Mr. M. A. MANIKKAVELU NAYAKAR: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether no talaiyari is sanctioned for Kayapakkam group in Arni, North Arcot district;

(b) whether on representations made to the Collector, the Collector recommended to the Board that a talaiyari may be sanctioned; and

(c) if so, why that was not sanctioned?

A.—(a), (b) & (c) The Government have not the information.

Action taken on the resolutions of the Village Officers' Conference.

429 Q.—Mr. C. SATYANARAYANA CHOUDARI: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have received the proceedings of the Conference of Village Officers in the Presidency;

(b) what action they have taken on the resolutions communicated to them;

(c) whether any circular has been issued in any district regarding the treatment of village officers by the higher Revenue officials;

(d) if so, why Government have not issued similar circulars in the other districts; and

(e) why the disqualification against karnams in elections to local boards is still retained?

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A.—(a) & (b) It is not clear to what conference the hon. Member refers.

(c) & (d) The Board of Revenue has impressed on Collectors of all districts that headmen and karnams should be treated properly by the Revenue officials.

(e) The hon. Member's attention is invited to the proceedings of the Legislative Council, dated the 24th February 1930, wherefrom it will be observed that an amendment to section 54 (2) of the Madras Local Boards Act, 1920, brought forward by Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar, with a view to exempt village officers in general from the disqualification, was negatived.

Medical

Starting of the Medical School at Guntur.

430 Q.—Mr. C. SATYANARAYANA CHOUDARI: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) how much amount the Government have spent for the buildings at Guntur for Medical School;

(b) why they have not yet started the school;

(c) whether Guntur is considered by the Surgeon-General as the best place for the location of a Medical School; and

(d) what is the Government's policy in the matter of retention and distribution of Medical Schools?

A.—(a) Rs. 3,12,368.

(b) The Committee appointed by Government to examine certain questions connected with the future of medical education in this Presidency recommended the abandonment of the proposed Medical School at Guntur (vide extract of paragraph 5 of the Committee's report * attached). The Government accepted the recommendation.

(c) No.

(d) Government have accepted the policy recommended by the Medical Education Committee in their report referred to in the answer to clause (b).

Public Health

Investigations by the Special Malarial Officer in Cuddapah district.

431 Q.—Mr. T. NARASA REDDI: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Special Malarial Officer has ever visited Cuddapah district; if so, how many taluks he has visited and how many days' stay he has made in the district; and

(b) whether he has made any investigations why malaria breaks out every year in an epidemic form in the Cuddapah district; and, if so, what is the result of his investigations?

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A.—(a) The Special Malaria Officer has carried out Malaria surveys in the Cuddapah Municipality and in the Talamanchipatnam and Janganapalle firkas. He has also visited the Cuddapah and Rayachoti taluks in connexion with the examination of the working of the scheme of free distribution of quinine. A statement showing the areas visited and the number of days spent in the Cuddapah district by the Special Malaria Officer is placed on the table.^a

(b) No.

Village Panchayats

Abolition of the village panchayats at Pedacherukur, etc.

432 Q.—Mr. G. SIMHACHALAM: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have received any mahazar (memorial) from the villagers of Pedacherukur, Bapatla taluk, Guntur district, for the abolition of their village panchayat; and

(b) if so, what action the Government have taken upon it?

A.—No such memorial has been received by Government.

Co-operative Societies

Development of ancient handicrafts.

433 Q.—Pandit GANALA RAMAMURTI: Will the hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) the number of co-operative credit societies in this Presidency for helping the artisan classes;

(b) whether any scheme is under the consideration of the Co-operative department for the resuscitation of the ancient handicrafts like carpentry, blacksmithy and brazier's work, etc., and

(c) if so, what are its details?

A.—(a) There are at present 157 societies for helping the artisan classes distributed as below:—

Coir workers' societies	...	...	...	...	11
Weavers' societies	...	...	...	...	134
Cottage industries	...	...	...	...	1
Basket makers	...	...	...	...	2
Match works	...	...	...	...	1
Bell and brass metal workers	...	...	...	...	3
Tailors	...	...	...	...	1
Printing presses	...	...	...	...	4
					157

^a Printed as Appendix IV on page 68 infra.

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(b) There is no scheme under the consideration of the Co-operative department for the resuscitation of the ancient handicrafts. The Special Officer for the Cottage Industries suggested the possibility of forming societies in Cuddapah and South Kanara districts for metal workers but it was found impossible to start them.

(c) Does not arise.

Education

Compensation to schools for grant of half-fee concessions.

434 Q.—Sriman M. G. PATNAIK Mahasaya: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Excise be pleased to state—

(a) whether in schools and colleges under private and public management registers are maintained showing applications for grant of half-fee concessions under rule 92 of the Madras Educational Rules, how such applications are disposed of, and whether the District Educational Officers are required to look into such registers and to offer remarks as to the method of disposal of such applications in each institution;

(b) how the management of such institutions is compensated for the loss of income resulting from such concession being granted; and

(c) how much was paid by Government for the Surangi High School at Ichchapur and the Municipal High School at Chicacole in the Ganjam district to compensate such loss of fee income in 1927-28, 1928-29 and 1929-30?

A.—(a) Such registers are not demanded under the rules, and as the disposal of the applications is left to the discretion of the school authorities the District Educational Officers are not concerned with them except in cases of appeals with regard to class or caste.

(b) The entire loss on account of fee concessions granted in any one year under rule 92 of the Madras Educational Rules in recognized schools under private management is made good to the management along with the teaching grant paid in the following year.

The subsidies given in respect of schools under local bodies are lump sums.

(c) The compensation paid to the Surangi High School, Ichchapur, is shown below:—

	RS.
1927-28	1,821
1928-29	2,154
1929-30	2,420

No separate compensation for fee concessions was given to the Municipal High School, Chicacole. A fixed subsidy of Rs. 2,000 was paid towards the cost of maintenance of the school in each of the three years referred to.

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Appointments to gazetted ranks during the last three years.

435 Q.—MR. C. SATYANARAYANA CHOUDARI: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Excise be pleased to state—

(a) how many appointments were made to the superior educational services, that is to say, gazetted ranks, during the last three years;

(b) of these, how many were cases of direct recruitment;

(c) of the men directly recruited, how many were recruited on Rs. 400 and how many on Rs. 250;

(d) of these how many were for the Inspectorate and how many for college work;

(e) of these recruited on Rs. 400 how many were men possessing foreign degrees and how many Madras University men;

(f) of those recruited on Rs. 250 how many belong to each of these categories;

(g) what was the hurry to make such a large number of appointments by direct recruitment in advance, when the Madras Services Commission was being constituted at the time;

(h) of the men so directly recruited how many were from the Native States of Travancore and Cochin, how many from British Malabar and how many from the rest of the Presidency;

(i) in the case of the men recruited from Native States how many of them have got their lien on their State service still;

(j) what was their scale of pay in their State service and on what scale they have been brought over here; and

(k) whether any advertisement was made at the time, or other attempts made to get suitable candidates from British India?

A.—(a) Forty-nine—38 in the Men's branch and 11 in the Women's branch.

(b) Ten in the Men's branch and 1 in the Women's branch.

(c) Two on Rs. 400 and three on Rs. 250.

(d) All were recruited for college work.

(e) One of the officers possesses both a British degree and a Madras University degree and the other a British degree and a Bombay University degree.

(f) All the three officers possess both British degrees and Madras University degrees.

(g) Suitable officers had to be appointed to carry on the work in the college.

(h) One from Travancore, one from Cochin, one from British Malabar, two from the rest of the Presidency, and the rest from outside the Presidency.

(i) None.

(j) Mr. Ayyapan Pillai was drawing in Travancore State service Rs. 400 in the scale of Rs. 300—25—700. He was started in this department on Rs. 480. Dr. Kallukaran was drawing in Cochin State service Rs. 220 in the scale of Rs. 200—10—250. He was started here on Rs. 250 in the Madras Educational Service scale.

(k) The posts were not advertised as suitable and qualified candidates were available.

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IV.—BUDGET FOR 1931-32.

The hon. Mr. H. G. STOKES :—“ I have now to submit to the House the Revised Estimate for the current year, 1930-1931, and the Budget Estimate for the ensuing year, 1931-1932. ^{11-15 a.m.}

2. “ The year which is now closing has been remarkable in several ways. Economically, it has witnessed the fuller development of the tendency, already apparent in the latter part of 1929-1930, towards a decline in the prices not only of food-grains, but of industrial crops, and of all, or almost all the principal commodities upon which the prosperity of the population of the province depends. This is not the occasion to attempt any examination of the causes of this phenomenon, whether it be due to world over-production, to the currency policy of different Governments or to a combination of these and possibly other causes. It is enough to note that, owing to causes not within our control, we, in common with the rest of India, have entered upon a period of stagnation of trade and of general economic depression, the duration of which it is impossible exactly to foretell. One thing we know, that it has affected and, so long as it lasts, must continue to affect, very seriously most of our principal sources of revenue, as I think will be apparent from the more detailed survey of the estimates which I shall presently lay before the House. It is not only directly that we are adversely affected. The general economic depression has affected severely the Central Exchequer, and the Government of India have warned us that for some time to come we must not count on them for assistance from the Provincial Loans Fund to the same extent as heretofore.

3. “ It is the irony of fate that in a year in which, on the whole, the agricultural conditions have not been unfavourable, the fall in prices should have intervened to disappoint the cultivator in great measure of the returns upon which he counted. The earlier rains of the south-west monsoon fell short, indeed, of expectations in some districts, but the north-east monsoon has been copious and has given supplies to many districts which had for some years been languishing for want of them. Elsewhere, indeed, the weather deity seems to have tried to make up his previous default by somewhat ill-advised efforts. He sent us twice within a few weeks torrential rainfall, far in excess of our requirements. At the end of October, Tanjore, Trichinopoly and Coimbatore districts were visited by floods resulting in extensive damage to crops, irrigation works and communications, while again at the end of November the central districts of the Presidency were visited by a cyclone

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which, accompanied by heavy rains passing inland from the vicinity of Madras, caused similar extensive damage in Madras and in the districts of Chingleput, South and North Arcot and Chittoor. Provision has been made in the Revised Estimate for the current year and in the Budget Estimate for 1931-1932 for the expenditure, so far as reported to us, necessary to make good these damages.

4. "Politically, also, the weather in 1930-1931 has been unsettled. The civil disobedience movement has not indeed assumed in this Presidency the formidable dimensions that it has reached in other provinces, nor have its consequences been so deplorable. But it has undoubtedly exercised an appreciably adverse effect on our finances, and has contributed in particular to the marked decline which is apparent in the Excise revenue. *Per contra*, it has compelled us to increase our expenditure on the Police, partly because we have been obliged to add to their strength, and partly because it has been necessary to carry out various movements and concentrations of force in response to varying conditions in different districts, all of which are measures entailing increased expenditure.

5. "I must now turn in greater detail to the Budget that is before the House, but, before doing so, I have to notice one topic, which is of considerable importance. It is concerned with the question of securing more accurate budgeting both as regards Revenue and Expenditure. During the past few years it has on more than one occasion happened that the realized results have been very different from those anticipated—in fact in the past two years we have had, against an expected deficit, a large actual revenue surplus. This has more than once attracted the attention of the Accountant-General and the Auditor-General and of the Public Accounts Committee, and was one of the first subjects to which, on taking office, I conceived it my duty to devote special attention. In part the divergence of facts from anticipations has been due to unexpected betterment in revenue, especially the Excise. Where, as in our case, our revenues depend so largely on agricultural or seasonal conditions it is obviously wiser, as a general rule, to take a cautious view in attempting to make a year's forecast. In particular in the case of the Excise revenue, there enters into the question a further speculative element due to the fact that the revenue on drink and drugs is derived largely from vend-rents, and although broadly speaking, the amount of these over a series of years tends to follow the rise and fall of general prosperity, it is not easy to gauge from year

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to year the more immediate causes which may influence bidders in raising or lowering their bids for vend privileges. But it is on the expenditure side that the defective budgeting has been more apparent, due to overestimation on the part of spending departments of the amounts they can properly spend during the year. To some extent this appears to be due to defective departmental methods of working out the detailed expenditure estimates; into that matter we have already in the current year made a partial examination which we propose to continue in 1931-1932 by placing an officer of the Finance Department on special duty to examine those methods, to indicate defects and to suggest remedies. I have hopes that, when the estimates for the next year come to be compared with the actuals, the result will be to disclose a considerable improvement, but the House will understand that the habit of overbudgeting which, it is to be feared, has taken root in some departments may take some years completely to eradicate. To some extent also a defect in the Legislative Council rules has contributed, in that token grants for supplementary expenditure were not admissible, with the result that the House had often to be asked to vote the full amount required when it subsequently turned out that the money might have been found by reappropriation and that all that was really required was that the House on a token motion should give its approval to the scheme. That defect has only recently been remedied by an amendment of the rules. Nor, lastly, have instances been wanting in which, in response to pressure from this quarter or that, considerable sums have been included in the Budget for schemes so immature that in the ordinary course there was little real probability of the money being actually spent. But whatever the causes, the disadvantages both to the Government and to the House of such inaccurate estimation are obvious in that it divorces the estimates from reality, and tends to obscure the financial position. In dealing with the estimates for 1931-1932 the demands of several departments have been drastically cut down partly by reason of the general financial stringency, but partly, also, because we were not convinced, having regard to past experience, that the money asked for would probably be spent. It may indeed result, from our attempts to improve matters, that the House may be asked, more frequently than heretofore, to make in the course of the year supplementary grants. Should that occur, each case will, of course, have to be considered on its merits. But what I would ask the House now to bear in mind is that supplementary demands do not necessarily indicate bad or careless

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original budgeting, and that in any case overestimation of expenditure is a worse evil than underestimation, inasmuch as it tends to diminish the control which the Finance Committee and the House ought to exercise over expenditure. The Government do not doubt that in this matter they will be able to rely on the House to render them, after due examination of any such proposals, all reasonable assistance and co-operation.

REVENUE ACCOUNT.

Accounts of the year 1929-1930.

6. "I now turn to the estimates. The year 1929-1930 opened with a balance of Rs. 539.73 lakhs. The actual revenue was Rs. 1,861.55 lakhs, against which we had an expenditure chargeable to Revenue of Rs. 1,737.46 lakhs, resulting in a revenue surplus of Rs. 124.09 lakhs. Advantage was taken of the existence of ample balances to reduce our debt by Rs. 212.11 lakhs, and the year closed with a balance of Rs. 451.71 lakhs, which is the figure adopted as opening balance in the Revised Estimates of 1930-1931. The effect of reducing debt is, of course, to increase our available resources for recurring expenditure by the amount of the annual equated payments released on the sums repaid.

Revised Estimate for 1930-1931.

7. "We find, looking at the budget figures for 1930-1931, that the revenue was expected to reach a total of Rs. 1,847.25 lakhs. Against this an expenditure of Rs. 1,863.86 lakhs was proposed, resulting in a revenue deficit of Rs. 16.61 lakhs, which was to be met from the accumulated balances. It will be seen from the revised figures for the current year that neither in respect of revenue nor of expenditure have our expectations been fulfilled. It is now, on the basis of nine months' experience, estimated that the current year will close with a revenue total of Rs. 1,775.56 lakhs—a decrease of some Rs. $\frac{3}{4}$ crore as compared with the Budget Estimate—while our expenditure chargeable to Revenue is now estimated at Rs. 1,831.95 lakhs, giving a deficit of Rs. 56.39 lakhs to be met from the balances. The House will probably desire to go more into detail on these figures, and I propose therefore to add in respect of the main variations on both sides of the account a few remarks by way of comment and explanation.

8. "Taking first the Receipt side, we find under V. LAND REVENUE a decrease of Rs. 16 lakhs, under VI. EXCISE a decrease of Rs. 39 lakhs; under VII. STAMPS there is a fall of

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some Rs. 16 lakhs; VIII. FOREST and IX. REGISTRATION account for about Rs. $4\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs each; while XVI. INTEREST and XVII. ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE show a decline of some Rs. 2 lakhs each. There is, on the other hand, an improvement in the Revised as compared with the Budget Estimates under the heads XXVI. MISCELLANEOUS DEPARTMENTS and XXX. CIVIL WORKS, amounting in the latter case to some Rs. 12 lakhs.

"The lower estimate under LAND REVENUE is due to our having made allowance in the current year for decreased receipts owing to floods, and to the adjustment of arrears of land revenue cesses relating to past faslis. No credit has been taken either in the Revised Estimates for the current year or in the Budget for 1931-1932 for any additional revenue from the introduction of resettlement rates in the East and West Godavari and Kistna districts. That is a matter upon which the decision of Government has still to be taken after a consideration of the Economic Enquiry Committee's Report and the views of this House regarding it. The Revised Estimate takes a cautious view, further, of the probable income under EXCISE, STAMPS, FOREST and REGISTRATION on account of the acute general economic depression which all these heads of revenue tend faithfully to reflect. Under EXCISE in particular we have to take note of a continuous decline in the consumption of arrack and a heavy fall in the toddy rentals and in the number of trees marked for the current toddy lease.

"As regards the increases, that of Rs. 12 lakhs under CIVIL WORKS represents our anticipated expenditure during the year out of the money given to us from the petrol tax which is credited to us by the Central Road Development Fund and it is counterbalanced by corresponding expenditure on the other side of the account.

9. "Turning now to the Expenditure side, the Revised Estimate, taken as a whole, shows, as compared with the Budget Estimate for 1930-1931, a decrease of Rs. 31.91 lakhs, notwithstanding the fact that, in pursuance either of supplementary grants by this Council or of authorization by His Excellency the Governor, a sum of Rs. 15.95 lakhs for schemes of new expenditure was added during the year, and provision included in the Revised Estimate. Going more into detail, we find under 22. GENERAL ADMINISTRATION an increase of Rs. 1.38 lakhs due to slight underestimation of requirements. 26. POLICE shows an increase of Rs. 6.70 lakhs, and 46. STATIONERY AND PRINTING one of Rs. 2.26 lakhs. The necessity for these increases has been

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recently laid before the House. The expenditure shown against XIII. IRRIGATION WORKING EXPENSES and 15. IRRIGATION includes a sum of Rs. 2.34 lakhs and Rs. 2.21 lakhs respectively on account of repair and reconstruction of works damaged by the floods and cyclone of October and November last. Noticeable decreases occur under 16. IRRIGATION, NAVIGATION, ETC. (— Rs. 3.04 lakhs) due mainly to the fact that a decision regarding the Kattalai Bed Regulator and High Level channel scheme has only recently been come to; under 31. EDUCATION (— Rs. 4.24 lakhs) due to the inability of the various institutions and local bodies to utilize the money provided for their benefit; under 32. MEDICAL (— Rs. 4.07 lakhs) by reason partly of delay in giving effect to certain schemes such as the revision of pay of certain medical Professors, partly to smaller building grants being drawn by private managements, and partly also to savings on hospital diets and European stores due to fall in prices. Under 41. CIVIL WORKS the Revised Estimate figure of Rs. 231.62 lakhs includes a sum of Rs. 12 lakhs for expenditure out of the Road Development Account, a sum of Rs. 1.67 lakhs for other new works and Rs. 5.41 lakhs required for flood and cyclone reconstruction, the bulk of which (Rs. 3.47 lakhs) represents grants-in-aid to certain district boards and municipalities for that purpose. The Revised Estimate under 41. CIVIL WORKS shows a decrease, as compared with the Budget Estimate, of Rs. 16.89 lakhs due mainly to anticipated short expenditure. Under 47. MISCELLANEOUS the House will notice a fall of Rs. 10 lakhs due to the lapse of the provision for writing-off of advances to cultivators in the Bellary and Anantapur districts, Government having decided to remit interest on the advances and not the principal.

10. “The total Revised Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for 1930-1931 result in a deficit of Rs. 56.39 lakhs which has to be met from the balances. Out of these a sum of Rs. 67.65 lakhs has been adjusted for debt repayment in pursuance of the budget as passed by the Legislative Council, and it is proposed to apply Rs. 44.44 lakhs to finance our capital expenditure. The resulting revenue balance is Rs. 283.23 lakhs, with which we commence the year 1931-1932.

Budget Estimate for 1931-1932.

11. “This brings us naturally to the figures for the Revenue Budget of 1931-1932. On the Receipt side of the Revenue Account the House will find, when comparing the budget figures for 1931-1932 with the Revised Estimates for the current year,

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noticeable variations on which comment is needed. In our estimate of LAND REVENUE we have counted on a betterment of Rs. 20½ lakhs over the Revised Estimate for the current year; we anticipate in 1931-1932 a fairly normal season and some increase in miscellaneous revenue. The continued heavy fall of Rs. 29.47 lakhs anticipated under EXCISE is due to the same causes upon which I have commented in discussing the Revised Estimates for the current year. Under STAMPS and REGISTRATION we have budgeted for a slight increase, hoping for a slight recovery in trade conditions during the next twelve months. On the other hand, our estimates for FOREST revenue are lower by Rs. 6.55 lakhs mainly because, under existing conditions, we cannot expect to do well with our sandalwood, of which moreover a smaller quantity is expected to be extracted. Under INTEREST the decrease of Rs. 4.36 lakhs occurs in respect of interest on amounts deposited with the Government of India out of the Provincial balances on which we have to draw to meet our requirements both in the current year and in 1931-1932 as is explained below; the amount that will continue to earn interest is, of course, correspondingly reduced. The other variations call for no special remarks with the exception of those under XXX. CIVIL WORKS and XXXV. MISCELLANEOUS. The increase of Rs. 6.63 lakhs under the former represents mainly the increased amount expected to be credited to this head from the Road Development Account for expenditure during the year and a corresponding debit is included in the Expenditure side under head ‘41.’

“The general result is that we expect in 1931-1932 a total revenue of Rs. 1,762.72 lakhs which is less than the Revised Estimates of 1930-1931 by Rs. 12.84 lakhs and falls short of what we hoped to have, when the current year's budget was presented, by Rs. 84.53 lakhs—very nearly a crore of rupees.

12. “Coming to the Expenditure side of the account, we estimate that our total expenditure on Part I and Part II schemes taken together will be Rs. 1,772.17 lakhs; of which Rs. 1,733.69 lakhs represents expenditure on Part I commitments and Rs. 38.48 lakhs expenditure on Part II schemes. Under certain items we propose decreased expenditure as compared with the Revised Estimates for the current year. Thus under EXCISE the decrease of Rs. 6.25 lakhs is due mainly to a change in the method of supplying opium and ganja to certain Indian States to whom we are bound by agreement to supply these drugs free of duty. The decrease is also due to a reduction in the cost price of opium by Rs. 3-1-0 per seer, and to the fact that the revised estimate for 1930-1931

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includes about Rs. 1 lakh which should normally have been paid in 1929-1930. FOREST shows a decrease of Rs. 1.23 lakhs after provision is made for new exploitation schemes proposed for 1931-1932. Under 22. GENERAL ADMINISTRATION the decrease of Rs. 1.42 lakhs is mainly accounted for by the fact that we need not repeat the provision made during 1931-1932 for general elections, or for the inspection of the Laccadives which are included in the Estimates for 1930-1931. Under the head 26. POLICE a decrease of Rs. 4.10 lakhs is to be noted due mainly to the fact that the Revised Estimates for 1930-1931 include considerable non-recurring expenditure on new schemes, and also increased expenditure on travelling allowances and feeding charges of the police on account of the civil disobedience campaign. Under EDUCATION we find a large decrease of Rs. 37.40 lakhs. Of this amount Rs. 34.50 lakhs was paid in the current year to the Andhra University for which further provision need not be made; no building grant is payable to the Madras University for 1931-1932; smaller provision is required for building grants to local bodies, etc., for works in progress, while expenditure on new educational schemes is included to the amount of Rs. 4.14 lakhs. Under 33. PUBLIC HEALTH we have a decreased provision of Rs. 7.44 lakhs due to smaller provision having been made for grants to the Madras Corporation for water-supply and drainage schemes and for the Bogipalayam housing scheme; a sum of Rs. 7.62 lakhs has been provided for Part II schemes, such as the cost of the anti-drink and drug propaganda and grants to local bodies for new water-supply and drainage schemes and for rural water-supply. Under 35. INDUSTRIES is shown a decrease of Rs. 2.44 lakhs which is in part accounted for by the payment in 1930-1931 of certain arrears of bills for 1929-1930 for work done for the Pumping and Boring branch by the Industrial Engineering Workshops and for certain non-recurring expenditure on the purchase of machinery in England; a sum of Rs. .24 lakh for building and equipment grants to industrial schools and other industrial schemes is included in the year's provision. Under 37. MISCELLANEOUS DEPARTMENTS there is a decrease of Rs. 2.04 lakhs due mainly to financial exigency. We provide, however, a sum of Rs. 1.19 lakhs for certain recurring and non-recurring grants by the Labour department for the benefit of the depressed classes. Under CIVIL WORKS we have reduced the provision under Part I by Rs. 17.96 lakhs. The actual expenditure on civil works has, in the past, constantly tended to be overestimated, and, apart from this consideration, the financial position does not permit of expenditure on so large

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a scale as hitherto provided for. Lastly, the House will note that we propose for 1931-1932—as a temporary expedient—to reduce to Rs. 1 lakh the amount of Rs. 3 lakhs usually paid yearly into the Famine Relief Fund. The amount at credit of that fund now stands at Rs. 52½ lakhs, and exceeds by Rs. 12½ lakhs the figure of Rs. 40 lakhs up to which we are bound to maintain a minimum yearly payment of Rs. 3 lakhs: we consider that present circumstances do not require us to continue to contribute at so high a rate.

“The foregoing are the items showing decreased expenditure. Under XIII. IRRIGATION WORKING EXPENSES the estimates rise by Rs. 1.71 lakhs owing to flood and cyclone damage expenditure. Under 15. IRRIGATION there is a corresponding increase of Rs. 3.72 lakhs due to the same cause. Taking all heads together it is calculated that the total bill for flood and cyclone damages will be about Rs. 25 lakhs. Under SUPERANNUATION ALLOWANCES AND PENSIONS there is an increase of over Rs. 2 lakhs which is due to the normal and unavoidable expansion of the pension list.

13. “I do not propose to enter in detail into the Part II schemes included in the proposals. The sums allocated for these schemes stand at about Rs. 38½ lakhs as compared with an allotment in the present year of over a crore. The figure Rs. 38½ lakhs represents, in fact, the anticipated surplus for 1931-1932 of revenue over expenditure if we leave out of account the special charge of Rs. 9½ lakhs required for flood and cyclone reconstruction. These Part II schemes involve an ultimate liability of Rs. 7.59 lakhs recurring and Rs. 66.45 lakhs non-recurring, or Rs. 74.04 lakhs in all. The most important share of it falls to the Local Self-Government Department (Rs. 20.90 lakhs) for Medical, Public Health and Civil Works—Grants-in-aid. Next comes the Law and Education Department with Rs. 5.16 lakhs; the Development Department treads close on the Law and Education Department with Rs. 4.99 lakhs, mostly expenditure on remunerative schemes of forest exploitation; Public Works and Labour Department obtains Rs. 3.45 lakhs, and Public Department Rs. 3.26 lakhs. The percentage of the money available allotted to the ‘Reserved’ and ‘Transferred’ departments continues to be, as in previous years, about 16 and 84 per cent respectively.

14. “On the basis of these calculations of our expenditure chargeable to Revenue, we arrive at a total, taking Part I and Part II schemes together, of Rs. 1,772.17 lakhs. Against this we have an estimated revenue of Rs. 1,762.72 lakhs, leaving us

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with a revenue deficit of Rs. 9.45 lakhs. This has been forced on us by the disastrous floods of last October and November. The money has to be met from the balance at our credit.

“That completes the survey, which I trust will not have unduly wearied the House, of the estimates so far as the Revenue Account is concerned.

CAPITAL AND DEBT HEADS.

15. “I have now to ask the indulgence of the House while giving a similar survey of the position in respect of Capital and Debt heads, which shall be as brief as possible.

Accounts of the year 1929-1930.

16. “Turning to the Accounts figures for 1929-1930 relating to Capital and Debt heads, the Budget Estimate was framed for total disbursements of Rs. 188.84 lakhs. The Revised Estimate was Rs. 179.28 lakhs and the Actuals Rs. 160.48 lakhs. At the beginning of the year, there was a balance of Rs. 21.65 lakhs out of the advance sanctioned by the Government of India in 1928-1929 for the Cauvery-Mettur Project. An advance of Rs. 96 lakhs was received from the Government of India during the year for expenditure on the project, making a total of Rs. 117.65 lakhs. The actual expenditure on the project in 1929-1930 was Rs. 90.09 lakhs, leaving a balance of Rs. 27.56 lakhs.

“The disbursements on objects other than the Cauvery-Mettur Project amounted to Rs. 70.39 lakhs, while the recoveries of amounts advanced to local bodies, cultivators, etc., including the unutilized balance of the previous year, were Rs. 73.11 lakhs. There was thus a balance of Rs. 2.72 lakhs left over, which, together with the balance of Rs. 27.56 lakhs out of the advance for the Cauvery-Mettur Project, has been carried forward to 1930-1931.

Revised Estimate for 1930-1931.

11-45
a.m.

17. “To come now to the Revised Estimate for 1930-1931. The Budget Estimate for 1930-1931 provided for Rs. 227.05 lakhs for disbursements, but the Revised Estimate, as now framed, indicates that only Rs. 179.24 lakhs are likely to be spent. The decrease of Rs. 47.81 lakhs occurs mainly under the following heads:—

“*Cauvery-Mettur Project* (—Rs. 26.80 lakhs)—Due to delay in the erection of the concrete-placing towers and to sufficient allowance not having been made in the budget for various

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factors, such as the difficulty in making arrangements for the efficient feeding of the towers, occasional breakdown of machinery, etc.

“*Loans and Advances by the Provincial Government* (—Rs. 16.66 lakhs).—The decrease is due mainly to the lapse of the provision of Rs. 8 lakhs for a loan for the Cochin Harbour Works, which is not required as the Cochin Darbar unexpectedly paid up for reclamations in March 1930 and of the provision of Rs. 4.50 lakhs for the Coimbatore water-supply, as the municipal council is taking the loan from the Coimbatore District Board and to smaller disbursements (Rs. 3.01 lakhs) under ‘Advances to cultivators.’

“An advance of Rs. 100 lakhs was received from the Provincial Loans Fund in the current year for expenditure on the Cauvery-Mettur Project. There is an unspent balance of Rs. 27.56 lakhs from the previous year's loan, making a total sum available of Rs. 127.56 lakhs. The expenditure anticipated in the current year on the project is provisionally put at Rs. 89.74 lakhs; the balance of Rs. 37.82 lakhs will be carried forward to 1931-1932.

“The disbursements on other than the Cauvery-Mettur Project are estimated at Rs. 89.50 lakhs and will be met as follows:—

	LAKHS.
(1) Unspent balance of recoveries of Provincial loans and advances carried forward from 1929-1930	2.72
(2) Recoveries of Provincial loans and advances in 1930-1931	42.34
(3) Revenue balance	44.44
Total	89.50

Budget Estimate for 1931-1932.

18. “For 1931-1932 the Government have decided to borrow from the Provincial Loans Fund Rs. 47 lakhs only for expenditure on the Cauvery-Mettur Project. The money available for the project in the year will then be Rs. 84.82 lakhs which is the estimated expenditure in that year. Since we have to pay interest on the money borrowed, it is obviously not desirable to take from year to year more than we are likely to spend.

“Under ‘Other Transactions’ the Estimates for 1931-1932 make a provision of Rs. 115.06 lakhs. This sum includes Rs. 4.47 lakhs for the Kattalai scheme. In addition, new

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schemes costing Rs. 3.13 lakhs are proposed, making a total expenditure of Rs. 118.19 lakhs. This will be financed partly from recoveries of loans and advances (Rs. 44.42 lakhs) and partly by transfer from the revenue balance of a sum of Rs. 73.77 lakhs, the bulk of which represents expenditure required to push towards completion the Pykara Hydro-Electric scheme. The result will be to reduce our Revenue balance at the close of 1931-1932 to a trifle over Rs. 2 crores. That—apart from any sums which we may in future be able to draw from the Provincial Loans Fund or to raise in the open market—represents the sum of the reserve resources with which, on our present level of taxation and expenditure, we have to face the future.

GENERAL FINANCIAL POSITION.

19. “In presenting to this Council the Budget for the current year, my predecessor gave a brief review of the financial history of the province for the past five years. He was able to point to a rapid expansion in almost all directions, in public health and medical relief, in education, both higher and elementary, and in various other ways. Revenue in that period had grown by about Rs. 200 lakhs, and expenditure by Rs. 386 lakhs being Rs. 38 lakhs in excess of the provincial contributions remitted. At the same time he uttered a warning that temporary affluence tends to lead to extravagance. That warning has been brought home to us in a marked degree by the events of the current year. I have already alluded to the main factors—the political and the economic—of which we have to take note. It is difficult to foresee what the developments in respect of either may be. Although, now that the political clouds show signs of lifting, we may hope for fairer political weather for our ship, we cannot with any confidence predict the economic future. It is impossible to say what further strain may be placed on us if the economic crisis should be prolonged, if prices continue to fall or if the process of adjustment to the new conditions be unduly delayed. We have to face an immediate fall in revenue during 1930-1931 of about Rs. $\frac{3}{4}$ crore, and a further fall in the ensuing year, while their own financial exigencies have compelled and may continue to compel the Government of India to withhold from us, except in respect of the Cauvery-Mettur Project, the aid in the shape of loans from the Provincial Loans Fund on which we have hitherto been able to rely. Clearly the lean years, whose advent my predecessor so often predicted, threaten us, and it behoves us to moderate the pace, and to take stock of our position, lest by attempting too much we fail to consolidate

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what has been begun. To meet the large deficit in the current year, and the lesser one anticipated in the year next ensuing we must draw on our balances; we must also finance from the same source considerable undertakings in progress, to delay the completion of which would be unwise and uneconomical. Against the anticipated balance of some Rs. 2 crores at the end of 1931-1932, we have to set commitments in respect of Part II schemes amounting (if the Part II schemes for 1931-1932 are accepted by the House) to some Rs. 183 lakhs non-recurring, apart from further capital expenditure on Irrigation other than the Cauvery-Mettur scheme or on Hydro-Electric undertakings.

20. “It will perhaps be objected that the proper and normal method of financing schemes of capital expenditure would be from loans, and that, if the Government of India are unable to lend, we ought rather to borrow on our own account in the open market instead of drawing on the balances. As to this, I may observe that, even if we had desired, and the Government of India had granted, permission to us to raise a loan on our own account, the conditions for so doing have been far from favourable; if the Government of India themselves have been obliged, pledging the credit of India, to offer 6 per cent, it is probable that we should have to offer considerably more. Possibly, had conditions been normal and money easy, the course suggested might have been preferable. But money has not been easy, nor are the conditions normal. We have sufficient money in the bank for immediate requirements, and it has seemed to us the part of wisdom to utilize it, and to avoid adding to our debt at a time which is particularly unpropitious for so doing. It is to be remembered that the schemes for which we are so drawing are all remunerative ones, and that, the sooner they are completed, the sooner will they begin to give us a return on our money.

21. “But it may further be objected ‘You expect in any case to finish 1931-1932 with a balance of Rs. 2 crores; why then restrict expenditure on Part II schemes instead of budgeting for a larger deficit and drawing still further on the balances to make it good?’ I have already indicated the considerations which should, I think, compel us to regard such an attitude of mind as unwise and short-sighted. The affluence we have been enjoying is not so much due to the fact that our normal revenues are elastic or are growing faster than our requirements as to the fact that our expenditure has lagged. Moreover, land revenue resettlement is likely, if a prolonged period of low prices

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should now ensue, to result in a decreasing revenue under this head. Nor is the attitude of this Council such as to encourage enhancements, even where, on the theory of resettlement, an enhancement might be justified. As for Excise, the other main source on which we rely, it appears to be the desire of a considerable section to get rid of it altogether without any very clear idea of how it is to be replaced, and too often, I fear, forgetting that an increase in Excise revenue is not in itself a thing necessarily to be deplored, unless it can be shown to be derived from increasing consumption. I do not however, at the present time or in the present connexion, wish to excite a temperance controversy. I have no doubt that, without that, Honourable Members will find no difficulty in filling the vials of their wrath to be poured on my devoted head. I only wish to emphasise the point on which my predecessor so frequently insisted, that you cannot safely go on adding to your recurring and non-recurring commitments year after year, hiding your head in the diminishing sands of your revenue balances, when one principal source of revenue is stagnating and the other is being constantly subjected to the process of attrition. It is desirable to get away from the contemplation of these fascinating but demoralizing balances and to make an effort to see that, apart from them, we achieve at least equilibrium between revenue receipts and revenue expenditure. It had been our hope to do this in the present budget, and it was with this object in view that the Government decided that the Part II schemes for 1931-1932 should be limited to the surplus, after Part I had been provided for. That we have not quite succeeded in achieving equilibrium is due to the abnormal demands made on us for flood reconstruction in so many districts of the Presidency.

22. "To adjust more closely revenue receipts and revenue expenditure should, I consider, be the main object of our policy, balances or no balances. It is essential that we should do this, if the financial credit of the Province is not to suffer detriment, and, without attempting in any way, to prophesy what the financial arrangements as regards provincial borrowing may in future be, I may remind the House that one result of the introduction of provincial autonomy may possibly be that we shall have to rely hereafter far more directly on our own credit than on that of the Government of India as we have been doing in the past.

"Apart from that it is to be remembered that in a year or two—possibly sooner—the great constitutional changes now under consideration may be expected to mature; those changes

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may themselves involve an additional strain on our resources. Even if they do not, it would enormously add to the difficulties of the new responsible Ministry of an autonomous province to be called on to face the future with a depleted banking account and a revenue of which the principal sources are either stationary or declining. It behoves us therefore to husband our resources as much as possible. If during 1931-1932 it becomes apparent that economic conditions do not improve, or if the financial exigencies of the Central Government continue to compel them to restrict financial aid in the shape of loans, we shall be obliged again to take stock of our position. Up to now we have not considered it necessary to set on foot investigations into the possibility of a general retrenchment of expenditure. General retrenchment, however salutary and necessary at times, means disorganization of the machinery, and interruption in the beneficent activities of Government, which it is desirable to avoid if it is possible to do so. But if it appears unavoidable, in order to restore financial equilibrium, we shall have to have recourse to it or to any other method which may be found feasible in order to achieve the desired object.

CONCLUSION.

23. "If I am asked to select a motto to be placed at the head of our Budget it would be *Festina lente* which, being freely¹² interpreted, means 'Wait and see.' The times call for caution, and it is in this spirit that the Budget has been prepared. I do not wish, however, to close on any note of despondency. Our needs are great, but given patience and care in utilizing our resources, we need not despair of meeting them. The economic troubles which we share with the rest of India are severe, but will pass; of political troubles we have had our share in the past ten years, but in that time Madras, while yielding to no part of India in the sincerity of her desire for political progress, has given evidence that the majority of her peoples possess a sanity of outlook which is a hopeful augury for her financial, as well as for her political, future.

24. "It remains only for me to tender to the Members of the Finance and Public Accounts Committees my warm acknowledgments of the valuable assistance they have given in the discharge of the duties laid upon them, both to the Finance Department and to myself. I have also to express the obligation that I owe to the Finance Department generally, and particularly to the Financial Secretary, Mr. H. A. Watson (Hear, hear) and the Budget Assistant Secretary, Rao Sahib T. A. Srinivasaraghava Ayyangar (Hear, hear) for the efficient and loyal

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manner in which their heavy duties have been performed. With the departure on leave of Mr. Watson, whose term as Financial Secretary will shortly expire, the Government and, may I add, this House (hear, hear) will lose the services of a particularly able financial adviser (hear, hear). I feel sure that the House will wish him, as I do, a pleasant and beneficial rest after his more than three years of strenuous work." (Loud and continued applause.)

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"The general discussion on the budget will commence on the 27th February 1931. During those discussions, I propose to prescribe a time-limit of 15 minutes for the speech of a Leader of a Party and 10 minutes for the speech of any other Member. I would suggest that the reading of manuscript speeches should be exceptional. In regard to such speeches I propose to prescribe a time-limit of 6 minutes. The afternoon of Monday the 2nd March 1931 will be at the disposal of the hon. Members of Government to make their replies."

V.--PETITIONS TO THE COUNCIL.

* Rao Bahadur C. NATESA MUDALIYAR :—"Mr. President, Sir, I beg to submit to the Members of this Council a petition^a from the members of the Madras Taxi Owners' Association of the City of Madras. Sir, the petitioners state that the tax proposed in the Motor Vehicles Taxation Bill is three times the existing one and that they are not able to pay even the present tax, because the competition in the trade is very acute. . . ."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"Order, order. The hon. Member cannot make a speech at this stage. He has only to give a summary of the petition that he is going to present to the Council."

* Rao Bahadur C. NATESA MUDALIYAR :—"Sir, I am only stating what is contained in the petition. They say that very few of them have occasions to go through the toll-gates outside the City even once in the course of a year, and that the tax calculated according to the Bill is for 7-seaters, while 90 per cent of the taxis are only 4-seaters. So, they request that the consideration of the Bill by the Council be adjourned."

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN :—"Mr. President, Sir, I beg to present a petition^b from the Madras City Bus Owners' Association. I do not propose to add to what has already fallen from my hon. Friend, Dr. Natesa Mudaliyar, because both the Associations labour under the same difficulty. I would therefore request you to have the petition read to the House."

On the direction of the hon. the President, the Secretary then read the petitions.

VI.—THE MADRAS MOTOR VEHICLES TAXATION BILL.

* The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU :—"Sir, I present the Report of the Select Committee on the above Bill."

^a Printed as Appendix V at page 69 infra.

^b Printed as Appendix VI at page 70 infra.

^c Published in the Fort St. George Gazette on 17th February 1931.

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The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR :—"I second it, Sir."

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN :—"Mr. President, Sir, I move that the consideration of the Bill be postponed until some time next session."

* The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU :—"I rise to a point of order, Sir. I have only moved under Standing Order No. 42 that the report of the Select Committee be presented. I have not yet made a motion under Standing Order No. 43 that the Bill as reported on by the Select Committee be taken into consideration. When I move that, the hon. Member will be in order to make the motion for postponement."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"Order, order. It is not necessary that there should be a motion for the presentation of the report of a Select Committee. The report of a Select Committee is presented and the only motion that is contemplated by the Standing Orders is that the Bill as amended by the Select Committee be taken into consideration. I would suggest to the hon. Chief Minister that he might, now at least, formally move for the consideration of the Bill."

* The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU :—"I move that the Bill, as amended by the Select Committee, be taken into consideration."

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR :—"I second it."

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN :—"Mr. President, Sir, I move—

'That the consideration of the Bill be postponed until some time next session.'

"I do so for various reasons. As the House is aware, the Bill in its final shape was published for the first time only in the month of January last. As such, three months' time has not been given either to the House or to the public to bestow necessary attention to the various provisions of the Bill. Further, according to the Standing Orders, at least a fortnight's time should have been given to this House, after the Select Committee had made its report, to consider the report of the Committee with the provisions amended by them. I do not therefore see any justification for the hurry that is made in putting through this legislation, though it does not involve any serious financial implication to the Government or to the public. After all, if this Bill is put into effect, with the amendments that have been suggested by the Select Committee, it will work a great hardship on a large class of the people. There is no doubt that the Bill will give relief to a large class of gentlemen owning motor-cars, because they can go about freely throughout the province without heeding to the toll-gate watchman. It is regarded by some motorists as beneath their dignity to listen to the call of the toll-gate keeper. That is only one aspect of the question, but there is also another aspect. That is, the toll-gates are really a great necessity, because they check the high speed at which the motor-owners go about the province without the least consideration for the lives of both men and animals that go about their way. I believe, Sir, it is some unfortunate incident in the law that gave an impetus to the origin of this Bill. But, whatever that may be, even if the toll-gates are really a nuisance, I would welcome the abolition of these toll-gates if no hardship is involved to any other class of people who are engaged in the bus and taxi-traffic business.

"Sir, what the Government seek to do in this Bill is to find out some 12-15 remedy to make up the loss that will be sustained by the various district p.m. boards and municipalities, if the tolls are abolished. They have come to the

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conclusion after calculation that about 70 lakhs of rupees will be the loss that the various district boards and municipalities will sustain the moment the tolls are abolished. How to make up this loss is the question that is confronting the Government. In trying to find out a remedy, Sir, the Government have erred; for in making the tax provincial if they have taken into consideration the varying conditions in the various districts and tried to levy a tax on motor vehicles plying for hire or private cars, they would have certainly elicited the sympathy of the public and the Council. But in trying to find a remedy for the nuisance of toll-gates they have committed a mistake and that is they are levying a uniform rate of tax on different classes of motor vehicles, by which one class of persons who are engaged in this trade will be particularly affected adversely. I mean, Sir, the persons who are engaged in the bus and taxi vehicle traffic. It is argued, Sir, that it is only a very very small minority of that class of people that will be affected adversely by this legislation. I am not sure whether I can agree to that proposition. Because I would request the Government to take the proof from the House whether it is not a fact that more than 50 per cent of those who are engaged in this trade will be affected adversely. It may be that less than 50 per cent will get some advantage from the new taxation. Then, Sir, it is not only the people who are engaged in this trade that will be affected but also the average middle class men will be affected. For, on account of enhanced tax, people engaged in this trade will give up their business and the number of motor vehicles available to the middle class who cannot afford to have private motor cars themselves will become less and it is they who will find to their great loss that this taxation Bill has affected adversely. And then, Sir, we find private owners of cars have been left scotfree. Under this Bill the tax that has been levied is in no way higher than what it is at present. Besides, Sir, I wish to state in this connexion that it is not one particular area that will be affected by this taxation, for I know there are various districts in this province which will be affected adversely. It is not only the Madras City, it is not only South Kanara, it is not only Salem or it is not only Trichinopoly that will be affected by this tax adversely, but I am sure there are areas in every district which will be affected by this legislation; especially the municipal areas where these motor vehicles ply for hire, having got only limited jurisdiction within which they can ply subject to police regulations. Sir, I would like to say in conclusion this; if this tax that is to be collected and to be given back to the various district boards and municipalities, if that money is to be spent entirely on the construction and maintenance of roads, then one could have very little objection. But that is not so. Government are not going to ask the municipalities and district boards to utilize all the money for the maintenance of roads; because they cannot do so, as their hands are tied.

"Further, the time that is given to the public to consider the various implications of the provisions of this Bill is so short that they should be given a longer period of time to bestow their serious attention to the matter. And besides this, there are a large number of people engaged in this trade and they have to pay a tax at the end of the term, i.e., at the end of March, and if this Bill is passed into law by that time they will be called upon to pay another tax again in advance under this Bill and they cannot put their vehicle on the road without licence after the expiry of fourteen days after the demand for licence fee. Then again, Sir, there are motor bus owners in the

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districts who have got to pay an additional tax. For instance, I understand in Guntur district they are paying Rs. 2,000, and in Chingleput district they are paying Rs. 1,000. All these taxes have still to be paid in the districts by the bus owners, even though this additional tax is to be levied. So this is the only period when they must know where they exactly stand so that they might adjust their position to the new legislation. I would even go to the length of saying that even if this Bill is passed, they should be given sufficient time to adjust themselves to the new situation. Therefore I move that the consideration of this Bill be adjourned till some time next session."

* Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI.—"Mr. President, Sir, in seconding this motion for adjournment, perhaps it is fair to say that the hon. the Chief Minister is not really the father of this Bill, but only its godfather. (Laughter.) In the Select Committee stage, though he had zealously and ably advocated the provisions of this Bill, I hope I have not thoroughly misunderstood him, when I say, that he himself is not quite sure of the efficacy of the possible working of this Bill. We, the members of the Select Committee, worked in unanimity with the Government and thought that we had as a matter of fact explored all the difficulties, but we found to our surprise later on that we could not allow this Bill to go on. Such unanimity as we showed in the Select Committee, is, I must say, due not to want of proper understanding but to the want of information. It was that which helped us to arrive at that unanimity in the Select Committee. And this is evident from the protests and appeals made against this Bill from several quarters which have been coming after the Bill has passed through the Select Committee stage. And to my surprise I find an appeal made by the President of the Nilgiris District Board asking for special treatment so far as that district is concerned. You also see that the bus owners and the taxi-owners of the City have protested very strongly against the Bill being given effect to. I also find that some private persons owning cars, not intended for hire also objecting to this, but the increase in their case is very small as compared with the heavy incidence of taxation in respect of those cars which are let for hire. Sir, in ushering this Bill, I believe we are dominated by one idea, namely, to do away with the inconvenience of toll-gates. It is no doubt a real inconvenience that we are feeling and that not only by motor owners but also by all cart owners and other vehicle owners. In our attempt to remove that small inconvenience we shall have to examine what other disadvantages we are putting not only on ourselves but also on the public by making this Bill a law. Sir, in the first place, Government are confronted with the prospect of making good the sum of 70 lakhs of rupees which they have to distribute to local bodies, that being the amount represented by the proceeds of vehicle tax and also the toll-gate collections. Now they have decided to remove tolls on carts and vehicles; naturally the amount they have been hitherto getting from carts and vehicles by way of tolls, has to be made good by the motor owners whether of private cars, buses or commercial lorries. Naturally the incidence of taxation upon these motor vehicles and buses is considerably increased. I have no doubt that in respect of some districts, where the journey which these buses, lorries and motor cars take is very long, there, the amount they are actually paying by way of toll-gate fees is at present a little more than what they would have to pay if the Bill is passed into law. Such districts will welcome this Bill. But as against that, there are several other districts in which this tax will

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hamper the business of motor transport. I am not arguing entirely from the point of view of the business of motor transport; but my arguments are on behalf of those persons who use this motor traffic. It has become of late the accustomed conveyance of villagers and of those people in the outlying districts and in stations away from railway stations. Such people are using this motor conveyance very freely, and now if the tax is to be increased in a manner that will practically kill, at any rate in some districts, motor transport, I would ask the hon. the Chief Minister to examine the case and see if such a great hardship would compensate the possible removal of inconvenience to a few owners of motor cars, taxis and vehicles.

"Further, Sir, I am not quite sure if the Government will be in a position to work the provisions of this Bill effectively. They are now centralizing the whole revenue in one place. There is no proper incentive to collect the revenue under this Bill. According to the present estimates the revenue is considerably low, and if strict collection is enforced they will get a larger revenue than they expect to get. My point is that Government will not be in a position to make effective collection possible. They have no agents to do that. At present each local Board and municipality has got its own personal interest in the collection of these dues. They have got their inspectors and the rest of that staff to do this. I want to know what similar provision there is in this Bill. Granting for the sake of argument that there are Revenue officers and Police officers, I should like to know what real incentive there is to make the collections proper and effective? Therefore I submit cases of evasion under this Bill will be considerably more than they are under the existing system. Further, Sir, the local bodies are deprived of another advantage. It is now up to the local bodies to see that they have increased toll-gate collections when the bids are for small amounts by regulating their taxes on vehicles and motor cars as their requirements necessitate them. But now, Sir, in the cases mentioned in the Bill . . ."

12-30 P.M. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO:—"May I rise to a point of order, Mr. President? It is really very interesting information which the hon. Member for the City of Madras has been furnishing to the House, for which we should indeed be grateful; but I think it should be more relevant if the hon. Member furnishes information as to the reasons for this adjournment but does not discuss the merits of this Bill."

* Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI:—"Sir, a few months' stay in a cold climate like that of England generally blurs the vision as to incidents happening here. The reasons are being quoted in each argument word after word, and letter after letter. I hope the hon. Member for Berhampur will be pleased to listen before he rises to any point of order."

Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO:—"Absolutely nothing is to be found in the speech." (Voices: Order, order.)

* Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI:—"I was saying, Sir, that the local bodies will be deprived of all initiative. And then with regard to the powers relating to seizure, detention and other things, I agree that as the Bill stands, they are unavoidable. These powers must be given to some authority, and naturally the only authority that it was thought could possibly be effectively entrusted with these things is the Police. As a matter of fact, none of those present in the Select Committee agreed to it, except

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perhaps the Government Members who were supposed to hold a different view, neither do I think any member of this House would be prepared to give to the police these powers knowing as we do the notoriety which the police have earned in recent times. Having regard to all these considerations, I would earnestly submit that, unless the hon. Minister examines this question from the economic side of the bus traffic and of the incidence of taxation upon persons living in several districts more carefully and is in a position to assure the House—though in some cases there may not be a great hardship—that in cases where hardships do exist the Government will consider the possibility of giving a rebate, either by themselves or through the local bodies concerned, it would be unwise to proceed with this Bill. For these reasons, it seems very desirable that this motion should be accepted by the hon. the Chief Minister. It is not suggested that this motion is put forward by the opposition as a party measure. It is only a question of agreeing to adjourn this matter in order that we may know what the implications involved in this Bill are so that the child that the hon. the Chief Minister is likely to deliver to this House may be in a position to live long and have the blessings of all people concerned."

Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"Mr. President, I beg to move an amendment to the motion before the House and it is this:—

"In place of the words "postponed until some time next session" insert the words "postponed to the 3rd March"."

"My reasons for proposing this amendment are these. I think the general feeling of the House is that the Bill is one to be welcomed in many ways. As an illustration, I may mention one point, that is, the fact that this Bill proposes to practically present to the people who own cars or travel over the roads a sum that would be somewhere about 20 lakhs. So, this is a very welcome measure indeed and I think, Sir, the House should agree that it should try as far as possible to hasten the passage of this Bill at the same time doing our best to see that whatever objectionable features there are in the Bill are as far as possible removed. As far as I am concerned, Sir, there are one or two points which I would like, after formal discussion and agreement, to have amended. The penal provisions in the Bill, I think are unnecessarily drastic for one thing. And secondly I should like to have some indications as to tolls, and thirdly—a point that was referred to by my hon. Friends who have spoken before me—I want some modification of the rather high incidence of the new taxation with reference to motor buses in many districts. I think, from what I gather from discussions with many Members of this House and with others, that the rates adopted in the Bill will certainly mean hardship to some districts. Of course, the figures are called 'Maximum' and I presume the Government want to fix lower figures, and I hope that my hon. Friend, the Chief Minister, will agree to fix lower figures in cases where there is admitted hardship. With a view to secure by agreement an improvement of the Bill which owing to its many advantages is considered to be a very desirable measure, its short adjournment will, I believe, be welcomed by the Chief Minister, and I hope the other hon. Members of the House who have got the Chief Minister's confidence will be able to secure an agreed measure which, while retaining its welcome provisions, will shed some of its objectionable features, and when it comes before the House as an improved measure, will be welcomed by the House.

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* Mr. YAKUB HASAN :—“ Sir, I should like to second this amendment proposed by my hon. Friend on my right. My reason for urging this shorter adjournment instead of the longer adjournment desired in the original proposition is this. What has fallen from the first two speakers about it can be said against the passing of this Bill, and that should not be the reason for postponing the Bill to a longer interval. Why I require this Bill to be postponed only up to 3rd March is that I wish that this Bill should be disposed of now and should not be postponed longer than it is necessary; and I am going to oppose this Bill tooth and nail. My reason for opposing it is that though this Bill is beneficial to those who travel by motor cars long distances it would do great deal of harm to the business of motor car transport that has provided so much convenience for the public. I will not go into these details at this stage, because when the Bill comes up for consideration, we may go into them fully. I may only say one thing as an appeal to this House and that is this. I have considered this Bill from many aspects and not from one aspect only, i.e., the convenience of the people who are in the habit of going about the country in their own private cars. It has been said that the hon. the Chief Minister in consenting to bring forward this Bill has made it his own, but let it not on that account be thought that this is a party measure. In fact, if I am not making a mistake, the originator of this Bill is the Leader of the Opposition, and I was told that this idea occurred to him about two years ago and that for the last two years something or other was being done with the view that this Bill should some day be brought on the statute book. So there is no question of party in this and as far as I have gathered I have found that many people on the Opposite Benches also feel that this Bill is going to result in greater hardship to the people at large than is apparent to many persons who own cars.”

* The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU :—“ Sir, the Bill when introduced received a response from which I thought it was the desire of this House to see this Bill passed as early as possible. That was affirmed by the Select Committee when they stated that the Bill as amended by them should be brought into force with effect from 1st April 1931. It will be impossible, unless the Bill is taken up immediately or at least within a reasonable time, for the Bill to be passed into law. Sir, objections were raised by my Friend, Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan, asking that the Bill should be postponed to another session and urging certain grounds for which he stated that the Bill should be postponed. I think, Sir, I have to oppose that motion as I cannot agree to it in the face of the very report of the Select Committee which is fairly representative of all sections of the House—the report was also signed by Mr. Hameed Khan and Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti. Then, Sir, a suggestion was made, and it was brought to my notice that the provisions of the Bill in regard to taxation of the buses might be heavy in the first year; and I agreed to a certain concession, to have the rates introduced in the first half of the year at 25 per cent less than the maximum provided in the Bill. This is to see how the provisions will affect those concerned. Now the motion proposes that the Bill itself should be postponed till next July. I should think, Sir, as the feeling in the House seems to be fairly general that this Bill should come into force as early as possible, any attempt to see that it is adjourned to July should be opposed. I am glad that that is realized and in the amendment to this motion the suggestion is made that this Bill may be adjourned to a short time. Having

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regard to the expressions of opinion from various quarters that they want more time to consider the Bill, I take it that the general feeling of the House is to take up the Bill on the 3rd March. I have no objection, Sir, to have it taken up on the 3rd March.”

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—“ I shall now put the second amendment to the vote of the House. The question is that for the words ‘ postponed until some time next session ’ in the amendment of Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan, the words ‘ postponed to the 3rd March ’ be inserted.”

The motion was carried.

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—“ I shall now put the first amendment, as further amended, to the vote of the House. The question is that the consideration of the Bill be postponed to the 3rd March.”

The motion was carried.

The House then adjourned to meet again at 11 a.m. on the 27th February 1931.

VII.—PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE HOUSE.

1. *Proceedings^a of the second to the sixth meeting of the Finance Committee held from the 5th to 9th January 1931.*

2. *Statement^b showing the financial effect of the restoration of village headmen, karnams and menials, in accordance with the Madras Village Officers Restoration Act, 1926, with reference to the answer given to question No. 579 at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 25th March 1927.*

3. *List^c of posts on Rs. 500 per mensem and above created during the quarter ending 31st December 1930.*

R. V. KRISHNA AYYAR,
Secretary to the Legislative Council.

^a Printed separately.

^b Printed as Appendix VII on pages 71-77 infra.

^c Printed as Appendix VIII on pages 78-80 infra.

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APPENDIX I.

[Vide answer to question No. 414 asked by Mr. K. R. Venkatarama Ayyar at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 24th February 1931, page 20 supra.]

Conditions.

The assignment will be subject to the conditions of an ordinary ryotwari grant and to the following additional conditions:—

(1) The land shall be used only for the cultivation of tea, coffee and cardamoms and for the erection of any buildings or constructing any roads thereon which may be necessary for effecting and supervising such cultivation and preparing the produce for market.

(2) In areas where forest growth is cleared, the grantee shall plant one or more of the crops mentioned in clause (1) within such reasonable time as may be fixed by the Collector.

(3) In all land opened for tea cultivation, the grantee shall plant not less than 120 shade trees to the acre and shall do his best to prevent soil erosion during the early stages of opening up the area.

(4) The grantee shall pay the cost of surveying the land. He shall keep the boundaries clear of forest growth and maintain the survey marks in accordance with the provisions of the Madras Survey and Boundaries Act.

(5) The grantee shall pay assessment at Rs. 3 an acre on the lands assigned and developed by cultivation or the erection of buildings and at the rate of 10 annas an acre on undeveloped lands. The rates of assessment will be subject to revision at resettlement.

(6) The existing and customary rights of the Government and the public in existing roads and paths in the land which should be excluded from the grant are in no way affected by the grant. The grantee shall demarcate the excluded areas in such manner as may be prescribed by the Collector of Madura.

(7) The main streams which run through the land with a margin two chains wide on either side shall be excluded from the grant but the grantee shall be permitted to use the water from the streams for irrigating nurseries, supply of drinking water, coffee-pulping and all factory purposes other than the generation of power for which a separate licence should be obtained.

(8) The grantee shall not fell any tree growth within a margin of 22 yards from sources of perennial springs and seepage spots.

(9) Subject to the exclusion of 900 acres of land which is reported to be unfit for cultivation, the grantee shall pay a price of Rs. 50 for each acre of land comprised in the grant—Rs. 20 to be paid at once, and Rs. 30 in instalments spread over a period of 10 years. No separate charge shall be made on account of the value of the trees existing on the land.

(10) In the event of the violation of any of the conditions of the grant, the Government shall be at liberty to resume and re-enter on any part of the land in the name of the whole and the whole land shall thereupon vest absolutely in the Government. In the event of such resumption and re-entry, the grantee shall not be entitled to any compensation whatsoever.

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(11) No hydro-electric scheme will be permitted without the previous sanction of the Government.

(12) The grantee shall allow Mr. G. S. Napier Ford of the Cloudland Estate to make and use a bridle path from the boundary of his estate in the Gandamanayakanur Zamindari through the Cumbum Valley disafforested block to join the High Wavy forest bridle path.

APPENDIX II.

[Vide answer to question No. 420 asked by Mr. K. Koti Reddi at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 24th February 1931, page 23 supra.]

Report on anti-malarial works in the Presidency.

I have the honour to submit the following report as required in paragraph 2 of G.O. No. 481, P.H., dated 5th March 1930.

2. In pursuance of G.O. No. 671, P.H., dated 7th April 1927, malarial investigations were, at the outset, confined to selected municipal towns which have had a reputation of being malarious at one time or another; for instance, Bellary or Hospet. Within a short time, certain areas other than municipal towns, where malaria surveys had been attempted at one time, but left uncompleted or the reports of such surveys had not received sufficient consideration such as at Vriddbachalam, had to be taken. In certain other areas still, enquiries into the problem of malaria had to be conducted on the specific orders of Government for specific reasons of unhealthiness as at Siruguppa or at Koilkuntla and Nandikotkur. Further, certain important pilgrim centres were included in the itinerary under G.O. Ms. No. 1493, P.H., dated 25th July 1928, namely, Palni, Vedaranniyam, Tirumalai and the island of Rameswaram.

3. Thus the work of investigation undertaken by the Special Department may be conveniently arranged in three groups.

Firstly, selected municipal towns which were known to be malarious or inferred to be so from data based on annual returns of (a) births, deaths and fever mortality including malaria; and (b) hospital statistics.

Secondly, Union towns which were included within certain areas and were taken up for specific areas.

Thirdly, rural areas, comprising mostly of non-Union villages in which malarial investigations were likewise carried out under orders of Government.

In addition to the above, only restricted spleen and parasite surveys were carried out in a few villages in each of the ten specified taluks in connexion with the inspection of the working of the scheme of free distribution of quinine. This was necessitated for the purpose of elucidating the utility of quinine and for estimating, as far as possible, the quantities of quinine that could be or would be expended in these areas. While submitting the reports on such inspections, the results of these limited surveys have had to be embodied in support of conclusions arrived at and they could, by no means, be taken as regular reports upon the problem of malaria in the area or areas dealt with or be made the subject of concrete recommendations.

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4. A study of the malaria problem was for the first time made in the municipal town of Bellary in August 1927 since the Special Department came into existence; and between that date and September 1930, regular malaria surveys had been carried out in 45 areas; and they can be classified under one or other groups shown in paragraph 3 above. Appended to this report is a statement which shows a list of areas so investigated during each calendar year. It may be opportune to say at this juncture that an area for investigation was selected after careful consideration of all circumstances necessitating the same. These circumstances have, in fact, been mentioned in the introductory remarks of every report. In some instances, however, as at Tirupati or Berhampur or again at Parvatipur, the results of actual investigation work proved to be directly contrary to popular opinion and belief and to the inferences drawn from data obtained from hospitals or other sources. Nevertheless, they have been of considerable help, not only for elucidating the causes of "fevers" prevalent in those places, but also for steadying popular opinions. Malaria surveys constitute, collectively, a form of scientific research which broadly stated has got to take into its fold places which are actually known to be malarious and also those which are popularly believed to be so.

5. *Incidence of malaria.*—Amongst the 14 municipal towns, which have been reported upon till now, only three namely Kurnool (17.0 per cent), Nandyal (51.0 per cent), and Tadpatri (29.5 per cent) may be said to be highly malarious. In the case of Vizagapatam, Bellary, Hospet, Anantapur and Cuddapah, malaria is endemic only in certain limited areas or divisions which each of them is divided into. Such areas mostly lie on the outskirts which seem to act as a barrier protecting the other and more interior parts. In Hindupur town, the disease is of very recent origin and showed itself in two suburban areas on the east and west respectively and it is too premature to say what its future course may be. Berhampur, Tirupati, Palni have to be classed as absolutely non-malarious, although at Coonoor, slight evidences of indigenous fevers were at one time reported in Ottupattari.

6. Owk, Siruguppa, Vriddhachalam, Rameswaram and Kamalapur, amongst Union towns, are more or less malarious. In the case of Rameswaram, Gooty, Dharmavaram and Kampli, malaria is prevalent only in limited areas: whereas it is almost entirely absent in Parvatipur, Vedaranniyam, Kollegal, Rayachoti, Uravakonda, Penukonda and Madakasira. Chattrapur has only very recently suffered from an epidemic outbreak of malarial fevers.

7. The largest incidence of the disease seems to occur in rural parts consisting of non-union and non-panchayat villages and their hamlets. The worst amongst them are the several parts as shown below:—

- (i) Koilkuntla and Nandikotkur taluks in Kurnool district.
- (ii) Siruguppa and Hospet taluks including the wet villages on the Tungabhadra in Bellary district.
- (iii) Several interior parts in the taluks of Penukonda, Dharmavaram, Tadpatri, Gooty and Anantapur in Anantapur district.
- (iv) Talamanchilipatnam and Janganapalli firka in Cuddapah district.
- (v) Mopal area including the villages on the banks of the Mannaru river in Nellore district.

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(vi) The whole of Puttur taluk and the larger parts of Coondapoor, Udipi and Kasaragod taluks in South Kanara.

(vii) The coastal villages north of Madras in Saidapet and Ponneri taluks of the Chingleput district.

(viii) In Kollegal taluk in Coimbatore district, only the hilly tracts are hyper-endemic centres of malaria; whereas, on the plains, it is almost entirely absent or is negligible.

(ix) Likewise, Bolampatti Reserve in Coimbatore and Seethagundy hills near Kollengode in Malabar are very highly malarious.

(x) Amongst smaller towns of some importance which can be taken under this category, mention may be made of Humma and Gaujam, where malaria has been recurring annually in a severe form. In Udayagiri, the fever incidence is on the decline since its last outbreak in 1925.

(xi) *Agency.*—In the Vizagapatam Agency where alone some amount of investigation has been undertaken, Bissemeuttack is the most malarious and next in order are Chintapalli, Peddavalasa, Lammasingi, Pottanghi and Koraput; Jeypore is moderately malarious.

8. Malaria surveys in other areas are being made by the Special Health Officer. More work in the other agencies has not been undertaken as the real intentions of Government in this respect were not known till now and the Agents of the Agency Tracts, other than Mr. Bracken in the Vizagapatam Agency, had sent in no requisitions. Moreover the Government themselves had agreed to the undertaking of investigation work and the practical application of anti-malarial measures side by side over one particular area, so that the results achieved could be tested before taking up other areas. The Agents will now be consulted and such investigations as they ask for will be undertaken.

9. Coming now to the practical results achieved in the areas investigated by the Special Malaria Officer: it seems very difficult to give a decisive answer considering the short intervals which have elapsed between now and the time of investigation in a large number of instances. One can, however, say without fear of contradiction that where anti-malarial operations have been financed and where they are being carried out with a sustained effort, the results achieved have been very promising and equally encouraging. At Vriddhachalam, as my report dated 20th March 1930 forwarded to Government in Director of Public Health's letter R. No. 181-2/Mal., dated 20th March 1930, shows, the incidence of malaria has steadily gone down in and around the areas where the operations are carried out; and if better results have not accrued, it is because the sub-soil draining of the several surface or 'land'—springs has not been carried out for various reasons. Mettur, perhaps, offers the best example of the value of anti-malarial operations in endemic areas; and malaria as a source of disability or as a cause of labour-breakdown has been unknown till now, although the labour force employed for the works exceeds 10 or 12 thousands and although the carrier species of anopheles mosquitoes have always been found. In fact, in October 1929, malaria broke out in Salem camp and but for the fact that prompt measures were taken to deal with the new seepages which had been created by new quarryings at the foot of the adjoining hills, the diseases should have grown worse. I visited Mettur in August last and found malarial fevers still occurring in small numbers in at least two coolie camps. Nevertheless,

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the disease had been brought well under control by the Health Officer and his staff who have been, to state briefly, keeping themselves in a state of "watchful expectancy".

10. The same may be said about the operations which are being carried out in the Gudem and Koraput Agencies. The Health Officer in his latest report quotes facts and figures which go to show that malaria is declining in areas where adequate anti-malarial measures are taken or are being taken. The following is what the Health Officer says :—

"In the Upper Agency villages, the spleen rate has come down from 85 per cent to 68 per cent at Lammasingi and from 86 per cent to 59 per cent at Peddavalasa. At Chintapalli, the hospital figures show a reduction in the number of admission from 5,079 in 1928 to 4,050 in 1929 for all cases and from 538 in 1928 to 337 in 1929 for malaria. The Police figures at Chintapalli also show a striking improvement. The percentage of absentees on account of sickness was 34 in 1928 and only 21 in 1929. The number of days lost to the department on this account were 471 in 1928, but they were only 229 in 1929.

"In the Lower Agency villages too, a very real improvement in the health of the people has been effected. The hospital figures at Krishnadevipet for 1928-29 were 10,953 under total admissions and 2,729 under malaria, while for 1929-30 they were only 8,477 under the first head and 1,796 under the second.

"In every village the spleen rate has come down and in some villages the reduction is very well marked. Thus, in Gokiri it has come down from 53 per cent to 22 per cent, in Pathavur from 47 per cent to 38 per cent and in Nagapuram from 39 per cent to 23 per cent."

11. The above are instances in which the Government have borne the financial liabilities completely. In the case of Vriddhachalam, the Government have made the initial money contribution under the condition that the local boards will keep up the operation after the three-year period counting from April 1928 is over. No reply has, however, been received from the District Board of Cuddalore to whom a reference has been made. But in the majority of other cases, the matter stands on a very different footing. The interest evinced by the local bodies, who are the primary custodians of Public Health and who have therefore been called upon to undertake suitable anti-malarial measures in their areas still continue to be slow and uncertain. Nevertheless several of them have made a beginning, however small it may be.

(1) In Bellary town, an establishment of one maistri and four coolies for the treatment of stagnant pools and for stocking of wells with larvicidal fish has been sanctioned to work under the Health Officer. The Railway authorities have filled in to some extent and graded the railway borrow pits. Fresh quarrying within the municipal area has been stopped; but it would appear that the Cantonment Board has renewed the contract for quarrying in their area which they had stopped during the year previous. There was a small recrudescence of fevers in the winter months of 1929 which was easily controlled.

(2) In Vizagapatam town, a staff of one Sanitary Inspector and six coolies has been employed and the Votu gedda and the Yerri gedda and

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other water places are being regularly oiled. This work, along with that which is being undertaken by the Harbour and Railway authorities, has contributed very largely towards preventing any untoward spread of malaria.

(3) In Nandyal municipality, one Malaria Sanitary Inspector and six coolies were employed between September 1929 and 3rd July 1930 and the various irrigation and other channels were thoroughly cleaned of all grass, weeds, etc. I inspected the place last January and also submitted a report (vide this office letter R. No. 185-1 Mal., dated 31st January 1930). The Chairman now reports that the Municipal Council have sanctioned an additional Sanitary Inspector in lieu of the Malaria Inspector who has been put in charge of anti-malarial works and he would be assisted by a Conservancy Overseer and a gang of five coolies. It is too early to assess a value on the results of measures which have been carried so far.

(4) In Coonoor and Ootacamund, the municipal authorities have appointed adequate establishment to drain away the several hill side channels and swamps and to oil stagnant pools and ditches of water.

(5) Hospet municipality have had an Inspector and a few coolies for some time. The coolies are still maintained. Reference is solicited to my report forwarded to Government in letter No. 203-3/Mal., dated 20th June 1930. The orders of Government have been communicated to the Chairman and it is hoped that necessary steps will be taken by him to carry on the operations which were abruptly brought to an end. The Municipal Council appears to be contemplating upon the appointment of a second-class Health Officer, and it would be easier then to carry out anti-malarial operations systematically.

(6) The Chairman, Municipal Council, Anantapur, reports that removal of weeds and vegetation, and cutting the edges along the irrigation channels have been carried out, as also the oiling of pools and other marshy areas and that the other recommendations will be attended to at an early date. In a personal interview in April, he promised to recommend to the Council for sanctioning the establishment suggested by me.

(7) In Cuddapah, Kurnool, Tirupati and Tadpatri towns little effort has been made by the respective municipal councils. In the former place, a great part of the future scheme of anti-malarial operations appears to depend upon the canalizing the Bugga and the design and execution of the town drainage scheme. The subject matter in the case of Kurnool is still under correspondence.

(8) It is gratifying to note from their reports that Chairmen, Municipal Councils of Berhampur and Palni have been carrying out the Special Malaria Officer's recommendations with regard to wells, tanks, etc., by a judicious exercise of the powers conferred upon them by the District Municipalities Act.

12. In regard to the rural areas including Union towns, very much progress cannot be reported upon. The important areas about which reports have been received are as follows :—

(a) In Rameswaram Island, a staff of one maistri and eight coolies has been employed since 1st November 1929 and the local Health Officer who supervises the work has submitted a detailed report on the nature and

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extent of work undertaken. In pursuance of the Malaria Officer's report several pits, including many of them on either side of the railway line have been filled in. Likewise, some of the ponds are being reclaimed; while the several temple tanks are cleaned and stocked with larvicidal fish. Rank vegetation is being removed and prickly-pear treated with the specific destructive parasites. The work is also extended to Pamban.

(b) In the towns of Udayagiri and Duttalore, the concerned taluk board assisted by the Nellore District Board has sanctioned an establishment of one Inspector and six coolies who have been steadily carrying out the recommendations already made. These towns have continued to be free from any severe outbreaks of malaria.

(c) *Puttur taluk*.—The District Health Officer reports that in the way of anti-malarial measures, besides free distribution of quinine, practically nothing has been done for want of funds except in the two villages of Mundaje and Dharmasthala. Two prominent citizens, Mr. Bhide in Mundaje and Mr. Hegde in Dharmasthala took great personal interest and did some anti-malarial work in the shape of oiling or filling in or even draining some of the stagnant pools on or in the vicinity of their properties. These efforts were shown to be fairly successful, but they could not be extended for want of internal or external co-operation in the shape of money and men. The President, Taluk Board, has been pressing Government for a full grant which however has been declined.

(d) One other instance of private effort comes from the Anglo-American Direct Tea Trading Company, Limited, Seethagundy Estate (Kollengode). The Manager reports that all streams and other water places within a reasonable distance of human habitations are regularly sprayed with crude oil and all swamps are drained and the water removed as effectively as possible. In addition all new coolie lines are fitted with mosquito-proof kitchens and bungalows are built mosquito-proof. The District Health Officer, Malabar, has sent in an elaborate report to show that the incidence of malaria has appreciably gone down as a result and he has supported this statement by means of detailed statistical data (Appendix 2).

(e) Likewise in the Bolampatti reserve area, where the staff coolie lines and coolie camps in connexion with the Coimbatore water works have been built in accordance with the report of the Malaria Officer, Messrs. Moylan & Co., the contractors have been regularly attending to the recommendations made for keeping the malaria at bay. It is gratifying to note that not a single case of indigenous fever had occurred up to the date of my inspection in June last—vide my report R. No. 259-1/Mal., dated 11th July 1930.

(f) In Cuddapah district, although no relief measures have been taken in the Talamanchipatnam and Janganapalli firkas which were reported upon, a modest scheme of anti-malarial work was carried out in Jammalamadugu town at the instance and under the guidance of the District Health Officer. Oiling or filling in of pools, and of small excavations on the bed of the Pennar river or outside, cleaning the water edges in quarry pits and tanks, and quininization of the people were the measures undertaken. The District Health Officer reports that as far as the hospital returns go to show and public opinion has it, the fever incidence has gone down.

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13. Reports dealing with the problem of malaria in the rural areas of two whole districts, namely, Anantapur and South Kanara have been sent to the respective presidents of district boards only recently. The President, District Board, Anantapur, has written to say that the subject has been referred to the several presidents of the taluk and union boards for their consideration and that a final reply will be sent at an early date. The president was also kind enough to call for an informal meeting at Anantapur which was attended by the Collector and myself including a few members of the board. They were of opinion that unless Government gave either the required technical staff at the top for advising from time to time and controlling the operations or liberal grants of money, the several taluk boards themselves would not be in a position to take any steps to combat the disease. One can anticipate similar replies from other boards and also foresee that they can and probably will do nothing towards the solving the problem. It seems a great pity that certain presidents of local boards have not only not given a passing thought even to the gradual devastation which malaria is carrying on in some of their areas, but also have declined to take such measures as are at least possible under the Local Boards Act. The apathy of the President, Taluk Board of Chatrapur, in the case of Humma and Ganjam, and of Chandragiri in the case of Tirumalai and Tiruchanur is somewhat surprising.

14. Thus then the practical results achieved upon the reports of investigation, as a whole, are not as disappointing as one may be led to believe. But it is however too premature to assess a value on the measures which have been taken hitherto in the several areas enumerated in the above. For one thing, the length of time during which the anti-malarial measures have been in force has been much too short in many instances; for another, climatic and other natural factors which are not yet correctly understood may have not been sufficient to provoke or simulate an exacerbation of fevers, if not actually give rise to real outbreaks of malaria. For it is only too well known to epidemiologists that malaria often occurs in periodic waves at intervals of 10 to 15 years and the right course to follow would be to adopt and persevere in measures which help in keeping down the propagation of anopheles mosquitoes well below the line of danger and in minimising the incidence of fevers amongst human beings who would otherwise act as carriers. Even within the short space of time, we have been confronted with perplexing problems. For instance, the first survey at Tirumalai Hills suggested that malaria was not indigenously present there and we were even told that it was a question of "malaria sine paludism". Within two years after, the same disease broke out in a very severe form as my report after the inspection in July shows—vide this office letter R. No. 288-1/Mal., dated 29th August 1930. Again, Humma and very recently Chatrapur have witnessed severe and recurrent outbreaks of malaria and the causes for such annual recrudescence can be more decisively ascertained after observations are made for longer periods of time.

15. *Conclusion*.—While past experience seems to indicate that malaria in the case of most municipal and union towns can be eradicated or at least brought well under control by minimum effort and at reasonable costs, the crux of the problem lies in the rural areas, where it is highly complex and forms a big stumbling block in the way of social and economic uplift of the agriculturists who constitute the bulk of the population. The areas to be

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dealt with are extensive with numerous petty villages and hamlets scattered about. They often possess peculiar physiographical features and natural conditions of environment and to make them innocuous from mosquito and malaria would require the utmost resources in the form of money and men. Moreover the anopheles mosquito in a natural state of freedom is so elusive and the parasite in man is so resistant that the attack on both in whatever manner it is carried out should be enduring for all time. It therefore follows that efforts made to suppress or banish malaria and malarial disease should be well organized, fully controlled and judiciously carried out with great perseverance; and as I have often pointed out the main desideratum is an organization which will not only advise upon and execute anti-malarial operations but will carry out continued investigation and research which alone can help towards elucidating and solving many of the difficulties and perplexities which the problem of malaria is most often beset with. I may at the same time suggest that a malaria fund should be created from which suitable grants may be made to local bodies who need them most. A Malaria Board like the one which was constituted between 1911 and 1917 may be formed for the purpose of advising the Government from time to time on all matters pertaining to malaria and its control.

K. RAGHAVENDRA RAO,
B.A., M.B.C.M., D.P.H. (Camb.),
Special Malaria Officer, Madras.

Appendix 1.

Year.	Municipalities.	Union towns and others of minor importance.	Rural areas.	Places visited in connexion with the quinine distribution scheme and at the same time spleen and parasite surveys were undertaken.
1927.	Bellary.	Vridhbachalam ..		..
1928.	Hospet. Vizagapatam. Oonoor. Ootacamund. Cuddapah. Tirupati. Berhampur. Palni.	Vedaranniyam Siruguppa.	Tirumalai in Chittoor district. Koilkuntla and Nandikotkur taluks in Kurnool district. Wet villages on the Tungabhadra in Bellary district. Talamanohipatnam and Janganapalli firkas in Cuddapah district. Humma and other coastal villages in Ganjam district. Puttur taluk in South Kanara district. Mopad, Udayagiri and Duttalora areas in Nellore district. Kollengode estate.	Puttur taluk.

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Year.	Municipalities.	Union towns and others of minor importance.	Rural areas.	Places visited in connexion with the quinine distribution scheme and at the same time spleen and parasite surveys were undertaken.
1929.	Kurnool Nandyal. Anantapur.	Owk. Kamalapur. Kampli. Rameswaram. Korapur. Parvatipur. Rayachada. Bissemouttak Pottanghi. Tiruvottiyur. Kollegal. Rayachoti. Chatrapur. Dharmavaram. Penakonda. Madakasira. Uravakonda. Gooty.	Nandyal and Sirvel taluks. Kurnool taluk. Villages in Rameswaram Island. Bolampatti reserve. Coastal villages of Saidapet and Ponneri taluks.	Koilkuntla taluk. Hospet taluk. Ponneri taluk. Cuddapah and Rayachoti taluks. Udayagiri and Kanigiri taluks. Kollegal taluk.
1930.	Tadpatri. Hindupur.		Anantapur district South Kanara district.	Kolli hills in Salem district. Kollegal taluk. Cuddapah and Rayachoti taluks. Koilkuntla taluk.

Appendix 2.

Statement showing the Splenic Index of the estates before the Anti-Malarial measures were taken according to the Special Malaria Officer's report.

Name of the estates.	Number examined for spleen.	Number with enlarged spleen.	Percent-ge.
Seetagundi Estate—			
Adults	60	16	26
Children	43	21	49
Total ..	103	37	36
Anaimada Estate—			
Adults	103	23	22.3
Children	23	15	56.5
Total ..	126	38	28.8
Palagapandi Estate—			
Adults	56	6	10.7
Children	14	7	50.0
Total ..	70	13	18.6

[24th February 1931]

Statement showing the Splenic Index of the estates as per my examination on 28th and 29th August 1920.

Name of the estates.	Number examined for spleen.	Number with enlarged spleen.	Percentage.
Seetagundi Estate—			
Adults	58	5	8.6
Children	23	4	17.3
Total ..	81	9	10.0
Anaimada Estate—			
Adults	30	7	23.3
Children	34	16	47.5
Total ..	64	23	35.9
Palagapandi Estate—			
Adults	49	4	7.5
Children	15	3	20.0
Total ..	64	7	10.9

Percentage incidence of Malaria in Seetagundi and other estates before Anti-Malarial measures were taken.

Month.	Seetagundi.	Palagapandi.	Anaimada.
1927	PER CENT.	PER CENT.	PER CENT.
July	1.2	0.6	0.8
August	0.8	0.5	0.5
September	0.7	0.4	0.4
October	0.7	0.8	0.4
November	0.6	0.9	0.2
December	0.4	0.3	0.1
1928			
January	0.8	0.5	0.4
February	1.4	0.5	0.4
March	1.0	0.8	0.8
April	1.2	1.0	1.3

[24th February 1931]

Percentage incidence of Malaria in Seetagundi and other estates after the Anti-Malarial measures were taken.

Month.	Seetagundi.	Palagapandi.	Anaimada.
1928	PER CENT.	PER CENT.	PER CENT.
July	0.5	0.4	0.5
August	0.7	0.6	0.5
September	0.7	0.7	0.5
October	0.5	0.5	0.4
November	0.6	0.4	0.4
December	0.4	0.1	0.4
1929			
January	0.6	0.4	0.5
February	0.9	0.5	0.5
March	0.8	0.5	0.6
April	0.8	0.6	0.6
May	0.8	0.6	0.7
June	0.6	0.5	0.5
July	0.5	0.5	0.5
August	0.5	0.5	0.5
September	0.4	0.5	0.4
October	0.4	0.4	0.5
November	0.3	0.4	0.4
December	0.4	0.4	0.4
1930			
January	0.3	0.5	0.4
February	1.1	0.8	1.0
March	0.9	0.7	0.9
April	0.8	0.8	0.9
May	1.5	1.6	1.8
June	0.9	1.0	0.9

APPENDIX III.

[Vide answer to question No. 430 asked by Mr. C. Satyanarayana Choudari at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 24th February 1931, page 29 supra.]

Extract of paragraph 5 from the report of the Medical Education Committee.

The general consensus of public opinion both lay and medical is in favour of the concentration of medical studies at Madras both for collegiate as well as school education. Madras possesses unrivalled clinical material as well as facilities for instruction to students. While the Committee agree with this opinion, they consider that at present it is desirable only to close the Coimbatore school and abandon the proposed Guntur school. The question of closing down other medical teaching institutions can be deferred for the present until there has been time to observe the effect of the changes which have been recommended by the Committee.

[24th February 1931]

(Two of the members of the Committee, Doctors Nedungadi and Bhujanga Rao desired to express themselves as being strongly of opinion that the Vizagapatam Medical College has not justified the large expenditure which is involved in its maintenance.)

The Committee recommends that only the following institutions need be retained, namely :—

- (1) Madras Medical College,
- (2) Vizagapatam Medical College,
- (3) Rayapuram Medical School,
- (4) Tanjore Medical School,
- (5) Lady Willingdon Medical School,
- (6) Vellore Medical School (subsidized)

and that no further schools need be opened or reopened.

They further recommend that the students who are admitted should be distributed as follows :—

Madras Medical College	...	...	...	...	75
Vizagapatam Medical College	...	...	...	...	35
Rayapuram Medical School	...	...	...	...	60
Tanjore Medical School	...	...	...	...	40

The Committee is of opinion that the Vizagapatam Medical College should be prepared to admit at least 35 students instead of 32 as at present and that the continuance of the Medical School at Tanjore should depend on the policy of Government with regard to the expansion of the system of subsidizing rural practitioners. The Committee has assumed that the number of medical men and women who will be absorbed in this way will be about 50 in each year. It is recommended that provision should be made for the admission of 45 women students yearly in the medical schools, viz., 20 in the Lady Willingdon Medical School and 25 in the Vellore Medical School.

APPENDIX IV.

[Vide answer to question No. 431 asked by Mr. T. Narasa Reddi at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 24th February 1931, page 30 supra.]

Statement showing the areas visited by the Special Malaria Officer and the number of days spent at each visit in the Cuddapah district.

Area.	Period of stay.
Cuddapah Municipality	33 days in 1928.
Talamanchipatnam and Janganapalle firkas	10
of Jammalamadugu taluk	"
Cuddapah and Rayachoti taluks	7 days in 1929 and 9 days in 1930.

[24th February 1931]

APPENDIX V.

[Vide item V—Petitions to the Council—at page 48 supra]

Petition from the Madras Taxi Owners' Association.

To

The President and Members of the Madras

Legislative Council

(Through Rao Bahadur Dr. C. Natesa Mudaliyar, M.L.C.)

We beg to submit that the proposed tax in the Motor Vehicles Taxation Bill that is before the Council is three times the existing rate.

2. The taxi owners find it difficult to pay even the present tax in view of the acute competition in the trade and on account of the fact that the public in City have not taken to using the taxis in the same way as they use in other cities like Bombay or Calcutta.

3. Only a small percentage of taxis plying in the City have had any occasion to pass a district board toll-gate more than once in the course of a year. As such, the abolition of toll-gates does not benefit us to any extent.

4. In the schedule, the rate fixed is calculated up to seven seats. We beg to submit that 90 per cent of the taxis are licensed to carry four passengers only. If the rate is fixed on the basis of the maximum of seven seats, the owners of taxis licensed to carry four passengers will be hit hard.

5. If the provision of the Bill including the enhanced rate of taxation is enforced, we beg to submit respectfully that it will be impossible for a large majority of taxi owners in the City who are not rich capitalists to continue the trade any longer.

6. We therefore respectfully appeal to you in this humble petition of ours to adjourn the consideration of this Bill to give sufficient time to the public at large and to owners of motor vehicles plying for hire to understand the far reaching implications of the provisions of this Bill.

We beg to remain,

Sirs,

Your most obedient petitioners,

(Signed) _____,

Secretary.

[24th February 1931]

APPENDIX VI.

[Vide item V—Petitions to the Council—at page 48 supra.]

Petition from the Madras City Bus Owners' Association.

To

The President and Members of the Madras
Legislative Council

(Through Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan Sahib, M.L.C.)

We beg to submit the following factors which affect us and appeal to you to give them your sympathetic consideration :—

1. The Madras City bus owners, numbering about 500 are not benefited by the abolition of toll-gates, nor will this Bill be beneficial for buses running in mufassal for a distance of 15 to 20 miles radius.

2. City buses do not and cannot ply beyond the City limits.

3. The present tax of Rs. 200 levied by the Madras Corporation is in itself exorbitant and several buses are to-day distrained by the Corporation, owing to the inability of the owners to pay even this tax after allowing them to ply their vehicles for the full six months.

4. The buses in the City should be taxed on a different scale.

5. Unlike elsewhere in the Province, the buses plying within the City limits have also to stand the keen competition of the Tramway Company, a rich capitalist concern.

6. The owner of a bus to-day is not realizing more than Rs. 40 per month, from any single bus, provided he is lucky enough to run his service without interruption.

7. Any further increase in tax than the present municipal taxation of Rs. 200 will ruin the bus traffic business.

8. The Government should aid the trade mainly interested in the uplift of traffic, as such every facility should be given to such classes of trade, and not to crush them by imposing heavy taxes.

9. Unless sufficient time is given almost all the buses in the City of Madras will have to be surrendered to the Government due to owners' inability to pay the abnormally increased tax, whereby hundreds of poor families who have invested their all in this trade will be stranded in the streets.

We therefore respectfully appeal to you to adjourn the consideration of this Bill to give sufficient time to the public at large and to the owners of motor vehicles plying for hire to understand the far reaching implications of the provisions of the Bill.

We beg to remain,

Sirs,

Your most obedient petitioners,

(Signed) _____,

Secretary.

[24th February 1931]

APPENDIX VII.

[Vide item VII—Papers laid on the table of the House—at page 55 supra.]

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

COMMUNICATION TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

No. 4033-A/29, DATED 24TH JANUARY 1931.

With reference to the answer given to question No. 579 at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on 28th March 1927, the annexed statements showing the financial effect of the restoration of village headmen, karnams and menials in accordance with the Madras Village Officers' Restoration Act, 1926, are laid on the table.

H. R. PATE,
Secretary to Government.

[Annexure

[24th February 1931]

Annexure.
Statement showing the financial effect of the restoration of village headmen and karnams.
I.—Ryotwari areas.

Districts.	Villages.			Headmen.			Karnams.			Financial effect.		Results [(+) or (-)]
	Number divided or grouped.	Number restored to original units.	Explan- ation for difference.	Number abolished.	Number restored.	Explan- ation for difference.	Number abolished.	Number restored.	Explan- ation for difference.	Before restoration.	After restoration.	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)
Ganjam ..	34	34	..	14	14	..	7	7	..	RS. 1,55,496	RS. 1,37,904	RS. 17,592
Vinagapatam ..	22	22	..	22	22	..	22	22	..	61,264	59,364	1,900
Godavari, East.	29	29	..	11	11	..	13	13	..	1,76,119	1,56,984	19,135
Do. West.	8	8	..	8	8	..	..	..	..	1,37,800	1,21,428	16,372
Kistna ..	41	41	..	8	8	..	7	7	..	1,15,767	1,02,864	12,903
Guntur ..	83	83	..	108	108	..	36	36	..	3,18,985	2,98,752	20,233
Nellore ..	103	103	..	99	99	..	57	57	..	1,77,404	1,77,324	80
Cuddapah ..	578	578	..	316	316	..	118	118	..	1,55,204	2,03,268	48,064
Kurnool ..	72	72	..	248	248	..	166	166	..	2,19,740	2,44,872	25,132
Bellary ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,34,780	2,02,584	32,196
Anantapur ..	104	104	..	75	75	..	32	32	..	2,07,986	1,96,872	11,114
Chittoor ..	47	47	..	49	49	..	12	12	..	1,21,845	1,14,900	6,945
North Arcot ..	668	668	..	263	263	..	122	122	..	3,19,880	3,37,920	18,040
Chingleput ..	121	121	..	56	56	..	37	37	..	2,53,826	2,34,230	19,596
South Arcot ..	566	566	..	192	192	..	159	159	..	4,36,320	4,33,644	2,676
Tanjore ..	265	265	..	131	131	..	120	120	..	4,77,355	4,53,215	24,139
Trichinopoly ..	127	123	..	132	128	..	40	38	..	2,34,115	2,29,080	5,035
Madura ..	26	24	..	42	38	..	25	25	..	1,80,660	1,66,548	14,112
Ramanad ..	32	32	..	49	49	..	8	8	..	38,053	42,456	4,403
Tinnevely ..	197	197	..	112	112	..	28	28	..	1,72,565	1,71,648	917
Coimbatore ..	205	205	..	133	133	..	74	74	..	2,73,158	2,69,448	3,710
Salem ..	74	74	..	126	126	..	74	74	..	2,83,773	2,75,700	8,073
Malabar ..	172	172	..	172	172	..	157	157	..	2,27,580	2,30,116	2,536
South Kanara ..	171	171	..	86	86	..	..	..	..	1,82,535	1,70,508	12,027
The Nilgris ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	15,521	13,824	1,697
Total ..	3,745	3,739	..	2,452	2,444	..	1,314	1,312	..	51,77,731	50,45,454	1,32,277

* Four villages re-surveyed with adjacent villages.

† Villages re-distributed for administrative convenience.

‡ Due to re-distribution of villages for administrative convenience.

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Statement showing the financial effect of the restoration of village headmen and karnams.
II.—Proprietary areas.

Districts.	Villages.			Headmen.			Karnams.			Financial effect.		Results [(+) or (-)]
	Number divided or grouped.	Number restored to original units.	Explan- ation for difference.	Number abolished.	Number restored.	Explan- ation for difference.	Number abolished.	Number restored.	Explan- ation for difference.	Before restoration.	After restoration.	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)
Ganjam ..	7	7	..	15	15	..	15	15	..	RS. 2,43,943	RS. 2,17,296	RS. 26,647
Vinagapatam ..	3	3	..	4	4	..	4	4	..	3,12,733	2,77,020	35,713
Godavari, East.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,00,572	90,108	10,464
Godavari, West.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	78,709	70,056	8,653
Kistna ..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,29,970	1,16,292	13,678
Guntur ..	10	16	..	1	1	..	1	1	..	29,233	26,304	2,929
Nellore ..	54	54	..	20	20	..	20	20	..	63,791	62,880	911
Cuddapah ..	4	4	..	15	15	..	39	39	..	10,451	14,736	4,285
Anantapur ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6,531	6,060	471
Kurnool ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8,629	7,516	1,113
Chingleput ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7,354	6,900	454
Chittoor ..	21	21	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	69,545	60,960	8,585
North Arcot ..	15	15	..	7	7	..	..	..	..	75,937	73,584	2,353
South Arcot ..	..	..	..	20	20	..	20	20	..	44,533	41,508	3,025
Tanjore ..	29	29	..	4	4	..	4	4	..	9,729	8,832	927
Trichinopoly ..	..	..	..	40	40	..	40	40	..	44,296	46,104	1,808
Madura ..	..	..	..	10	10	..	10	10	..	42,237	38,136	4,121
Ramanad ..	..	..	..	28	28	..	28	28	..	59,116	54,432	4,684
Tinnevely ..	17	17	..	151	151	..	172	172	..	1,88,876	1,82,868	6,008
Coimbatore ..	12	12	..	46	46	..	46	46	..	59,337	57,420	1,917
Salem ..	14	14	..	6	6	..	6	6	..	5,622	5,796	174
Total ..	187	187	..	375	375	..	428	428	..	16,80,078	15,43,204	1,36,874

[24th February 1931]

Statement showing the financial effect

I—Ryotwari

Districts.	Villages.			Talaiyaris.		
	Number divided or grouped.	Number restored to original units.	Explanation for difference.	Number abolished.	Number restored.	Explanation for difference.
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
Ganjam	12	12	..	7	7	..
Vizagapatam	42	42	..	5	5	..
Godavari, East	29	29	..	..	..	..
Godavari, West	16	16	..	4	4	..
Kistna	18	18	..	3	3	..
Guntur	58	58	..	8	8	..
Nellore	57	57	..	59	58	(b)
Cuddapah	582	582	..	390	392	(c)
Anantapur	73	73	..	80	80	..
Bellary	..	..	..	..	..	..
Kurnool	183	183	..	188	188	..
Chingleput	101	101	..	36	36	..
Chittoor	49	49	..	31	31	(d)
North Arcot	686	686	..	325	325	..
South Arcot	566	566	..	125	119	(e)
Tanjore	261	261	..	156	155	(f)
Trichinopoly	132	128	(a)	135	130	(g)
Madura	46	46	..	15	14	(h)
Ramnad	61	61	..	43	42	(i)
Tinnevely	197	197	..	118	118	..
Coimbatore	132	132	..	136	136	..
The Nilgiris	..	..	..	..	..	..
Salem	126	126	..	106	106	..
South Kanara	62	62	..	46	46	..
Malabar	172	172	..	..	..	..
Total	3,661	3,657	..	2,016	2,003	..

(a) Four villages in the Perambalur taluk could not be restored to their original units, as they were merged with adjoining villages during resurvey rendering their redivision impossible.

(b) A talaiyari was restored as a vetti.

(c) Two vettis were restored as talaiyaris.

(d) The actual number of menials abolished in the ryotwari areas was 59,* while the actual number restored was 60. The increase was due to the addition of a Proprietary Estate Village Service talaiyari who became a member of the Ryotwari Village Service during revision. One Ryotwari Village Service talaiyari was restored as a Ryotwari Village Service vetti and hence the increase under the number of Ryotwari Village Service vettis.

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of the restoration of village menials.

areas.

Vettis.			Financial effect.		Results [(+) or (—)].
Number abolished.	Number restored.	Explanation for difference.	Before restoration.	After restoration.	
(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)
12	12	..	RS. 1,27,952	RS. 1,23,950	— 4,002
32	32	..	53,145	54,312	+ 1,167
..	..	..	1,69,321	1,59,007	— 10,314
7	7	..	1,25,096	1,24,279	— 817
17	17	..	99,781	96,848	— 2,933
29	29	..	3,03,678	3,04,048	+ 370
69	70	(b)	1,55,284	1,62,338	+ 7,054
395	393	(c)	1,14,261	1,88,608	+ 74,347
34	34	..	1,35,611	1,53,351	+ 17,740
..	..	..	1,82,324	1,71,218	— 11,106
185	185	..	2,00,743	2,30,325	+ 29,582
33	33	..	2,07,487	2,01,109	— 6,378
28	29	(d)	94,955	99,530	+ 4,575
49	49	..	2,39,552	2,60,573	+ 21,021
198	204	(e)	3,57,630	3,65,828	+ 8,198
297	298	(f)	3,75,876	3,94,791	+ 18,915
126	121	(g)	1,91,682	2,09,235	+ 17,553
26	27	(h)	1,67,486	1,61,300	— 6,186
54	55	(i)	43,354	47,322	+ 3,968
207	207	..	1,69,217	1,94,173	+ 24,956
190	190	..	2,70,063	2,83,402	+ 13,339
..	..	..	11,880	11,298	— 582
73	73	..	2,24,285	2,26,903	+ 2,618
..	..	..	1,49,327	1,47,489	— 1,838
193	193	..	1,92,325	2,05,390	+ 13,065
2,254	2,258	..	48,62,315	45,76,627	+ 2,14,312

(e) Six talaiyaris were restored as vettis.

(f) One talaiyari was restored as a vetti.

(g) Five talaiyaris and five vettis could not be restored as four villages in the Perambalur taluk were merged with the adjoining villages during resurvey rendering their redivision impossible.

(h) One talaiyari restored as a vetti.

(i) One talaiyari restored as a vetti.

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Statement showing the financial effect
II.—Proprietary

Districts.	Villages.			Talaiyaris.		
	Number divided or grouped.	Number restored to original units.	Explanation for difference.	Number abolished.	Number restored.	Explanation for difference.
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
Ganjam	..	..	..	..	..	..
Vizagapatam ..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Godavari, East ..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Godavari, West ..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Kistna	..	..	..	..	..	..
Guntur	..	..	..	..	..	..
Nellore	4	4	..	3	3	..
Cuddapah	14	14	..	27	27	..
Anantapur	2	2	..	3	3	..
Bellary	..	..	..	..	..	..
Kurnool	..	..	..	..	..	..
Chingleput	..	..	..	..	..	..
Chittoor	21	21	..	14	13	(a)
North Arcot	15	15	..	5	5	..
South Arcot	..	..	..	..	..	..
Tanjore	29	29	..	28	28	..
Trichinopoly	..	..	..	..	..	..
Madura	2	2	..	1	1	..
Ramnad	5	5	..	5	5	..
Tinnevely	12	12	..	4	4	..
Coimbatore	3	3	..	7	7	..
The Nilgiris	..	..	..	..	..	..
Salem	..	..	..	..	..	..
South Kanara	..	..	..	..	..	..
Malabar	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total	107	107	..	97	96	..

(a) The decrease of one talaiyari is due to the classification of one Proprietary Estate clubbing of an inam village with a ryotwari village and the restoration of the talaiyari under

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of the restoration of village menials.
areas.

Vettis.			Financial effect.		Results [(+) or (—)].
Number abolished.	Number restored.	Explanation for difference.	Before restoration.	After restoration.	
(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)
..	..	..	RS. 1,12,536	RS. 1,13,413	RS. + 877
..	..	..	1,56,656	1,57,234	+ 578
..	..	..	61,711	61,711	..
..	..	..	45,932	46,220	+ 288
..	..	..	78,468	79,296	+ 328
..	..	..	15,687	15,687	..
..	..	..	28,946	29,262	+ 316
..	..	..	5,060	7,086	+ 2,026
..	..	..	3,533	3,749	+ 216
..	..	..	3,466	3,466	..
..	..	..	3,744	3,744	..
..	..	..	37,907	35,280	— 2,627
..	..	..	37,872	38,952	+ 1,080
..	..	..	18,378	18,738	+ 360
..	..	..	6,235	6,235	..
25	25	..	23,636	27,795	+ 4,159
..	..	..	24,624	25,236	+ 612
1	1	..	37,503	37,949	+ 446
..	..	..	66,912	77,242	+ 10,380
..	..	..	33,706	34,064	+ 358
..	..	..	3,960	4,464	+ 504
..	..	..	..	..	..
..	..	..	45,864	45,864	..
..	..	..	..	..	..
..	..	..	..	..	..
26	26	..	8,52,836	8,72,737	+ 19,901

Village Service talaiyari as Ryotwari Village Service talaiyari during revision owing to the Ryotwari Village Service establishment.

APPENDIX VIII.

[Vide item VII—Papers laid on the table of the House—at page 55 supra.]

List of posts on Rs. 500 per mensem and above created during the quarter-ending 31st December 1930.

A.—PERMANENT.		Remarks.	
Department and designation of the post.	Pay per mensem.	Date of creation.	
<i>Public Health.</i>			
RS.			
<i>Local Self-Government (Public Health) Department.</i>			
Assistant Director of Public Health.	600—50—1,200	23rd December 1930.	Sanctioned in connexion with maternity relief and child welfare work in the Presidency.
B.—TEMPORARY.			
i. EXTENSION OF PREVIOUS SANCTIONS.			
Department and designation of the post.	Pay per mensem.	Period of tenure.	Remarks.

RS.

*General Administration.**Public (Special) Department.*

Additional Secretary to Government.

Pay in the regular line plus special pay of Rs. 250.

From 1st October 1930 to 31st October 1930.

Mr. G. T. Boag, C.I.E., I.C.S., who was appointed Additional Secretary to Government in connexion with the report of the Indian Statutory Commission and the conduct of elections continued to hold the post till 31st October 1930.

[24th February 1931]

APPENDIX

24th February 1931]

*Administration of Justice.**Public (Special) Department.*

Additional Sessions Judge, Coimbatore.

Pay in the regular line.

For one year from 24th December 1930.

The post has been in existence since 12th March 1925 except for a short period from 1st February 1930 to 9th March 1930 and it has been extended up to 23rd December 1931.

Law (General) Department.

Additional Sub-Judge, Nellore ...

650 One year from 1st October 1930.

.....

Additional Sub-Judge, Ellore ...

650 Do.

.....

First Additional Sub-Judge, Coimbatore.

650 Do.

.....

Additional Sub-Judge, Ramnad at Madurai.

650 One year from 23rd December 1930.

.....

Additional Sub-Judge, Mangalore.

650 From 1st December 1930 up to commencement of summer recess 1931.

.....

Additional Sub-Judge, Guntur ...

650 One year from 23rd December 1930.

.....

Additional Sub-Judge, Trichinopoly.

650 Do.

.....

Temporary Sub-Judge, Kurnool ...

650 From the commencement of Christmas holidays 1930 up to the end of September 1931.

.....

[24th February 1931]

Department and designation of the post.	Pay per mensem.	Period of tenure.	Remarks.
ii. POSTS NEWLY CREATED.			
<i>General Administration.</i>			
<i>Finance Department.</i> Assistant Secretary to Government.	Rs. 500—50—800	From 1st October 1930 to 31st March 1931.	Sanctioned in connexion with the preparation of the budget estimates for 1931-32.
<i>Local Self-Government Department.</i> Assistant Secretary to Government.	500—50—800	From 28th November 1930 to 23rd December 1930.	To relieve the Deputy Secretary in the Local Self-Government Department of his heavy work.
<i>Public (Special) Department.</i> Special Officer for the preparation of the Presidency Administration Report for 1929-30.	Pay in the regular line plus Presidency allowance of Rs. 150.	Three months from 23rd October 1930.	Mr. S. P. Thompson, I.C.S., was appointed to the post.
<i>Revenue Department.</i> Secretary to the Committee for the simplification of the Loans Rules.	Rs. 650 (pay in the Madras Civil Service) plus Rs. 100 Presidency allowance plus Rs. 100 special pay.	Two months ..	
<i>Public Works and Labour Department.</i> Executive Engineer in the office of the Chief Engineer, Public Works Department (General, Roads and Buildings).	625—1,375	Six months	For the preparation of standard specifications for use in Public Works Department. Mr. E. H. Chave was appointed to the post and joined duty on 4th October 1930.

THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OF THE GOVERNOR OF MADRAS.

Friday, the 27th February 1931.

The House met at eleven of the clock, Mr. President (the hon. Mr. B. RAMACHANDRA REDDI) in the Chair.

PRESENT:

Usman Sahib Bahadur, <i>Kt.</i> , The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir Mahomed.	Muhammad Meera Ravuttar Bahadur, K. P. V. S.
Krishnan Nayar, <i>Kt.</i> , The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M.	Muniswami Pillai, Rao Sahib V. I.
Campbell, C.S.I., C.I.E., C.B.E., V.D., I.C.S., The hon. Mr. A. Y. G.	Murugappa Chettiyar, Diwan Bahadur, A. M. M.
Stokes, C.S.I., C.I.E., I.C.S., The hon. Mr. H. G.	Muthiah Chettiyar, Mr. M. A.
Muniswami Nayudu, The hon. Diwan Bahadur B.	Muthu Chettiyar, Mr. P. C.
Rajan, The hon. Mr. P. T.	Naohiarpa Gounder, Mr. K. A.
Kumaraswami Reddiyar, The hon. Diwan Bahadur S.	Nanjappa Bahadur, Subadar-Major S. A.
Abdul Hameed Khan Sahib Bahadur.	Narasa Reddi, Mr. T.
Ahmed Meeran Sahib Bahadur.	Narasimhaswami, Mr. D. V.
Alumalurangal Thayaramma, Mrs. K.	Narayanan Namhivar, Mr. V. P.
Annamalai Chettiyar, Mr. S. A. A.	Naraswami Pillai, Mr. T. M.
Arasu, Mr. V. T.	Natesa Mudaliyar, Rao Bahadur C.
Ari Gowder, Mr. H. B.	Palat, Mr. R. M.
Arogyaswami Mudaliyar, Diwan Bahadur R. N.	Parthasarathi Ayyangar, Mr. C. R.
Basheer Ahmed Sayeed Sahib Bahadur.	Patel, I.C.S. Mr. H. R.
Basu Dev, Mr. C.	Patnaik Mhasavo Sriman M. G.
Bayabani Sahib Bahadur, S. M. K.	Patro, <i>Kt.</i> , Rao Bahadur Sir A. P.
Bayappa Reddi, Mr. P.	Patrabhiramayya, Mr. K.
Bhanoji Rao, Mr. A. V.	Pocker Sahib Bahadur, B.
Birley, Mr. Frank	Premayya, Mr. G. R.
Browning, Mr. W. M.	Raja of Bobbili
Devadasan, Mr. M.	Raja of Kallikote
Dharmalingam Pillai, Rao Sahib V.	Rajagopala Pillai, Mr. P. V.
Ellappa Chettiyar, Rao Bahadur S.	Ramachandra Padayachi, Mr. P. K.
Foulkes, Mr. R.	Ramakrishna Reddi, Mr. A.
Gopalaswami Mudaliyar, Diwan Bahadur M.	Ramalinga Chettiyar, Rao Bahadur T. A.
Hilton Brown, I.C.S., Mr.	Ramamurti, Pandit Garala.
Indriah, Mr. C.	Ramamurti, I.C.S., Mr. S. V.
Jagannatha Raja, Rao Bahadur G.	Raman Menon, Mr. K. P.
Jaganatham, Mr. H. M.	Ramaswami Ayyar, Mr. T. S.
Jayaram Nayudu, Rao Sahib C.	Ramaswami Mudaliyar, Mr. V. M.
Kesava Ramamurti Nayudu, Mr. K.	Ranganatha Mudaliyar, Mr. A.
Khalifullah Sahib Bahadur, Khan Bahadur P.	Ranganatha Mudaliyar Mr. G.
Kolanda Reddi, Rai Sahib C.	Ranganatha Mudaliyar, Mr. M. D. T.
Kondappa, Mr. A.	Rangaswami Reddi, Mr. M. B.
Kumara Raja of Venkatagiri.	Ratnasabbapati Mudaliyar, Diwan Bahadur C. Si
Laker, Mr. A. T.	Sahaj randam, Swami A. S.
Madanagopal Nayudu, Mr. R.	Sami Venkatesh Chetti, Mr.
Madhusoodhanan Thangal, Mr.	Satvasarayana Choudri, Mr. C.
Mahboob Ali Baig Sahib Bahadur.	Sesha Reddi, Mr. B. P.
Mahmud Sohammad Sahib Bahadur, Khan Bahadur.	Shetty, Mr. A. B.
Manikavelu Nayakar, Mr. M. A.	Simbachalan Pantulu, Mr. Gade.
Moidu Sahib Bahadur, Khan Bahadur T. M.	Siva Raj, Mr. N.
Moses, Mr. P. C.	Sundara Pandian, Mr. W. P. A.
	Sureshta, Mr. M. S.
	Sriramulu Mr. G.
	Subrahmanya Bhatt, Mr. U. C.
	Sabratana y m Chetti, Rao Sahib P.
	Sundara Rao Nayudu, Mr. T.
	Syed Tajudin Sahib Bahadur, Khan

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PRESENT—cont.

Vasudeva Pillai, Mr. V. G.
Venkataramayya, Rao Sahib B. deti.
Venugopal Nayudu, Rao Bahadur R. K.
Watson, I.C.S., Mr. H. A.

Yabva Ali Sahib Bahadur, Khan Bahadur.
Yakub Hasan Sahib Bahadur.
Zamindar of Minampalli.
Zamindar of Mirzapuram.

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS

Education

Retention of Mrs. M. Varugis as Superintendent of the Government Hobart Secondary Training School.

* 426 Q.—Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Excise be pleased to state—

(a) the period for which Mrs. M. Varugis has been holding the appointment of the Superintendent of the Government Hobart Secondary Training School for Muhammadan Women, Royapetta;

(b) whether it is a fact that in the case of most of her predecessors, the period was about three years for each, after which they were transferred;

(c) what are the special reasons for keeping this lady in this office for such a long period;

(a) how long has Mrs. Parookutti Ammal been holding either the post of a Headmistress or Superintendent of the Government Training School for Women, Egmore; and

(e) what are the special reasons for keeping this lady in this school for a very long period?

A.—(a) Four years and seven months from 8th June 1926.

(b) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the answer to question No. 435 put by him at the meeting held in September 1929.

(c) & (e) The Government consider it undesirable to make unnecessary changes in the staff of schools.

(d) Srimati Parookutti Ammal has been acting as the Superintendent of the Government Training School for Women, Egmore, since August 1930. She was the Headmistress of the same school from 1921.

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—“Sir, in answer to question (a) they say four years and seven months from the 8th June 1926. May I know if this was the case with reference to the former incumbent?”

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR:—“I think that was answered with reference to a previous question of the hon. Member. That is my recollection.”

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN: “Do the Government realize, Sir, that the second lady has been there for the last ten years, a long period?”

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR:—“If she has been there, Government know that she has been there.”

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Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—“What is the special reason for keeping her there?”

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR:—“The reason is already stated in the answer and beyond that I cannot say anything.”

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—“Do the Government realize that they are keeping back other people who could have the same advantage?”

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR:—“That is merely a matter of opinion.”

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—“With reference to clause (c) it is stated that the Government consider it undesirable to make unnecessary changes in the staff of schools. Am I to understand, Sir, that the Government have given up the ordinary rule of three years?”

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR:—“There is no such rules with regard to these offices.”

Inspection of schools under local bodies by Deputy Inspectors of Schools.

* 437 Q.—Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Excise be pleased to state—

(a) what are the duties of the Deputy Inspectors of Schools in respect of the schools managed by local bodies and municipalities;

(b) whether it is a fact that the recommendations and reports of the Deputy Inspectors of Schools are not heeded by the local bodies and municipalities;

(c) whether it is a fact that this is specially so in the case of the Muslim boys' and girls' schools maintained by the local bodies and municipalities; and

(d) what steps the Government have taken or propose to take to enforce the reports and recommendations of the inspecting authorities against the local bodies and municipalities who have ignored them?

A.—(a) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to Chapter XX of the Madras Inspection Code and to instruction 145 of the Madras Local Boards Manual.

(b), (c) & (d) The Government have no definite information showing that local bodies do not pay attention to the recommendations of Deputy Inspectors of Schools. If the hon. Member mentions specific instances, enquiries will be made.

Nandanar School at Chidambaram.

* 438 Q.—Swami A. S. SAHAJANANDAM: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Excise be pleased to state—

(a) when the Nandanar School at Chidambaram was recognized by the Government;

(b) whether the annual reports made in recent years by the inspecting authorities are found to be encouraging and satisfactory;

(c) how many classes are there now in the school and what is the strength of each class;

(d) what aid is being given by the Government to the school;

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(e) whether it is a fact that this is the only institution in the Presidency run for the Adi-Dravidas by themselves; and

(f) if so, whether the Government propose to give any special encouragement to the institution?

A.—(a) It was recognized by the Inspector of Schools in 1918 with standards one to four; standards five to eight were recognized by the District Educational Council, South Arcot, during the years 1923 to 1929.

(b) The annual inspection reports for the last three years are on the whole satisfactory.

(c) There are eight standards in the school, the strength of each standard being as shown below:—

Standard.	Strength.
1	15
2	9
3	33
4 (A and B)	49
5	35
6	30
7	19
8	11

(d) The recurring and non-recurring grants paid to the school since 1927 are as shown below:—

Recurring.			Amount of grant.
Year.			
			RS.
1927-28	...	...	1,380
1928-29	...	...	1,794
1929-30	...	...	1,948
Non-recurring.			
Year.			
1928-29	...	...	16,000
1930-31	...	...	500

For the acquisition of land and construction of buildings for the Nandanar School.

Towards the cost of repairs to the Moir Hostel and the Nandanar School buildings which were damaged by the recent floods.

(e) The Government have no definite information in the matter.

(f) If a definite request is made for special aid, supported by adequate reasons, it will be considered.

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Proposals regarding Mr. Champion's Report on Elementary Education.

* 439 Q.—Mr. A. B. SHETTY: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Excise be pleased to state the nature of the proposals received from the local bodies to give effect to the Government Order on Mr. Champion's report on Elementary Education?

A.—It is reported that a number of local bodies are corresponding with the Director of Public Instruction, District Educational Officers and District Educational Councils with a view to devising means to give effect to the proposals made in the report. The proposals received from local bodies include the abolition of certain schools, the amalgamation of certain schools and of higher standards of certain others and the establishment of central schools.

Mr. A. B. SHETTY:—“May I know whether the Government propose to take any action to compel local bodies to give effect to this scheme?”

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR:—“Until we know what action the local bodies themselves take, the question of compulsion will not arise.”

Mr. A. B. SHETTY:—“May I know what the financial implications of this scheme are?”

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR:—“No financial implication so far as the Government are concerned. Local bodies will have to finance any schemes.”

Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—“Have the Government come to any conclusion on the matter?”

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR:—“They have come to some conclusions and issued a Government Order.”

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—“May I know whether the Government have already issued orders and whether the local bodies have given effect to that order?”

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR:—“They have not given effect to these recommendations yet. They are in correspondence with the Educational authorities with a view to giving effect.”

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—“Has it not been given effect to by any of the local bodies?”

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR:—“So far no local body has yet given effect to it.”

Diwan Bahadur C. S. RATNASABHAPATI MUDALIYAR:—“Will the hon. Minister be pleased to appoint a special officer to visit important centres and to submit proposals on the lines of the recommendations?”

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR:—“I do not consider it necessary, at any rate, for the present.”

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—“Are the Government prepared to stop any local body coming to any decision if any local body has given effect to it?”

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR:—“I believe they are only considering the question.”

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Medical*Alleged irregular attendance of Medical Officers in the City.*

* 440 Q.—Mr. V. T. ARASU: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the paid Medical Officers attached to the hospitals in the City of Madras are not punctual and are not regular in attending their respective institutions?

A.—The Government have no reason to suppose that the facts are as stated in the question. If any specific instance is brought to their notice, they will make enquiries.

Mr. V. T. ARASU:—“May I know whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to an article entitled ‘Discipline in Medical Service’ published in Volume II, No. 12, of the Journal of the South Indian Medical Union?”

The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU:—“No, Sir.”

Mr. V. T. ARASU:—“Is the hon. Minister aware that the attendance of the officers of the General Hospital was so very irregular that Lieut.-Col. Bradfield, during the time he was the Superintendent of the General Hospital, has issued a circular to the officers in that hospital stating that he would be compelled to take disciplinary action if they failed to attend the hospital regularly and in time?”

The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU:—“I will call for the information.”

Mr. V. T. ARASU:—“It is not a question of information, Sir. I am referring to a serious allegation made by a responsible association like the South Indian Medical Union. Has the hon. Member ascertained whether it is a fact?”

The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU:—“If a specific question is given, I will enquire.”

Mr. V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—“Is there any record showing the time when these officers arrive?”

The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU:—“No information.”

Municipal Councils*Proposed supersession of the Madura Municipal Council.*

* 441 Q.—Mr. K. R. VENKATARAMA AYYAR: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether any and what orders have been passed by the Government on the reply received from the Madura Municipal Council showing cause why that Council should not be superseded, and if no orders have been passed, when they may be expected;

(b) whether the five persons nominated by the Government as members of the Madura Municipal Council by the *Fort St. George Gazette Extra-*ordinary, dated 6th December 1930, were suggested or recommended for such appointment by Mr R. S. Nayudu, ex-Chairman of the Municipal Council, and whether any of them was included in the Madura Collector's list of recommended persons; and

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(c) what were the reasons for the filling up of the five vacancies after a resolution of no confidence had been passed against Mr. R. S. Nayudu as Chairman and just before the meeting of the Municipal Council fixed for 10th December 1930 to consider a second motion of no confidence in him and after the Government Order of the 13th November calling upon the Municipal Council to show cause against supersession?

A.—(a) No final orders have yet been passed. The matter is still under consideration.

(b) & (c) The nominations were made in the interest of the municipal administration of Madura and it is not in the public interest that Government should give reasons for such nominations.

Public Health*Stocking of quinine in villages.*

* 442 Q.—Mr. K. KOTI REDDI: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state whether any steps have been or will be taken to stock quinine with the village officers so that the villagers may have quinine within easy reach?

A.—An experimental scheme for the free distribution of quinine is in force in selected areas in certain districts. In these areas tahsildars and deputy tahsildars have been authorized to entrust to village officials the work of the distribution in such villages as they consider necessary. In other areas quinine is sold at a cheap rate through the agency of the post office. There is no proposal to entrust this work to village officers.

Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—“May I know, Sir, whether the Government is in a position to state what the effect of the policy has so far been regarding the free distribution of quinine?”

The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU:—“The Government are not now in a position to state the effect.”

Diwan Bahadur M. GOPALASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—“May I know why the proposal to entrust the work to the village officers has not been carried out as it will be a very convenient method?”

The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU:—“It was tried at one time and not found successful.”

Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—“May I know if the proposal is continued this year?”

The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU:—“The question has not yet been decided.”

Admission of depressed classes students in the Sanitary Inspector's class.

* 443 Q.—Rao Sahib V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) the number of depressed class students in the Sanitary Inspector's class in the connected schools in Madras during the years 1928-29, 1929-30 and 1930-31;

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(b) how many of these were drawn from the mufassal and how many from the City; and

(c) whether any stipends are given to the students coming from the mufassal; if so, what is the amount paid each month or year?

A.—(a) & (b)—

192-29—Nil.

1929-30—One (from the mufassal).

1930-31—One (from the mufassal).

(c) No stipends are given.

Rao Sahib V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—"Do not the Government consider it desirable to provide some stipends to the members of the depressed classes as a matter of special encouragement?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU:—"The question will be considered."

Religious and Charitable Endowments

Reconstitution of the Chingleput Devasthanam Committee.

*444 Q.—Mr. V. T. ARASU: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state the reasons for the delay in the reconstitution by Government of the Devasthanam Committee for the district of Chingleput?

A.—The constitution of one or more Temple Committees in the Chingleput district is under consideration.

Mr. V. T. ARASU:—"May I know if it is not a fact that the Government passed orders in September, constituting the committee?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU:—"No, Sir."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"How long is it since the district has been without a committee?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU:—"I cannot say now, Sir."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"How does the hon. Minister propose to constitute this committee, by allowing elections or by nomination?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU:—"The committee cannot be constituted at present as neither the electoral rolls are ready nor the funds available."

Mr. V. T. ARASU:—"May I know if it is a fact that the members of the committee have been written to and asked whether they are prepared to serve on the committee?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU:—"Yes, the proposal is, as I answered, to have one committee instead of two."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"Inasmuch as this committee has ceased to exist by efflux of time, does the hon. Minister propose to constitute one by nomination?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU:—"Yes, Sir."

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Economic Condition

Groundnut cultivation in the Presidency.

* 445 Q.—Mr. K. KOTI REDDI: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) the extent of acreage under cultivation of groundnut in the Presidency for the last three years;

(b) the price of shelled groundnut per candy at Madras for the past three years in the months of January, April and July; and

(c) what steps the Government propose to take in order to help the ryots out of the distress arising from the abnormal fall in the price of groundnuts this year?

A.—(a) & (b) A statement ^a is annexed.

(c) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the answer given to clause (b) of question No. 378.

Mr. T. S. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"With regard to the formation of the committee appointed to enquire into the depression in groundnut trade, may I know whether any groundnut merchant has been included?"

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL:—"Persons interested in groundnut have, I believe, been included."

Mr. T. S. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"The other day a deputation on this question waited on His Excellency the Governor. May I know if any member of that deputation or any member interested in groundnut cultivation has been appointed a member of that committee?"

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL:—"I cannot say whether any member of that deputation is a member of that committee."

Mr. T. S. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"May I know if any member of the Ryotwari Landholders' Association has been nominated?"

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL:—"I do not know who are the members of that Association."

Mr. V. T. ARASU:—"What is the amount to be spent on this committee?"

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL:—"It is not expected to cost very much."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"Among the measures proposed to be adopted by Government to relieve the distress of the ryots, are there any calculated to increase the output of groundnut, Sir?"

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL:—"I think, Sir, that question should be addressed to the Minister for Agriculture."

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"May I know if the whole committee is going to make the enquiry or only the office, Sir?"

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL:—"The committee will deal with the subject."

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Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN :—" May I know if the whole committee is going to make the actual enquiry? May I know whether the whole committee is going to tour round the province for making enquiries? "

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL :—" No, Sir."

Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" May I know, Sir, whether the Government are prepared to consider, among the relief measures that may be proposed, measures to reduce assessment or postpone collection of assessment."

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL :—" Not at present."

Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" If the committee should recommend? "

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL :—" We must wait till the report is received."

Mr. T. S. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" May I know why very few Members of the Legislative Council have been appointed to this committee? "

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL :—" There are some Members of the Legislative Council upon the committee."

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI :—" May I know if the postponement of the collection of kist was not specifically disallowed as a matter of reference to this committee? "

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL :—" It has been referred to the Board of Revenue as any relief of that nature must be given quickly if it is to be effective."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" Is it the intention of the Government of forbidding even responsible bodies wishing to tender evidence at the headquarters and at their cost from doing so? "

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL :—" That is a matter for the committee."

Diwan Bahadur C. S. RATHNASABHAPATI MUDALIYAR :—" May I know if any of the members of the committee belong to the Tamil districts? "

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL :—" There are some Tamil members on the committee."

Public Service

Appointment of Muslims in the Secretariat.

* 446 Q.—Mr. V. T. ARASU : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether there is any department of the Secretariat in which there is not even one Muslim employed as Assistant Secretary, Section Superintendent, or even as ordinary clerk; and

(b) why it has not been found possible to entertain more Muslims in the Secretariat?

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A.—(a) Yes. In the Revenue Secretariat there is no Muslim employee.
(b) Candidates for appointment as clerks are selected from the list of eligible candidates published formerly by the Staff Selection Board and now by the Madras Services Commission. Qualified Muslim candidates have not been forthcoming in sufficient numbers.

Mr. V. T. ARASU :—" Is it not a fact that there are a host of fully qualified Muslim youths? "

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL :—" If the hon. Member will communicate to me their names and if they are to be fully qualified and their names are found in the list of selected candidates prepared by the Staff Selection Board and the Madras Services Commission, their cases will be considered."

Mr. V. T. ARASU :—" If I should communicate their names, will the hon. the Revenue Member be pleased to appoint them? "

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL :—" I shall be glad if the hon. Member will give me the names. Their cases can then be considered by the Secretaries."

Mr. B. POCKER SAHIB :—" The answer says that qualified Muslim candidates have not been forthcoming in sufficient numbers. I do not understand the significance of 'sufficient numbers.' Do the Government expect a thousand people to apply for selecting one? "

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL :—" As I was Chairman of the Staff Selection Board, I can say that the number of Muslim applicants was always small compared to other communities."

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN :—" May I know if everybody that applied has been appointed? "

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL :—" Notice."

Participation of Government servants on leave in associations registered under the Indian Trade Unions Act.

* 447 Q.—Mr. O. BASU DEV : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether there is any rule or order of the Government which characterises convening meetings of an association of Government servants registered under the Indian Trade Unions Act, and taking part in them by a member of the association while on leave on medical certificate as acts of insubordination when he is in a state of health to do so; and

(b) if the answer to (a) be in the affirmative, whether a copy of them will be placed on the table of this House?

A.—(a) & (b) The following answer was given to Question No. 613 at the meeting of the Legislative Council on the 26th November 1928 :—

" The Government of India have under consideration the question of the registration of associations of Government servants under the Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926, and have informed local Governments that pending

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a decision on the revision of the rules governing the formation and conduct of such associations, they think it inadvisable that the associations should apply for registration. Till final orders on the subject are received therefrom, the local Government have instructed Government servants not to be members of an association seeking registration as a Trade Union."

The final orders of the Government of India have not been received. The question whether the man is on leave or on duty is immaterial.

Powers of the Public Services Commission in appointments by heads of departments.

* 448 Q.—MR. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the Madras Services Commission are called upon to consider merely the names of subordinates in different departments sent by the heads of departments, e.g., in the Police, without being allowed to inquire into the circumstances under which the claims of seniors have been overlooked by such heads of departments;

(b) if so, what is the effective device adopted by the Government to prevent unjust supersession by the heads of departments; and

(c) what is the reason for the restriction by Government of the scope of the duties and functions of the Madras Services Commission in the matter of recommending subordinates for promotion to higher posts?

A.—(a), (b) & (c) The hon. Member refers apparently to section 11, of the Madras Services Commission Act, 1929. The Government have already issued executive instructions to heads of departments that in making nominations under this section, they should give clearly the grounds for preferring any of the nominees and that if a junior officer is nominated in preference to a senior the reasons should be stated in detail.

Revenue Establishments

Salaries of copyists and copyist examiners in the Revenue and Judicial departments.

* 449 Q.—KHAN BAHADUR MAHMUD SCHAMNAD SAHIB BAHADUR: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state with reference to the answer to my question No. 1066 (c) of the 28th January 1929—

(a) what are the reasons for the distinction in the salaries of copyists and copyist examiners in the Revenue and Judicial departments, respectively; and

(b) why the post of the copyist examiners in the Revenue department is not made pensionable as in the case of those in the Judicial department?

A.—(a) The differences are due to the fact that in the Revenue department copyists and copy examiners are not permanent and their employment is subject to the condition that the expenditure on their account should be covered by the receipts.

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(b) The amount of copying to be done in revenue offices and therefore the establishment to be employed vary from time to time and are not so constant as that in the Judicial department.

Civil Justice

Appointment of the Official Receiver of the North Arcot district.

* 450 Q.—DIWAN BAHADUR C. S. RATNASABHAPATI MUDALIYAR: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Official Receivership of the North Arcot district has been in the hands of a member of one and the same community;

(b) if so, for what length of time and how often the appointment has been renewed;

(c) when the term of office of the present incumbent expires and when a new appointment is to be made; and

(d) the total remuneration drawn by the present incumbent ever since his appointment?

A.—(a) Yes.

(b) The question presumably refers to the appointment of Mr. T. M. Srinivasa Achariyar as Official Receiver, North Arcot district. Mr. Achariyar was first appointed Official Receiver in January 1923 and his term of office was renewed thrice as shown below:—

(1) From 5th January 1925 to 31st January 1925.

(2) From 1st February 1925 to 31st January 1928.

(3) From 1st February 1928 to 31st January 1931.

(c) Mr. T. M. Srinivasa Achariyar's term expired on the 31st January 1931 and another gentleman was appointed as Official Receiver with effect from the 1st February 1931.

(d) The Government have called for the information.

Jails

Alleged assault on Mr. Hanumantha Rao and others at Rajahmundry.

* 451 Q.—MR. ABDUL HAMERD KHAN: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that a party of political prisoners, including Dr. V. Hanumantha Rao of Bezwada, were mercilessly belaboured by the warders of Rajahmundry Jail on the night of 15th June 1930 on the eve of being transferred to Vellore;

(b) whether any complaint about the injuries received by them was made on arrival at the Vellore Central Jail to the Superintendent and the District Magistrate;

(c) if so, whether any report on the subject was forwarded to the higher authorities; and

(d) what action the Government have taken in the matter?

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A.—(a) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the answer to question No. 456.

(b) It is understood that some oral complaints were made.

(c) No reports were received from the Superintendent, Central Jail, Vellore, or from the District Magistrate, North Arcot.

(d) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the answer to question No. 456 (f).

MR. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"May I know whether Government will kindly call for a report from the District Magistrate or the Jail Superintendent on this matter?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"There are no reports received."

MR. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"I am asking, Sir, whether Government are going to send for a report."

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"No, Sir."

MR. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"Why, Sir?"

Alleged lathi charge on some political prisoners at Rajahmundry.

* 452 Q.—MR. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether on the night of the 15th June the jail authorities at Rajahmundry, while shifting some political prisoners from that jail to Vellore, charged them with lathis and inflicted on them various injuries and whether any enquiry was made into the matter; and, if so, with what result;

(b) whether (1) Dr. Velidinda Hanumantha Rao and (2) Dr. Ghantasala Sitharama Sarma of Bezvada, (3) Mr. Gonugontla Subrahmanya Gupta of Madras and (4) Messrs. Nukala Veeraraghavayya, Veeluri Yagnanarayana Sastri, Brahmanandam Narasimham of Kistna district and Messrs. Veeramallayya Ayyavaralam Garu and Poduru Perraju of West Godavari were victims of such lathi charges;

(c) whether in other jails also, and, if so, in which jails and on what occasions, the jail authorities resorted to lathi charges on the political prisoners with particulars as to the number of people injured at each charge; and

(d) the reasons which according to the view of the Government justify lathi charges on prisoners in jail?

A.—(a) & (b) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the answer to question No. 456.

(c) There was a baton charge in the Central Jail, Cannanore—vide answer to question No. 2, dated the 18th November 1930. The Government have received no information about lathi charges against political prisoners in jails.

(d) Such baton charge is resorted to as a matter of discipline in times of emergency, at the discretion of the Superintendent.

[27th February 1931]

Police

Removal or the exclusion of Mappillas from the Malabar Special Police.

* 453 Q.—MR. B. POCKER SAHIB: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) what is the strength of the Malabar Special Police;

(b) what is the number of—

(a) Nayers,

(b) Thiyyas,

(c) Christians and

(d) other communities in it;

(c) whether any Mappilla or other Mussalman of Malabar has been entertained in the Malabar Special Police from its inception up till now;

(d) if not, why no Mappilla or other Mussalman of Malabar has been entertained in the Malabar Special Police up till now;

(e) whether the Government are aware that the Madras Presidency Muslim League (established in 1908) in its address to His Excellency the Viceroy on His Excellency's last visit to Madras prayed that the rule of exclusion of Mappillas from Malabar Special Police, if any, may be removed; and

(f) whether the Government have taken any action with reference to the said representation?

A.—(a) The present strength of the Malabar Special Police is 750 exclusive of the Commandant and two Assistant Commandants.

(b) Nayers	...	...	502	Other Non-Brahman Hindus.	64
Thiyyas	...	...	156	Christians	24
				Mappillas	4

(c) Yes; there are now four Mappillas in the Malabar Special Police as stated above.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Yes.

(f) No; as there is no rule excluding Mappillas as a class from the Malabar Special Police.

MR. B. POCKER SAHIB:—"I should like to know from the Government when these four Mappillas were taken into the Malabar Special Police."

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—"I have no information."

MR. B. POCKER SAHIB:—"Is the Government in a position to explain why only four Mappillas were taken in the Special Police while there are over a million Mappillas to be found in Malabar?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—"The hon. Member knows the circumstances under which the force was brought into existence at the time of the Malabar Rebellion. I do not want to go into unpleasant things now. However, I shall draw the attention of the Inspector-General of Police to the small number of Mappillas in the force."

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Extension of the rule of three years' tenure to the City Inspectors of Police.

* 454 Q.—MR. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have considered the extension of the rule of three years' tenure in the City now applicable in the case of Assistant and Deputy Commissioners to the case of City Inspectors as well; and

(b) if not, why not?

A.—(a) & (b) Deputy and Assistant Commissioners of Police, Madras City, belong to the Indian Police Service and the Madras Police Service respectively. The object of limiting their tenure to three years is that they should not remain too long in Madras out of touch with district police work. Inspectors in the City on the other hand belong to a distinct cadre and though it may be expedient occasionally to transfer particular officers to the mufassal it is not in the interest of police administration in Madras City to impose upon any of them general liability to be so transferred.

Extension of the principle of three years' tenure to certain Deputy Superintendents.

* 455 Q.—MR. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that all appointments in the police and in the Inspector-General's office are on a three years' tenure basis;

(b) if so, why this principle has not been extended to the case of Deputy Superintendents attached to the office of the Inspector-General of Police and the C.I.D. office;

(c) whether the Government propose to extend this principle to those cases as well and to all Gazetted officers in the mufassal; and

(d) if the answer to (a) is in the negative, what are the appointments that are on a three years' tenure basis and why?

A.—(a) & (d) The following are the only appointments in the Police Department the tenure of which has been limited, viz., to three years:—

- (1) Assistant Inspector-General of Police,
- (2) Personal Assistant to the Deputy Inspector-General of Police, Railways and C.I.D.,
- (3) Deputy Commissioners of Police, Madras City, and
- (4) Assistant Commissioners of Police, Madras City.

The tenure of these appointments is limited so that officers may not remain too long in Madras, out of touch with district work.

(b) The question of limiting the tenure of the appointments of Deputy Superintendent of Police attached to the office of the Inspector-General of Police and the Criminal Investigation Department has not hitherto been raised, but Government have no objection to considering it.

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(c) The Government do not consider it necessary to limit by prescription the tenure of all gazetted appointments in the mufassal, where conditions are entirely different to those prevailing in Madras, but it may be stated that it is the policy of Government ordinarily not to allow such officers to continue for more than three years in the same appointment.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Jails

Alleged beating of Drs. Hanumantha Rao, etc., at Rajahmundry.

456 Q.—RAI SAHIB C. KOLANDA REDDI: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether on the 15th June last Drs. V. Hanumantha Rao and G. S. Sarma of Bezvada, Messrs. Nukala Veeraraghavayya of Kanumur, Veluri Yegnanarayana Sastri of Chirivada, Gonuguntla Venkatasubrahmanyam of Gudicada, Puranam Suri Sastri of Masulipatam and Bramhandam Narasimham were transferred from Rajahmundry Jail to Vellore Jail;

(b) whether at the time of transfer they were beaten by the Deputy Jailor, European Police Sergeant, warders of the Vellore Jail and Reserve Police constables in the presence of the Jailor;

(c) whether their injuries were examined and recorded by Major Sastri, I.M.S., doctor of Vellore Jail;

(d) whether the victims' statements were taken down by the District Collector, North Arcot, on the 18th idem and forwarded to the Government;

(e) whether the attack was sudden and unprovoked; and

(f) what action has been taken by Government to punish the offenders?

A.—(a) (b) & (e) The Government had received a report about the allegation. It was stated that on the night of the 15th June 1930. Dr. V. Hanumantha Rao and 39 other satyagraha prisoners, confined in the Central Jail, Rajahmundry, were handed over to the custody of the police for transfer to the Central Jail, Vellore. The prisoners then behaved in a mutinous manner and one of them struck a police sergeant in the face. They had to be forcibly placed in the bus going to the railway station with the assistance of a few warders. Information is not available as to whether any warder of the Central Jail, Vellore, was also present at Rajahmundry at that time.

(c) The Government have no information.

(d) As regards the first part of the question, the Government have no information. As regards the second part no such statements were received by the Government.

(f) The Government did not consider that any action on their part was called for.

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State prisoners*Internment of Mr. Narasimha Sahu and others in the Rajahmundry jail.*

457 Q.—Sriman M. G. PATNAIK Mahasayo: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether Narasimha Sahu, Divakara Patnaik and R. K. Viswas Roy are interned in the Rajahmundry Central jail as State prisoners under the warrant of the Agent to the Governor in Vizagapatam;

(b) when they were arrested, under what charges, and how long they have been detained;

(c) whether all or any of them were proceeded against under the ordinary criminal law; if so, how the proceedings ended, and if not, why they were not so proceeded against;

(d) what are the grounds on which the Agent to the Governor committed each of them;

(e) whether the Government will be pleased to place on the Council table the report received from the Agent to the Governor in the case of each of the State prisoners;

(f) what the monthly allowance sanctioned for each of them is;

(g) whether any provision is made for the maintenance of the other members of their families or dependents;

(h) whether any application was made to Government either by the prisoners or their dependents as to the insufficiency of the allowance made to them or to provide for maintenance to their dependents; and

(i) if so, what action was taken or is proposed to be taken on such application or applications by the Government?

A.—(a) Yes.

(b) (1) The Government have no information as to the dates of arrest but the order of detention is dated 29th May 1930 in the case of Narasimha Sahu and 17th July 1930 in the case of the other two.

(2) Attempting to create disaffection among the hill tribes of the Vizagapatam Agency.

(3) Since the date of their arrest.

(c) No. It was considered more appropriate to proceed against them under the Ganjam and Vizagapatam Act of 1839.

(d) The hon. Member is referred to the answer to clause (b) (2).

(e) No.

(f) Rs. 10 per mensem.

(g) No.

(h) Yes; by the prisoners.

(i) The matter is under consideration.

Floods*Prevention of floods in Tanjore district.*

458 Q.—Mr. A. PL. N. V. NADIMUTHU PILLAI: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state whether after the visit of His Excellency the Governor and the hon. the Member for Revenue recently to the flood-affected areas in the Tanjore district the Government have taken any steps and proposed remedies to prevent the occurrence of floods in future?

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A.—The Government have asked the Chief Engineer to report what measures are practicable to prevent the recurrence of such floods or to mitigate their effect.

Landlord and Tenant*Introduction of the Madras Estates Land Act (Amendment) Bill.*

459 Q.—Sriman M. G. PATNAIK Mahasayo: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state when the Bill to amend the Madras Estates Land Act I of 1908 will be introduced?

A.—The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the answer to clauses (a), (b) & (c) of question No. 307.

Land Revenue*Remission of kist in Tanjore district.*

460 Q.—Mr. A. PL. N. V. NADIMUTHU PILLAI: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether any basis has been adopted by the Government in the matter of grant of remission of kist in the flood-affected villages in the Tanjore district;

(b) whether any instructions in the matter of estimating the damage to the crops and considering the grant of remissions proportionate to the loss have been issued by the Government; and

(c) whether such instructions are being properly carried out by the village officers without overestimating the crops?

A.—(a) The grant of remission of assessment in the area referred to is governed by G.O. No. 2366, Revenue, dated 11th December 1930, and G.O. No. 93, Revenue, dated 16th January 1931, which have been published.

(b) & (c) No special instructions have been issued by the Government.

[Note.—An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.]

II.—GENERAL DISCUSSION OF THE BUDGET FOR 1931-32.

* Mr. YAKUB HASAN:—“ Mr. President, Sir, I have in my hand 11-15
some notes which may not be taken as a manuscript speech, on the a.m.
subject of the Budget. I have to deal with many figures which it is not possible for me to carry in my memory.

“ I have noticed, Sir, that the general discussion which takes place after the presentation of the Budget, and also on the cut motions that follow soon after, is not of a character that can have wholesome influence on the reshaping of the Budget. Hon. Members of the Council take advantage of these two occasions only to ventilate their grievances. Though the Reforms have brought about healthy changes in various directions, so far as the Budget is concerned, I see no difference in the present day Budget discussion and its proto-type of the pre-Reform

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days. Cut and dried figures are now placed before us just as they were used to be placed before the Minto-Morley Council. We may fume and fret as much as we like; the Budget is not at all affected by our outpourings. In the very nature of things, Sir, when there is no prospect of constructive criticism having any weight with the makers of the Budget, the criticism necessarily takes the form of a destructive variety and that balance between the respective views of the Council and the Government is wanting, which is essential for generating and fostering a sense of responsibility on either side.

"The Finance Committee, Sir, functions merely as a sanctioning body. It no doubt scrutinizes all the demands that are placed before it, but each demand is buttressed with compelling arguments on behalf of the head of the department concerned that the Committee more often than not finds it difficult to resist that demand. In my opinion, side by side with the Finance Committee, a permanent Retrenchment Committee should sit throughout the year. It should examine the current expenditure and should bring before the Council from time to time proposals with a view that not only economy may be effected in some directions, but better and more utilitarian ways of spending money may be suggested in others. The creation of a Retrenchment Committee at long intervals and going through the costly, elaborate procedure of calling for departmental reports and taking of evidence and all that orthodox and timehonoured forms of enquiry do not, in my opinion, produce results that are commensurate with the great expenditure of time, labour, energy and money that is involved in the adventure. When the disease of overspending, wrong-spending, over-taxing, raising of money through tainted sources, defective budgeting, false balancing, miscarriage of the policy of balances and surpluses, has become chronic, it is not a magic instantaneous cure that is wanted, but a remedy, Sir, that will have to be constantly and continuously applied on all sores, and vigilant watch has to be kept so that while some sore spots are cured fresh eruptions do not take place in other parts. It should be on the combined proposals of the Spending Committee and the Retrenchment Committee leisurely considered and sanctioned by the Council in the course of the year that the Budget estimates for the ensuing year should be prepared.

"I may in passing mention, Sir, that the need for retrenchment was felt very soon after the Montford Council was constituted, and it was felt at a very early stage. It speaks volumes for the sound sense of the first Council that, when it was hardly two years old, it gauged the situation correctly and realized that the Reforms that gave birth to the new Council have at the same time plunged the country into an extra recurring expenditure to the tune of several lakhs of rupees annually. It also foresaw that if the Responsible Half—by no means the 'better half'—of the Government—wishes to be in a position to give a better account of its nation-building activity, it must husband its resources and the policy of a penny saved is a penny earned was sure to be the most popular of all the Government financial undertakings.

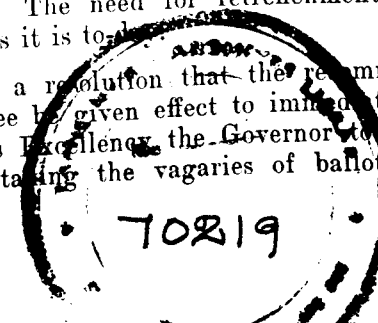
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"In this country, Sir, a tradition has been built up in the course of foreign dominance that the recommendations of committees and Royal Commissions that involve expenditure of vast sums of money are given effect to with precipitate haste and impatient hurry. On the other hand, the reports of the bodies that handle the subject of economy or retrenchment, themselves often dilatory in character, meet with no better fate than either being altogether shelved or treated with scant and grudging attention. In the case, however, of the Report of the Retrenchment Committee constituted in September 1922, which submitted its report in December 1923, it was the advent of a piece of good fortune in the shape of the remission of the provincial contribution that was responsible for the shelving of the report. Like every human being, the Government of Madras was also demoralized by this bit of good luck, and, like a gambler who increases his stake with every gain he makes, the Government have spent away every rupee of this windfall. In the year 1921-22, the mauve line of expenditure excluding contribution maintained the respectable distance of three sections of one crore each between itself and the green line of revenue in the graphic plan attached to the Budget Memorandum of 1931-32. This distance was reduced in 1929-30 to a bare crore and 20 lakhs, and in the revised estimates of 1930-31 that are before us the expenditure has exceeded the revenue by half a crore. Though there was a big margin between the gross revenue and actual expenditure, the revenue minus contribution hardly sufficed for the expenditure. In fact, the two lines intertwined closely in the first four years. But at the end of 1924-25, owing to the graduated remission, the net revenue available began to rise rapidly so that in the year 1927-28 it rose from 1,329 to 1,757 lakhs. It was at this figure when the contribution ceased. Mr. Moir was rightly complimented upon last year for a prosperous budget to which the successive diminution of the contribution leading to the corresponding expansion of the available funds mainly contributed during the first three years of his regime. In the year that would soon close, however, the revenue dropped to a figure three lakhs below the point it stood three years ago.

"The future is in the womb of uncertainty. I am afraid it will be long before the downward tendency that the revenues have taken would be checked. India is in the grip of a trade depression which is world-wide and nowhere in the world the depression is so acute as it is in India. Indian ryots have no reserve to fall back upon in times of distress. During famine, they receive succour from the charitable public, but in the present case there is an extraordinary phenomenon of starvation and distress in the midst of superfluous plenty and unprecedented cheapness of food and cloth. The need for retrenchment therefore has never been so imperative as it is to-day.

"I have given notice of a resolution that the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee be given effect to immediately. Considering the reluctance of His Excellency the Governor to allot days for non-official business and taking the vagaries of ballot box into

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account, the chances are that my resolution may not come up before the Council for a long, long time. The recommendations of that Committee, which I may observe in passing, are very practical and can be easily carried out without the slightest detriment to efficiency or good administration, are calculated to result in the saving of nearly a crore of rupees (Rs. 98.21 is the actual figure). In view of the Royal Commission that was then in the air, the Committee refrained from making further recommendations in respect of Provincial and All-India services. I do not see any reason why this question of salaries should not be reopened now. It is pointed out in the report that there was a rise of 50 lakhs in the cost of the Provincial services due to revision of salaries and additional appointments, and that the rise was greater than the increase in the cost of living and financial position of the Presidency justified. With the fall of prices all round the cost of living is declining rapidly. There is going to be a drastic readjustment of the values of commodities and costs of production which will necessarily bring about changed condition of living. In any case, when every living being is compelled by the exigencies of the rapidly altering conditions to observe economy, there is no reason why the public servants alone should continue to enjoy fat salaries. In Australia, an all-round cut of 10 per cent is contemplated. Why should not India show in anticipation signs of its sensibility of Dominion responsibility by following the Dominion of Australia in this respect?

11-30
a.m.

“In conclusion, Sir, I wish to say that by temperament and owing to the complexion of the politics I have all along been pursuing, I am not addicted to the habit of paying compliments to the officials; but, Sir, the soundness of the observations that the hon. Mr. Stokes has made in his statement show that he has grasped the situation very correctly and the policy he has to some extent pursued in his first budget and which he means to pursue more fully in future is calculated to produce confidence in the Members of the Council who sit on my side of the House. That being the case, I can safely promise him our hearty co-operation in his task of bettering the finances by means of economy rather than through the levy of taxes.”

* Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO:—“Sir, this is an occasion when hon. Members have licence to travel from China to Peru and give free scope to their imagination without any reference to the Budget or the essentials of the speech of the hon. the Finance Member.

“Sir, on a careful analysis of the Budget, hon. Members will find in the speech of the hon. the Finance Member two very satisfactory features. The speech is very frank and it takes the House into confidence in stating what the financial position is to-day and what it would be in future. The hon. the Finance Member has also very carefully considered the recommendations of the Committee appointed to enquire into the economic condition of the ryots of East and West Godavari and Kistna and very wisely suspended the collection of kists in those districts until better conditions prevailed.

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“Sir, there is another satisfactory feature in the speech which, I am sure, the House will appreciate very much and it is this. As soon as he took charge of the office he has endeavoured to put the revenue and expenditure accounts on a proper basis. We have been accustomed to hear speeches of Finance Members wherein under-estimate of revenue and over-estimate of expenditure have been a common feature. I have from time to time criticized and drawn the attention of the Government to this and the very careless manner in which the Madras Budget was being prepared in previous years. I am happy to see that the present Finance Member has now taken up the responsibility of examining and preparing a correct and accurate estimate of revenue and expenditure. He has stated in his speech that the responsibility for preparing a correct estimate of revenue and expenditure rests with the heads of departments. If they can be expected to draw up correct figures, then what is the Finance Department for? The Finance Department in the province has no other function but to be the watch-dog of the finances of the province, namely, revenue and expenditure. If the Finance Department allows such irregularities to prevail or sanctions grants to departments which they cannot possibly spend them in the course of the year, the fault lies with them.

“Another feature of the Finance Member's speech is that he has endeavoured to see that the usual practice of the departments competing with one another in asking for supplementary grants must be put an end to. He has endeavoured to put his foot down on that and as a result supplementary grants must hereafter be a rarity in this House. I welcome this step as it will make the department concerned more careful in preparing its estimate of revenue and expenditure. Further, these supplementary grants introduce great confusion as they are dealt with under token cuts. There is generally a feeling that a department which is the favourite of the Finance Member gets its scheme easily approved and funds provided whereas another department finds it very difficult to get the approval of the Finance Department for a very useful scheme. To obviate all this, the tendency on the part of the departments to ask for supplementary grants should be resisted.

“Now, Sir, passing on, I would draw the attention of the House to pages 9 and 10 of the Budget Memorandum for this year. Plate D shows the growth of revenue from 1920-21 and the same plate shows the growth of expenditure from 1920-21. You will find from this that while revenue has increased by about 57 per cent expenditure has increased by about 63 per cent. There has been no proper check on the growth of expenditure because scrutiny over the various departments has not been satisfactory. The report of the Public Accounts Committee also shows how far each department has been surrendering the grants sanctioned to it. The necessity for surrendering arises because the departments have been getting more than they are able to spend before the close of the year and, as soon as the Finance Department gives notice in October or November, they surrender the balance. The worst sinner in this respect has been the Public Works Department. The Public Works Department thinks that it can consume all

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the revenues of the province, but soon finds that it cannot digest it all and so it surrenders a part to the Finance Department. In this matter, I find that the hon. the Finance Member has been careful to see this year that the Public Works Department does not appropriate more than what it is capable of spending within the year. This is a satisfactory feature of the Budget this year.

"Now, Sir, coming to the revenue side of the Budget for this year, we find that the year 1930 opened with an opening balance of 529 lakhs and closed with a closing balance of only 4½ lakhs. The House is entitled to know on what basis this large sum has been wiped out. We hoped that the hon. the Finance Member with his characteristic frankness would explain it more fully in his speech. We trust that he would do so now at least. We wish to know what has become of this opening balance of 529 lakhs.

"The opening balance in the Budget for 1931 we are now considering is 283, in other words, it is the closing balance of the year. What are the reasons for such reduction? Sir, we have been told that some of it was devoted to pay off the loan taken to make up the deficit of the previous year, 57 lakhs to pay up what had been drawn from the balance of that account, 74 lakhs for the purpose of the Pykara scheme and 67 lakhs for adjustment, etc., detailed in the speech.

"Sir, as regards this Pykara scheme, I must draw the attention of the House to what I said ten years ago regarding the Russellkonda Saw Mill. The House will remember that I condemned it in no unmistakable terms. I said that it would be a failure and that the House would be saddled with a loss of several lakhs of rupees. At Russellkonda private enterprise had tried and failed and that is why I condemned the scheme. As regards the Pykara scheme, in spite of its being patronized and godfathered by even the Governor and the then Member in charge of Irrigation, I said, it was doomed to failure as a business proposition. Now, I should like to know in all seriousness, in spite of the advertisement made in the newspapers, and in spite of its having the support of the Chief Engineer, what the economic effect and the financial implication of this Pykara scheme is. What are the financial implications of this scheme and what are its economic effects? We have not yet been told about these important matters. I would ask the hon. the Finance Member whether he has been able to convince himself whether this scheme is fruitful and would be advantageous to the country. At the time the scheme was inaugurated it was proclaimed that it was an 'epoch-making' scheme. And now, what is its condition? What is the result of the investigation by the Special Officer who has been appointed to see how far the power generated under this scheme would be consumed and whether there is any demand for this power from places other than Coimbatore and Erode? We find from the statement given that the demand for electrical energy is confined only to Coimbatore and Erode. If this is so, we should like to know, in all earnestness, what would be the financial effect of this scheme in the long run. I do not

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dispute the proposition that the Government should take up a national service like this, take the responsibility and the risk. But I would venture to say that in all cases where there has been an attempt made by private individuals and they failed, Government should not lightly step in. If private firms are forthcoming for such enterprises, then well and good. Government could control rates. But where private individuals hesitate to sink their capital considering the risk, why should Government be foolhardy? In the case of the Russellkonda Saw Mill, private enterprise was attempted and failed and Government stepped in and suffered. My hon. Friend, Sir Krishnan Nayar, when he was sitting on these benches, criticised the Chenai Nair Forest Exploitation Scheme. The Government went forward with it. Now it is under liquidation. These are warnings to the House and to the Government to show that these commercial enterprises are to be taken up after careful consideration of their financial implications and economic effects. I am sorry to say that in the matter of the Pykara scheme I have to differ from many of my friends. I utter this warning and hope that it will receive the most careful consideration with regard to its financial effect."

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"The hon. Member has exceeded his time-limit."

* Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO:—"A few minutes more, Sir. Hon. Members will remember that while all the world over and in our country also there is economic depression, we see no hope in the speech of the hon. the Finance Member that he would help to relieve the ryot from the necessity to have to pay the kist in due time. What I now plead for, and I am sure the House will agree with me, is that it is impossible for the ryot and the agriculturist to pay up the kist in regular instalments as laid down in the Board's Standing Orders. What is required is a little more generosity. The Government should extend the time for the payment of the kist by another month or two. This would enable the ryot to sell his produce when the market is more favourable. But now when the market is very unfavourable he would not get a fair price. What is happening now is that when the landlords ask the ryots to pay rent, the ryots say that they are willing to give paddy at the prevailing market rate, they would have to give away the whole of their produce for payment of the rent. This would leave them nothing and their distress would be intense. Therefore it is a matter for the consideration of both the Revenue Member and the Finance Member whether they cannot generously extend the time for the payment of kist by a month or two. This is a matter in which every one in the House will join with me in asking the Government to give this relief to the ryot.

"One more point I have to touch upon. I am sorry to find that there is no fund at all made for the rural development scheme. After all what is it that we are here for? Is it not for reforming our administration by reducing our expenditure at the top and by putting into effect schemes which are very important, urgent and are of immense

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benefit to the people? If that is so, we have to work with the best of foundations, strong and solid, at the bottom. What does this Budget disclose? Is there any substantial provision made for the rural development fund except a few lakhs of rupees put in under the Local Self-Government grant? If hon. Members turn to the speech of the hon. the Finance Member and read paragraphs 12 and 14 together, they will see that the rural development fund has received scanty sympathy from the Finance Department. Even though it was too late for the hon. Minister in charge to have pressed for more funds for rural development scheme at the time of the Budget, I hope that he will make his influence felt on the Reserved Side and get adequate provision made for the rural development scheme, so that the needs of the villages in the matter of water-supply, elementary education and public health may be adequately satisfied. It seems to me that it is the bounden duty of the Government and of this House that the needs of the rural areas should be attended to first. I am sorry that no adequate provision is made in the Budget for this purpose though one will find from paragraphs 13 and 14 of the speech of the hon. the Finance Member that he has discussed several other matters. Everywhere a reduction has been made. Comparing the figures for the year 1931-32 with those of the previous year, you will find that there has been a reduction to the extent of 71 lakhs of rupees. I am sorry to note that there has been a reduction under the heads of education and rural development scheme. Rural development scheme is a statutory obligation and there is a committee appointed under the Local Boards Act and this Committee would see that the funds under the rural development scheme are properly utilized. The meagre provisions that are made in the Budget for this purpose are not at all satisfactory. I am sure that this matter will receive the careful consideration and attention of the hon. Minister."

Mr. G. SIMHACHALAM:—"Let me congratulate the hon. the Finance Member on his attempt to avoid underestimation of revenues and overestimation of expenditure, and I hope that this well-meant effort and example of the hon. the Finance Member will be followed up in future years by other Finance Members also. His suggestion to appoint a Special Officer to scrutinize underestimation and over-expenditure is quite welcome in this House. I now propose to reserve criticisms in regard to several details of the figures which have been presented to us in this blue book, for complete discussion in connexion with the token cuts. In this connexion I wish to tell hon. Members that the presentation of Budget is based on the well-known constitutional maxim, viz., 'No voting for services before redress of grievances.' It is from this point of view that I rise to-day to speak on the floor of this House. Let me point out that our country is passing through a crisis, politically, socially and economically, as already observed by the hon. the Finance Member in his speech the other day. Now, Sir, time has come to translate our words into action. The reasons that have been assigned for this political crisis are diverse and various, and equally diverse and various are the remedies suggested. The one thought that is uppermost

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in the mind of every Indian is that his country should attain Self-Government and enjoy an equal status along with the other Members of the British Commonwealth of Nations. So long as the Government of the day tries to interfere with the inherent rights of Indians and so long as they throw obstacles in the way of the people achieving their desired object political unrest instead of decreasing will only become all the more acute. And it will have its repercussions on the economic progress of this unfortunate country. Let me point out in this connexion that ruthless and merciless repression by the police by making lathi charges on men and women and even imprisoning boys of tender age will not help any Government. These unjustifiable lathi charges have become the order of the day, in spite of the express desire of this House to the contrary, and this will only serve to alienate the sympathies of even good friends of the Government. In this connexion I would suggest that the only way to political peace is to recognize the inherent right of every Indian to Self-Government. To-day I see on the political horizon many a sign of honourable settlement which I hope and trust will remove the political unrest in our country in the near future.

"Now, coming to our Province, there are many acts of commission and omission on the part of the Government. The most important is the Land Revenue Bill. The land revenue policy of the Government has been directed all these years by the Board of Revenue through its own orders. Legislation is absolutely necessary to see that the land revenue policy of the Government is placed on a legal basis. A Land Revenue Bill was sought to be introduced as long ago as a decade, but the Government has not even thought of introducing a legislation.

"Another most important subject is the amendment of the Estates Land Act. Government promised to introduce an amending Bill but so far have not brought any legislation on the floor of this House. The Co-operative (Amendment) Bill must have been introduced last session but still it has not been brought for the consideration of this House.

"In the matter of irrigation policy of the Government I think they have been devoting their attention to other schemes and spending large sums of money on brick and mortar, neglecting some of the important projects. In this connexion let me strike a personal note of warning. The uplands of Guntur district from which I come are with anxious expectation awaiting the maturing of the schemes of the Kistna Reservoir Project. When I was in charge of the Guntur District Board I had to wait on His Excellency Lord Goschen in regard to this scheme, and his reply as usual was that the scheme would be carefully and sympathetically considered, but nothing has been done. Time for vague promises and replies has gone and now is the time for those promises to materialize.

"Now, Sir, agriculturist depends entirely on the regular water sources for his crops. To the extent he is assured of this irrigation, to that extent he is generally made independent of the fickleness and whims of the weather. And further it pays the Government also in the long run to devote more of their moneys to irrigation projects, big and small,

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and while considering the irrigation projects, I particularly request that Government should bear in mind the uplands of the Guntur district and also the neighbouring districts.

“ With regard to the educational policy of the Government there remains much more to be done in making elementary education free and compulsory. The Educational Councils should hereafter cease to be distributing agencies of the various sums entrusted to their care and also continue to supervise the working of the scheme now done by the Agency of Deputy Inspectors of Schools as they are direct subordinates to the Educational department. Education must not only be made free and compulsory but there should also be diffusion of education throughout the Presidency.

“ With regard to the Medical department, the policy inaugurated by the first Ministry, viz., the opening of rural dispensaries, is no doubt an excellent thing, but still much more remains to be done. Large sums of money have to be allotted in the matter of purchasing Indian medicines in the medical stores. Very often qualified practitioners are willing to offer honorary services both in the Indian Schools of Medicine and hospitals and dispensaries. If Government can only find means for cutting short of the hours of work of the practitioners which they devote to their regular work, they (the practitioners) can devote much of their time to research work.

“ The Agricultural and Industrial Departments have not done much to the ryot. I have also sent some cut motions and I shall be glad to speak more clearly on this point at the time of speaking on those cut motions.

“ With regard to Excise policy I have got a word to say. The Government's policy in the matter of excise seems to be not whole-hearted. They seem to be more oppressed with the problem of losing revenue through excise rather than with the desire to eradicate the drink evil and thus release all the money, that is now spent by the people in the injurious drink, for the trade, commerce and industry of this country which, if properly encouraged by the Government, will bring more money into their coffers, while at the same time making the country rich and prosperous.”

* Mr. A. KONDAPPA:—“ I have great pleasure in congratulating the hon. the Finance Member in having presented a Budget without under-estimating the revenue and overestimating the expenditure. No doubt it has got its own merits and demerits, but he has tried his best to present a Budget which exhibits the real state of affairs of the Province. Sir, the real test of a Budget should be as to how usefully the finances of the Province have been spent for the benefit of the people. Judged by this test, I must say that this Budget is hardly a matter for congratulation. Coming from a backward district like Anantapur, I cannot congratulate the hon. the Finance Member or the Government who have been administering the district for the last 130 years and more. From the year 1800, my district has been under the charge of some Collectors who were very great men and subsequently in charge of other Collectors who are not so great as the previous men. This district, along with some other

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districts of the Presidency, has been subjected to famines once every four or five years. The present administration never moved its little finger to remove the famine conditions of the district. In the interior portions of the district one sees desolated houses and villages.

“ We have been presented with a very tempting Budget with an income of 17 crores and an expenditure of 17 crores. Still there is absolutely nothing for the ryots to fall back upon in lean years. Judged by that test, I will be the last person to congratulate either the hon. the Finance Member or the Government of Madras on the condition in which people are at present. We are now in a transition stage and it is but fair that we should forget, as far as possible, past indifference and inequalities. I am sure that, at one time or another, the difficulties under which the people of my district are labouring under, have been brought to the notice of the Government; and hon. Members of this House have been saying that relief measures should be started in the Anantapur district specially and in the Ceded districts in general. 12 noon.

“ In this connexion I may submit for the consideration of this House that an Irrigation Committee for the Ceded districts was appointed a few years ago and they recommended that the Tungabhadra Project should be taken up. The prospect of the Tungabhadra Project appears to be a very rosy one; it appears as if much water will be available for the people in my district. But when one closely looks into that rosy picture, one cannot congratulate the Government for this one reason. So far as Anantapur district is concerned, not even one-fourth of the district will be benefited by this scheme.

“ The Irrigation Committee recommended certain other minor projects. I may inform hon. Members of this House that there is a project called Bhyravanatippu Project which will irrigate 30,000 acres in Kalyandrug and Rayadurg taluks. I am told that it will be a successful project. If that project is taken up, there will be plenty of water available for distribution. There is another project called Dorigal Reservoir scheme. If a reservoir is constructed at Dorigal over the Madduleru river, according to the Committee, it will be an excellent famine protective work. That project, if taken up, will protect the worst tracts of the district which are exposed to famine very much and which will not receive any benefit by the Tungabhadra Project. There is another irrigation scheme called by the Tungabhadra Project. There is another irrigation scheme called Upper Pennar Project which will cost only four lakhs and the annual return from that scheme will be about Rs. 38,000; the return will be about 9½ per cent on the capital outlay. The extra area that will be irrigated will be 5,337 acres. This scheme is considered to be a productive scheme. With these recommendations and suggestions before them, what has the Madras Government done for the people of the Anantapur district? The condition of people in six or seven taluks of this district is very low; there has been negligence on the part of the Government for years and nothing has been done to relieve the distress of the people or to raise the material condition of the people. I think that both the hon. the Finance Member and the Revenue Member had the good fortune of serving in the Ceded districts. I appeal to them not to delay taking

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up some of these projects at an early date. I must at the same time congratulate the hon. Revenue and Finance Members of the Government for taking up a project known as the Tippiyapalam Project in the district of Kurnool.

"The question of forests is a very burning one in my district. The administration of forest laws within the last 40 years has been very oppressive; poor ryots are not allowed to graze their agricultural animals freely in the forests. If the rules are not sympathetically and liberally amended, poor peasants will be put to much hardship; they must be allowed to graze their agricultural cattle at least, without paying any grazing fees. This matter can easily be attended to by this Government which has to be a popular Government at no distant date. Some 30 years ago the grazing fee was only three annas per unit. From time to time, the Government went on increasing this rate and now the rate that has to be paid by a ryot is eight annas per cow and one rupee for a buffalo. In the case of some poor ryots, the grazing fee is as much as the revenue he has to pay. The present rates are very oppressive. It is a matter of surprise to me that the Government do not realize the difficulty of the ryots; they are proceeding on the commercial basis of getting as much as they can from the ryots irrespective of their capacity to bear burden; they are adding on to the revenues of the Province every year, and placing the services in a comfortable position. This seems to be the policy of the Government with regard to forests. There is no village and there is no person who is not affected by the administration of forest laws harshly. Under existing conditions, it is high time that an Advisory Committee is constituted consisting of some Members of this Council and of some experts who will make recommendations which will relieve and lessen the distress among the rural population. Some time back, there was a Forest Advisory Committee. Somehow somebody appears to have forgotten to set up this Committee probably under the idea that there was no necessity for it. I appeal to the hon. the Law Member and the Revenue Member to constitute this Committee at an early date and to relieve the distress of the ryots by reducing the grazing fees in some cases and by exemptions in other cases. By so doing, the loss of revenue would not be much and it can be made up by retrenchments.

"Lastly I have to make a few observations with regard to the Registration department. The statistics of my district justify the opening of Sub-Registry offices in Yellanur and Tanakallu villages. I hope the hon. Minister for Public Works Department will look into the matter and set up new offices at an early date.

"Wherever we go, there is a great demand for rural dispensaries which were inaugurated by the Raja of Panagal. There is greater demand for elementary schools, board and aided; there is still greater demand for Veterinary dispensaries and hospitals. The provision made in the Budget for these purposes is thoroughly inadequate. How is the Government going to meet these growing demands which are absolutely necessary, so far as the people of this province are concerned?

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"I therefore wish to suggest that it is highly essential to set up a Retrenchment Committee to go into the question of our expenditure, and to suggest ways and means, so that we may have sufficient funds for nation-building departments. I am surprised to find that, during the course of the last ten years, there has been an increase of expenditure, to the extent of 28 lakhs on Police and 24 lakhs on General Administration. This appears to be a very unsatisfactory state of affairs. The amount that will be saved must be spent on projects that will be beneficial to the people. If the Committee goes into this question, I am quite confident there will be surplus and we can utilize the amount for nation-building departments. I appeal to the Government as a whole to put their heads together and to reduce the expenditure on services at least to the extent of 10 per cent. If we do that, we will convince the people that we are a businesslike body and we will give every satisfaction to the people on whose behalf we are functioning here."

* Mr. M. S. SRESHTA:—"Mr. President, Sir, I also join in congratulating the hon. the Finance Member for the very lucid budget he has put before the Council. Of course it is not his fault that he cannot suggest ways and means for increasing the revenue of this country; that is not his province. My hon. Friend, Sir Patro, said that we are allowed licence now to speak on every possible subject. I shall not avail myself of that licence; but I should like to say a few words with regard to the Pykara scheme which was referred to by Sir Patro. I think that that scheme is a most desirable one. I cannot understand how anyone can condemn that scheme. The tendency nowadays is for schemes like that, to be taken up by the State. In Ceylon, electric schemes which were in the hands of private concerns were taken over by the Government and I think that a very large profit was the result. I should say that not only this scheme but various other similar electric schemes also should be taken up by the Government. I think it is a great mistake that private concerns are given licences for taking up electric schemes in various districts. These works are very remunerative and they should have been taken over by the local boards or, on their failure to do so, by Government. If Government sees far ahead and if such schemes as these are retained in the hands of the State, much relief would be given to the tax-payer.

"We do not know the causes of world depression and I understand that an International Conference is to be held to ascertain the causes of the depression. But we know this, that side by side with depression, there is considerable unemployment and that there is considerable over-production. It strikes me that one of the remedies would be to establish new industries in this Presidency. The Pykara scheme with its cheap electric power, will enable us to do away with good many imports. Our object should be to diminish our imports, so there will be no necessity for us to send much money outside this country and to suffer by any system of exchange.

"So far as my district is concerned, it has been recently discovered that there is very good clay and that it would be useful not only for making glazed pottery but also porcelain ware. This is an opportunity

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for Government to do something useful; this is the opportunity for Government to start an industrial scheme. I should say that, wherever possible, new industries should be started by Government. There are various other ways by which the tax-payer may be relieved. It is not only by retrenchment but also by wise spending as the Premier said the other day that we can benefit the tax-payer. It is necessary for us to see how we can spend wisely. Ours is an agricultural country; we must try to be an industrial country also; so every possible impetus should be given to industrial concerns."

12-15

P^m.

* Sriman M. G. PATNAIK Mahasayo:—"Sir, I wish to speak something about the system of education prevalent in this Presidency, and I fear that while a large sum of money is being spent on expansion of education, no attention is being paid to the quality of such education. The most important thing to be observed is that we should pay more attention to the quality of education than to its quantitative expansion. The present system is, to my mind, positively injurious to the welfare of the country. More and more people are being taken away year after year from their legitimate pursuits and afterwards left with nothing to do. For instance, supposing 100 boys start education, nearly 75 of them drop off in the middle, and there is no provision made for them. They can neither be absorbed in the services, nor can they go back to their hereditary callings. Therefore, those people more or less become drones or burdens on their families. The other 25 who receive higher education cannot all be absorbed in the services, with the result that they have to go to the learned professions. Anyhow, the present system of education has created a large number of what I may call social parasites, most of whom are drones or burdens on their families and none of them is in a position to add a pie to the wealth of either their family or their country. Therefore, I say, that this system of education is highly injurious and is not of any good. They say this system which has been in vogue for a long long time has been ex-system is based upon the mental discipline theory. I beg to state that ploded in so many other countries; and yet it persists here. The other countries have adopted the doctrine that the education imparted to the students should equip them for the battle in life. That is, what is necessary, and especially when you want to educate the masses, as in our country, this doctrine should be strictly kept in view. Otherwise, how are the people to get themselves equipped for the battle in life? They can really equip themselves for life if the education imparted to them is in keeping with their environments; so that except those who receive higher education, let them of course go up—the others who drop off in the middle may be in a position to earn their living. That is not the case now and that is why, I say that the whole system of education should be thoroughly overhauled. In the Punjab, some attempt is being made to start middle schools where vocational training is given side by side with the ordinary education. Such a system will help both those that go higher up and those who drop off in the middle. I think the curriculum should be so drafted here that instruction could be

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given for both the courses side by side. No doubt, under the Elementary Education Act, power is given to the local bodies to draw up some practical courses for the students; but there are also some restrictions placed on the exercise of such power. For instance, one such restriction is that in classes below the fourth standard, the practical course should not be introduced. I hope, however, that is only a slip on the part of the Government. We have not got to deal with the standards, but we have to deal with the boys; we must take into account the ages of the boys in the classes. Even in the fourth standard, there may be boys, aged 12, 13 and 14 years. Such students as wish to take up the practical course should be allowed to do so. That is the first thing.

"The second thing is: where are the teachers to teach this practical course? It is absolutely necessary to equip the training schools with agricultural instructors and with demonstration farms, so that, when the teachers finish their training, they may go to the village and teach their pupils there such things as are in conformity with their environments. Such training schools should have been started long ago, and even now no attempt is made. Although we are spending so much money on primary education and secondary education, we are not doing any good to the masses, and therefore, in providing money for education, we must set apart some amount for equipping training schools with agricultural instructors, and with demonstration farms. If that is done, we will be helping not only the spread of education among the masses, but we will also be contributing indirectly to better sanitary conditions in villages. Wherever we go in a village, we find insanitary heaps of manures, pits for depositing manures, etc. If people will only realise how to dispose of cow-dung, manures, etc., and how to preserve the manures, then surely the village will assume a very neat and cleanly appearance. That is why I say, if we have these practical courses, sanitary conditions also will improve.

"Another point that I wish to refer to is compulsory education. If people do not realise the importance of education, why should you try to force them to take to it; and even if you force them, how long can you do it? It will be admitted on all hands that unless the boys take an interest in their education, it is no good; even if you compel them, I am sure they will lapse into illiteracy again. That is an admitted fact. The first thing we must do is therefore, to arouse interest in education, and that in its turn can be done only by arousing interest in the agricultural problems of the village. It is said, Sir, that the village teacher should become a leader of the community in his village; yet he will be the leader if he teaches the people all about the village amenities, sanitation, health, etc. There is no use in the boys attending the schools under compulsion; and in cases where people do not like the elementary education of the kind now imparted, there should be no compulsion. In my opinion, under this compulsory system, there can be no educational progress. Unfortunately, however, I find that the administration report by the Director of Public Instruction does not deal with the problem. Of course, it is more a statistical report

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than anything else; but yet I think it ought to have dealt with this question. The only thing that is referred to in the administration report is the decrease in the number of Adi-Dravidas and Adi-Andhras going to school, and such other things. That difficulty of course is felt everywhere and in villages especially, it is very difficult to make these Adi-Andhras and Adi-Dravidas go and sit side by side with others; they are kept at a distance almost with their own consent. That difficulty is always there; but those people should be more assertive than they are at present. I therefore say, that the statement of the Director of Public Instruction, that this difficulty is the real cause for the decrease is not quite accurate. As a matter of fact, the real problem is: what are these people to do after they leave the school. That question should be solved. Instead of that, we find that manual training is made compulsory even in the S.S.L.C. classes. What is manual training? Manual training is not an art which would fetch them money; it is not in any way commercial and there can be no economic gain thereby. Of course, that is my view; others may differ from it—but I sincerely believe that education should be such as to be more remunerative in later years. There should be training schools with demonstration farms; there is such a thing in Dornakal. The Punjab Government have been wise enough to follow the Moga system in the schools of that province. There is absolutely no reason why that system should not be followed here—at least a beginning could now be made, by providing for demonstration farms in schools, with an instructor for teaching agriculture. That will give an impetus to the progress of agriculture. The Government have no doubt appointed a number of demonstrators who go from place to place, stop in one place for ten minutes and in another for fifteen minutes and then think that they have done their duty. Nothing could be done that way. But if you have a training school with a demonstration farm attached to it, something really good to the people can be done. The people trained in the school will return to their villages and teach new methods of agriculture, etc. Some times ago there was what was known as garden work in schools, the teachers received no training in gardening, but the local bodies were asked by the department to spend some money thereon. I do not know why the Government should not carry on an investigation in regard to why agricultural schools such as the one for Kallars are not successful. If they do so, they will find that greater attention is being paid to training in agriculture alone than to training in other subjects."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"Order, order; the hon. Member has exceeded his time-limit. He will kindly resume his seat."

* Diwan Bahadur C. S. RATNASABHAPATI MUDALIYAR:—"Mr. President, at the outset I desire to congratulate the hon. the Finance Member on his lucid presentment of the Budget for the ensuing year. The thanks of the members of this House are due to him for the frank admissions contained in his speech. In all my previous budget speeches, I have been, along with some other Members, pointing out to the Government that they have been under-estimating the revenues and

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over-estimating the expenditure. Though this was not admitted till now, it is refreshing to be told now that over-budgeting has been going on all these years and steps are being taken to find out the causes therefor and put an end to the practice. I hope that the steps proposed to be taken will be such as to eradicate the evil once for all. The hon. the Finance Member has told us that advantage was taken of the existence of the ample balances to reduce our debt by 212.11 lakhs and the effect of reducing debt was to increase our available resources for recurring expenditure by the amount of the annual equated payments released on the sums repaid. I am sorry I have to disagree from this view. I consider that the balance accrued out of the current revenues of the previous years should not go towards the repayment of debts contracted from the carrying out of certain definite and specified objects expected to yield revenues. Besides, I am strongly of opinion that these sums should be kept as reserves for drawing during lean years. While the debt discharged is Rs. 212.11 lakhs, the equated payments per year released must necessarily be low. Thus, it will be seen that the resources which could be made available during lean years have now been reduced. In addition to these Rs. 212.11 lakhs, a huge sum of Rs. 73.77 has been proposed to be taken out of the revenue balance for expenditure on the Pykara Scheme. I consider this to be most objectionable. I appeal to the hon. the Finance Member kindly to see that this sum is made good from the Provincial Loans Fund, at no distant date. Sir, hon. the Finance Member recognizes the need for retrenchment, and I hope he will follow up his conclusions to their logical end by applying the retrenchment axe wherever necessary. As I pointed out in the course of the discussion last year, the salaries of the higher services were increased just before the introduction of the Montford Reforms with the result that, when Diarchy was introduced the Ministers were faced with a depleted exchequer and were not able to do all that was necessary for the development of the nation-building departments. The result of such an increase is now clearly seen and it would be unwise on the part of the present Government to hand over the existing machinery with its bloated establishments and salaries of a bureaucratic regime to their successors—the responsible Ministry of an autonomous province, which, thanks to the labours of the Round Table Conference, the unanimity of opinion displayed by the Princes and the Indian Delegates, the statesmanship and sincerity of Lord Irwin and Mr. Ramsay Macdonald, the sympathy of the Labour Government and the spirit of compromise shown by Mahatma Gandhi of which we hear favourable reports, will become a *fait accompli* in the course of a year. It behoves, therefore, the present Government to explore all avenues for retrenchment and give effect to them before the reins of Government are passed on to their successors. In my opinion, Government should do away with the Revenue Board. The intermediate officers, such as the Deputy Inspector-General of Police and the Deputy Commissioners of Excise also should go. The scale of pay for new entrants to higher provincial services should be reduced

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to the minimum compatible with efficiency, even though a uniform reduction in the salaries of all the Gazetted officers in the provincial cadre could not be effected. I am aware that the Local Government cannot touch the salaries of the All-India services, but I would request the Government to join the public and the legislature in urging a reduction in their salaries and force the hands of the higher authorities to effect such reduction. Lastly, the need for the co-ordination of the activities and functions of some of the allied departments of the Government and the consequent curtailment in the establishment should be investigated into by an Independent Committee, competent to deal with the problem.

"In spite of the fall in litigation as evidenced by the fall in revenue disclosed in the Budget, there is no appreciable diminution in the number of civil courts in the Presidency. There is, therefore, the need for reduction in the number of subordinate civil courts. This reminds me of the fact that the standard of outturn now in force is so low that Sub-Judges and District Munsifs are able to reach it by devoting to the disposal of cases only a portion of the time fixed for Court work. It is my opinion that there is no necessity for a Judge on a pay of Rs. 1,500 to dispose of the cases instituted in the City Civil Court in Madras. A Subordinate Judge should, I daresay, be able to deal with them. I urge that this suggestion be given serious consideration.

"The system of direct recruitment to the posts of District Judges City Civil Court Judges and Small Cause Court Judges, gives room for some charge or other being brought against the Government, and I suggest that it be put an end to and that vacancies arising in such offices be filled up by the promotion of capable and efficient Subordinate Judges.

"The constitution of a Rural Development Fund has been the theme of many a speech on the floor of this House ever since the idea was mooted by the late Raja of Panagal towards the close of his official career as the Chief Minister to the Government of Madras. Though nearly four years have elapsed since then, the constitution of such a fund seems remote. It is, I believe, the unanimous opinion of all the members of the House that such a fund cannot be constituted a day none too soon especially in view of the fact that the new Local Boards Act and the Tolls Bill which is expected to be passed into law in a few weeks would reduce the finances of local bodies to a great extent. I cannot understand why allotments for rural development should still come under Part II schemes. It is high time they come under Part I schemes. Fortunately, for this Presidency, the portfolio of Local Self-Government is in the hands of the hon. Mr. Muniswami Nayudu, who in his speech on the Budget last year, made an impassioned appeal to the then Finance Member and the then Chief Minister to constitute such a fund, but in the speech of the hon. Mr. Stokes, I am sorry the matter has not been referred to. I am sure the matter will not be lost sight of and the fund would be constituted at least in the ensuing year.

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"I must now advert to the Pykara Hydro-Electric Scheme undertaken by the Government at enormous cost after paying a heavy ransom to an English firm called the Power Securities Corporation, London. I am afraid the works connected with this scheme are not carried out as economically as one would expect and I urge that a committee of this House should immediately be constituted to look into this matter. While on this I would like to refer to the policy the Government have been pursuing for some time past in regard to the grant of licence for the generation and distribution of electric energy in the areas controlled by local bodies. Their present policy seems to be opposed to the one enunciated by them at the time they embarked on the hydro-electric schemes in this Presidency. It was contemplated then that municipal and local authorities should be encouraged to avail themselves of the Government sources of supply for providing amenities to the public. Hopes were also held out to them that the Government would come to their help with loan funds for the installation of the necessary plant. This policy has been deviated from in the case of two recent instances, viz., those of Salem and Erode. I emphasize that the following should be the guiding principles in regard to the grant of licence in such cases:—

- "1. That it should be offered in the first instance to the local body concerned.
- "2. That, if that body is unwilling to avail itself of the opportunity, the offer should be made to private firms controlled and managed exclusively by Indians.

"If this policy is adhered to, I think, there will be no grievance in this respect to the public at large. At a time when the whole province is looking forward to provincial autonomy for this Presidency, it should not lie in the mouth of the Government to say that any local body under its control is unfit to take up a scheme of the kind and make it a financial success.

"I will close by making a brief reference to the present political situation in the Presidency. At the outset, I may say that I am not one of those who agree with Mahatma Gandhi in his civil disobedience movement. I am also one of those who recognizes that one of the primary functions of the Government is the maintenance of law and order. With this confession of faith, I may be permitted to state that I am at ~~one~~ with Mahatma Gandhi in thinking that no amount of good-will between Great Britain and India can reconcile the Indian public to the drink evil and the question of foreign goods and that the economic prosperity of the masses is bound up with the eradication of these evils. Whatever may be the defects of the movement launched by that Saint of Sabarmati, it cannot be denied that it has credited in the people a desire to understand and love the poor, a sense of self-discipline, self-reliance and a spiritual outlook and above all simplicity of life; and his teachings have taken a strong hold over the minds of the masses. I would implore the Government not to interfere with the peaceful

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picketing of foreign cloth shops, so long as their owners do not complain against it and so long as it is not attended with violence or breach of the public peace. The action taken by the Police in the city of Madras and the mufassal in regard to the suppression of the movement and picketing is the very negation of the principles of law and constitutes a grave invasion of personal liberty and cannot be justified. I make bold to say that, if the civil disobedience movement has gained in ascendancy in the southern districts, it is because of the action of the Police and the excesses indulged in by them in the name of law and order. As a humble citizen and with deference to the opinion of the hon. the Home Member, I wish to state on the floor of this House that there is more than adequate grounds for the charges levelled against the Police and that the Government have failed in their duty in not taking notice of them and instituting enquiries. I say that the prestige of the Government would be enhanced by their ordering the enquiry into the alleged excesses at least now. Statesmanship requires it. Justice demands it. May I not indulge in the hope that the statesmanship of the Madras Government is not so very bankrupt that they will not take courage in their hands and adopt a bold policy in regard to the matter in question? What they will do, the coming year must show. Let us wait and see."

* Mr. A. B. SHETTY:—"Mr. President, Sir, it is rather unfortunate that the hon. the Finance Member should have been compelled by circumstances to come before this House with a budget which has a sad tale to tell. He has had to drastically cut down the demands of several departments and to allot only 38½ lakhs for Part II schemes, as compared with over a crore of rupees allotted last year for this purpose. He speaks of a fall in the anticipated revenues in the current year. The deficit has swollen from 16 to 56 lakhs and in the coming year also the revenue as well as expenditure show a fall as compared with what was anticipated at the beginning of the current year. The balances which were as much as 539 lakhs at the beginning of 1929-30 will dwindle down to 200 lakhs at the end of the coming year. The Government have been drawing upon the balances not only to meet the deficit every year but they propose to finance capital expenditure also this time from the same source. I would like to draw the attention of the House to the suggestion made by the previous speaker that this amount which is proposed to be drawn from the balances for financing capital expenditure may be treated as a loan and interest paid on it and as soon as possible a loan may be taken in its place.

"The budget shows that the Famine Relief Fund has exceeded the statutory minimum of 40 lakhs by 12½ lakhs. I do not understand why the Government should have thought it necessary to contribute one lakh to this fund when they are not required to do so according to the rules prescribed for the constitution of this Fund. I do not see why they should not utilize the excess amount for the purpose of repaying the advances taken from the Provincial Loans Fund, for granting loans

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to cultivators and for such other legitimate purposes. All that they propose to spend out of this fund is only 37 thousand rupees for some protective irrigation works in Kurnool.

"Then, as regards the Cauvery-Mettur project, I find there has been over-budgeting since 1926-27. It is pleasing to note, however, that the hon. the Finance Member proposes to take up the question of securing more accurate budgeting hereafter, so that the general revenues may not be burdened with unnecessary interest charges on the unspent balances of such loans.

"The hon. the Finance Member seems anxious only to adjust revenue receipts and expenditure. I do not understand whose business it is to augment the resources of this province and to enable the Government to continue a progressive policy of development in the nation-building departments. Mr. Layton, the Financial Assessor to the Indian Statutory Commission, has pointed out how India's expenditure on defence and the maintenance of law and order is almost as high in proportion to her wealth as that of any other western country, while what she is spending on Education, Sanitation, Medical Relief and such other measures falls far below western standards. As he says, it is both possible and desirable to improve the economic and social condition of the people by spending a larger amount on the nation-building departments. The amount that we have to spend on education, medical relief and such other nation-building services must be substantially increased if we want to cover the ground that is left. According to Mr. Layton we must increase the expenditure 50 per cent by 1940 if we want to finance adequately the nation-building departments in the province. But, there is no prospect of the existing revenues in the province expanding to meet the increasing demands of these departments. The heart of the problem, therefore, is to find additional revenues without making taxation an intolerable burden on the people.

"One way to find more money for spending on nation-building departments is by means of retrenchment. Cut down salaries in the upper grades of the services and reduce expenditure wherever it is possible. Another suggestion is the redistribution of the sources of revenue between the Central and Provincial Governments. The Central Government has in its hands expanding sources of revenue like customs and income-tax, while its needs are stationary. On the contrary, the Provincial Government has been entrusted with functions which call for ever-increasing expenditure, while the sources of revenue within its sphere are not capable of great expansion. This question of re-allocating the financial resources of the country may be left to those who have to deal with the framing of the future constitution of this country. But, I suppose, it is the duty of this Government to find out how they can tap fresh sources of revenue by formulating a constructive policy to develop the economic productivity of the province. They can extend cultivation by formulating a general scheme of irrigation for the whole province. The province of the Punjab has been able

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to increase her resources by developing irrigation on a vast scale. By intensive cultivation production can be increased, just as it has been done in places like Japan. A purely agricultural province like ours will always remain poor, and unless we develop our industries, we cannot hope to come into level with the advanced western countries.

12-45 p.m. "In Canada, an essentially agricultural country, they have been able to develop industries to such an extent as to make the production from industries and manufactures exceed the income from agriculture. Have Government considered how much could be done to develop the industries of the province and help agriculture by a general scheme of hydro-electric development? Of course, they have taken up the Pykara scheme; but they should not rest content with that. Major Howard, the Chief Engineer for Hydro-Electric Development, has pointed out what all could be done by undertaking a scheme of general electrification for this province. Even countries like Congo, China and Russia, and coming nearer home, Mysore, are going ahead of us in this matter. We can well have a special ministry for reconstruction work, for preparing schemes of development and carrying them out by floating loans. If we have the vision and the courage to do so, our revenues could be doubled and even trebled in the course of a few years, as they have done in Japan. So what is most wanted at present is that Government should adopt a satisfactory policy to improve the agriculture and develop the industries of this province. I trust the hon. the Finance Member will not rest content with merely preparing the budget in a spirit of caution and trying to adjust expenditure to revenue, but he will also see that the resources of this province are developed so that he may find the necessary money for the expanding needs of the nation-building services.

Mr. P. C. MUTHU CHETTIYAR then addressed the House in Tamil as follows:—

"ஆனரபிள் பைனான்சு மெம்பர் கொண்டு வந்திருக்கிற பட்ஜெட்டுக்கு நன்றி பாராட்டுகிறேன். அதில் டெபிசிட்டாகக் கண்டிருக்கிறது.

"அதற்கு ஒரு வழி தேடவேண்டும். இந்த டயத்திலே ரிவினியூ பின்னால்தான் அதிகமாகலாம் என்கிறார். பின்னால்தான் வரலாம். விலைவாசிகள் எல்லாம் குறைந்துவிட்டது. சாகுபடிகள் இந்த வருஷத்தில் குறைவு. எந்தெந்த பதார்த்தம் கூடலாம், குறையலாம் என்கிற முறையில்தான் எல்லாம் குறைந்துபோயிருக்கிறது. இதை பைனான்சு மெம்பர் அவர்கள் அறிந்தேயிருக்கிறார்கள். அப்படியானால் உலகம் கஷ்டமடையும் என்பது உண்மை.

"இப்போதைய காலநிலைமையில் 1923-ம் ஆண்டுதான் ஸ்டாம்பு டீட்டியை 100-க்கு 50 பர்சென்டு உயர்த்தினார்கள். அது டெம்பரரிவரியா. அதற்கு ஒருவரையாவது காலமில்லையா?

"இது நிற்க, கோர்ட்டப் லாவில் கடித நடவடிக்கை அதிகரித்தும் அவைகளுக்கு கெல்லாம் ஸ்டாம்பு ஒட்டிய மயமாகக் கேட்கிறார்கள். இதனால் இரு கஷிக்காரர்களுக்கும் நஷ்டமாகி கெடுதலடைகிறார்கள். இந்த ஸ்டாம்பு டீட்டியைக் குறைக்க கனவான்கள் ஆலோசனை செய்யவேண்டும். எக்ஸஸ் ரிவினியூ இப்போதைய ஏற்பாட்டில் குறையாது.

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"படிப்பு விஷயம் முக்கியம். என்றால் அதில் டெக்னிகல், அக்ரிகல்சர் அதிலும் முக்கியம். அதின் பிரயோஜனம் இன்னும் சரிவர உண்டாகவில்லை. இதை உத்தேசித்து அந்த இரண்டு அயிட்டத்தையும் சிறிது காலத்திற்கு நிறுத்திவைக்கப்படாதா?

"முனிசிபாலிட்டிகளில் புரொவின்சியல் கிரான்டிஸ் சிலவிற்கு ஹெல்த் தாபிசர் ஸ்தானத்தை எடுத்துவிட்டு முந்தியவழக்கப்படி சானிடரி இன்ஸ்பெக்டர்களுக்கே ஒப்புவித்துவிடுவது திருப்திகரமாயும் ஜனங்களுக்கு நல்லதையும் விளைவிக்குமாதலால் அதின் சிலவை எடுத்துவிடலாம்.

"முக்கியமாக ஒன்று தெரிவித்துக்கொள்ளவேண்டியிருக்கிறது. அதாவது, சில நாளாய் உலகத்திலுள்ள பெரும்பாக ஜனங்களால் வதந்தி செய்கிற சம்பளத் தாரைகளில், சிறியதன்னியில் மற்றவையில் 100-க்கு 5 பர்சென்ட் வீதமாவது இந்த டயத்துக்குக் குறைக்கவேண்டுமென்பதை சிந்திக்கப்படாதா?

"ஒவ்வொரு விஷயத்தையும் பற்றியும் விஸ்தாரமாய்ச் சொல்லவேண்டியிருப்பினும் பிரசிடென்டவர்கள் கொடுத்த டயத்துக்குள் முடிக்கவேண்டியிருக்கிறது."

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"The House will now adjourn and meet again at 3 o'clock."

After Lunch (3 p.m.)

* Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR:—"Mr. President, Sir, I am sorry that the hon. the Finance Member is not here now. At any rate, he is supposed to represent the Government in these debates. Well, Sir, the hon. the Finance Member has already received a number of encomiums from the Members of this Council with reference to the Budget he has presented to the House. But I am not quite sure whether he finds his position agreeable after the exposition given of his statement by Sir A. P. Patro. With how much of what Sir A. P. Patro gave as the views of the hon. the Finance Member the Member himself agrees, it is not for me to say. But what he did seem to have said is that there are only very few matters which the hon. the Finance Member has chosen to allude to in his statement and there are very many more matters which one would have liked he went into, especially at a time like this when the Constitutional Reforms are under consideration and the question of the finances of the country is being considered. But the Finance Member has given a lucid and at the same time an insufficient or inadequate version of the state of things as it used to be presented to the House. For the lucidity, I suppose, we ought to recognize our indebtedness to the hon. the Finance Member and his able Secretary, Mr. Watson. Well, Sir, I have been saying over and over again in this Council that the question of the principles on which the provincial taxation has been based, the way in which it is pressing on the several classes and grades of the people has never been examined either by the Members of the Government or by any person appointed by this Council. It seems to me that it is high time, very high time indeed, that a proper examination was made of the principles on which our provincial taxation is based. I took some little trouble last year, Sir, to show that most of the taxes in the province are paid by the poor people, whereas in other countries—and as a matter of principle it ought to be so—taxation is based on the capacity of the people to pay. Here, in Madras at any rate it is not so. I may say, Sir, now Madras is the most heavily taxed province in the whole of India. Here, we

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are not bestowing attention on the capacity of the people to pay. It is mostly the poor man who has got to foot the bill, whereas the advantages of administration may go indifferently either to the poor man or the rich man. That is what happens. Well, Sir, within the time limit fixed by you it is not possible for me now to go into the whole question, but I will simply say this, that it is absolutely necessary that the Government should hold an enquiry into the incidence of taxation as it obtains in the Madras province. And on that, Sir, will depend to a large extent the possibilities of augmenting our future resources. Not only that, Sir, I have been also complaining that in the past we were taking from the people much more than what is necessary. I have been saying, Sir, that during the several years that I have been here, from the beginning I have been pressing on the Government that they are not doing the right thing by the ryots, by the people of this province, since they are taking from them very much more than what is necessary for the administration of the province.

“ Well, Sir, it has been stated—I am sure the hon. the Finance Member does not say so absolutely—that we ought to meet as much of our capital expenditure as we can out of the revenue. I take it that he means that whatever balances may be left over may be utilized for the purposes of capital and for the avoidance of debt. I hope he does not mean that he will propose as the Financial Adviser of this Government that as much money as he can screw out of the people will go towards capital expenditure, because he knows it as well as anybody else that it is not the proper way of doing things. That is not the proper way in which a Government ought to be carried on. One of the main principles on which the finances of any country ought to be based is that it ought to take from the people only as much as is absolutely necessary. But what have we been doing so far in our province? The hon. the Finance Member very kindly analysed, Sir, the figures of revenue during the last ten years, what it was in 1920 and what it is now. The difference in the available resources alone, leaving apart what the revenue was in 1920, comes to 6 crores of rupees ; out of which 328 lakhs went to the Government of India as contribution during a large part of this decade. Well, why was it so, Sir? It was because those who were responsible for the finances of this province took it into their head to impose very heavy taxation on the people, go on increasing the land revenue, and go on getting the greatest possible amount of money from liquor traffic—they of course also say that it resulted in reducing the consumption. Well, Sir, their policy did not succeed so far as the latter part of the policy is concerned and it is well known to the people. But so far as the earlier portion of the statement is concerned, it seems to have been amply justified, and we went up from 420 lakhs to something like 650 lakhs. Now, luckily it has come down a little. Well, Sir, that is the tune to which the liquor traffic was made to pay in this province.

“ As regards Stamp revenue, even at the present moment with all their difficulties there are several provinces which have not increased their stamp revenue either judicial or non-judicial. But here in Madras,

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the moment the Government felt it necessary, in spite of the fact that we would in future be getting 328 lakhs which we were then paying to the Government of India, we chose to raise the stamp revenue. I was one of those who were in this Council at the time and agreed to raising the stamp revenue; but we all thought that the moment relief in the shape of remission of the provincial contribution came, the stamp duties would be brought down to their old level. But what did we find? In spite of the fact that we have got back that 328 lakhs, in spite of the fact that we are playing with that money, even though Members on the other side are not able to find money for a policy of prohibition, though they cannot find money for financing a comprehensive programme of extension of elementary education or anything like that, this sum of so many lakhs was played with, and they have been going on spending it in all sorts of ways. That is what we find. This increase in the stamp revenue imposed for a temporary difficulty in the province was never set right but it continued to be collected at the higher rate. Well, Sir, that is not the sort of way in which the finances of a province should be administered. What has been done with these 600 lakhs? That again, Sir, is a very sad story indeed. We have been saying for so many years that the policy of prohibition should be adopted ; and the only chance of carrying out this policy with any chance of success, we were saying, was to give effect to a comprehensive scheme as soon as we got relief with reference to this sum of 328 lakhs, and the moment we allow of its being absorbed into the general expenditure we would have no chance of pursuing any radical policy in this respect. But nothing of that sort came about, though as a matter of fact we know that they chose to allot a sum of about 4 or 5 lakhs for what they call propaganda, as though that was going to bring about prohibition. People knew very well whether any sort of propaganda was necessary, to educate public opinion in India in this matter. I think, Sir, that every religion prevalent in India recognizes drinking as an evil. I do not think that even drunkards would come forward and say that drinking is good for them. Even they as every one in the House knows will admit their mistake, but they will only say they are helpless. That is the state of things here. To say, Sir, that in a country like this, that propaganda is necessary, and for the purpose of that propaganda we are to spend 4 lakhs and that we have to wait for the result of that propaganda before introducing prohibition is, I beg to submit, only to play a sort of childish game and nothing more. That is about the most that has been done during the last two or three years. My hon. Friend, the Finance Member, was himself in charge of Excise some years back as Commissioner and he knows the trouble we were taking at the time to agree upon some policy which might lead to prohibition. For some reason or other it seems to have been given the go-by and we stand to-day where we started, and there is no improvement whatever. So, I beg to submit not only that the principle on which taxation in this province is based is wrong and the poor man is made to pay for the cost of administration, and it is not at all based on the capacity to pay it, but also that very much more than is needed

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for the administration is taken from the people. It is absolutely necessary when we are starting on a new form of Government, when we are thinking of new reforms that we ought to take stock of the whole basis of finance, and we will have to see what the incidence of taxation is, and whether we ought not to make radical changes in these matters. That is a thing which the Government will have to seriously consider now. It is not enough merely to make up the figures, to show how they stood on a particular day and how they stood on another day.

"My hon. Friend, Mr. Yakub Hasan, was talking about the Retrenchment Committee and its proposals. I may state, Sir, that I was one of the members of that committee, and it was not set up for the purpose of looking into all the expenditure of the Government and seeing whether it was correct or not. The only idea of appointing that committee was, taking the policy as it stood, to see whether it was possible to make any reductions in the expenditure. But it was not open to the Retrenchment Committee to go very much further than that; we could not consider the policy, but we could only suggest reduction in expenditure as it stood. But I think it is absolutely necessary that, if the Government is going to husband the resources of the country and look into the financial state of affairs, they should consider the policy that ought to be pursued and the expenditure that is absolutely necessary. I do not want to take up any more of the time of the Council but only say there is another principle of finance which is broken by the Government, namely, with reference to the time of payment.

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"My Friend Sir Patro was saying that people are not in a position to pay kists in the early months on account of the fact that the crops do not come to hand and that the ryots are forced to sell their produce for whatever they could get. I think it is easy to postpone the collections by a month or two. If the financial year is adjusted along with the fasli year, it would be easy to postpone the collections. Otherwise what happens is that the ryot goes to the money-lender for kist and spends the money he gets from crops in other ways. Debts go on accumulating and the land is sold. So the present arrangement of collecting kists should be changed.

"I have to refer to one other point adverted to by my Friend Sir Patro, viz., the Pykara Scheme. I was surprised that Sir Patro, especially after his stay in western countries, should come forward and tell us that when there is a private agency prepared to take it, it is not proper for public bodies to take it up. (Sir Patro: 'And make it a loss.') Even though I have not gone to the western countries I have taken the trouble to keep myself in touch with what is going on there. They are particular, especially with regard to the public utility services, that they should not be in the hands of private people. (Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. Patro: 'Russelkonda Saw Mill.') That is not a public utility service. There are two reasons why it should not be in the hands of private agencies. Firstly there is no reason to think that they will administer in the public interests. They are justified in doing it for private profit. A thing like that should not be allowed. In fact the Pykara

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Scheme is going to affect several districts in the presidency. (Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. Patro: 'Oh.') The power can come as far as Madras. My Friend is not up to date. (Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti: 'He was never.') He does not know how far the power was going to be taken even when he was in the Cabinet. The idea is the power is to come to Madras. (Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. Patro: 'The idea.') So in a matter like that which is a public utility service it is not proper that any private person either private individual or company should be allowed to administer it. This is the idea that underlies all the undertakings in the western countries. My friend referred to the loss. If he had only taken care to look into the thing he would not have spoken of loss. There is absolutely no chance of a loss. In big affairs like that, as in the case of Railways, Post and things like that and also in the case of power I do not think any private person should be allowed to come in. That will be very unfair to the people. Especially in the future it will be a very dangerous thing to give such power to a private company."

Swami A. S. SAHAJANANDAM then addressed the House as follows in Tamil:—

"நமது சென்னை மாகாணத்தில் அரசாங்கத்தாருக்கு வருஷத்தில் சுமார் 18 கோடி ரூபாய்கள் வருகின்றன. அதில் தாழ்த்தப்பட்ட வகுப்பாருக்கு இவ்வாண்டில் 9,97,700, ஒன்பது லட்சத்து தொண்ணூற்றேழாயிரத்து எழுநூறு ரூபாய்கள் ஒதுக்கியுள்ளார்கள். 18 கோடிக்கும் 9 லட்சத்திற்கும் எவ்வளவு வித்தியாசம் உள்ளதென்பதைச் சிந்தித்துப் பாருங்கள். சென்ற ஆண்டில் 11,83,000 செலவழித்தார்கள். இவ்வாண்டில் 9,97,700 வைத்திருப்பதால் சென்ற ஆண்டைவிட இவ்வாண்டில் தாழ்த்தப்பட்ட வகுப்பினரது மிகச்சொற்ப தொகையிலும் இரண்டு லட்சம் குறைத்துவிட்டதால் அது ஆதிதிராவிடர் மக்களுக்குப் பெரிதும் ஏமாற்றத்தை யுண்டாக்கியுள்ளது.

எல்லா நல்லும் வலியவர்க்கே.

"அரசாங்கத்தார் எல்லா வகையாலும் பணக்காரர்களுக்கும், படித்த வகுப்பினர்க்குமே உதவி புரிந்து வருகிறார்கள். அரசாங்கத்தார் செய்யாவிடின், அவர்கள் தாங்களே தேடிக்கொள்ளும் சக்திவாய்ந்தவர்களாயுள்ளார்கள். ஏழைகளின் நிலைமையை கைத்தூக்க யாரும் கவனிப்பதில்லை. அவர்கள் தாங்களே முன்னுக்கு வரவசதியுமில்லை; பாதுகாப்புமில்லை. அவர்கள் நிலைமை பரிதாபகரமாயிருக்கிறது.

தாழ்த்தப்பட்டவர்களின் செல்வ நிலை.

"தாழ்த்தப்பட்ட வகுப்பினரின் செல்வ நிலையெப்படியிருக்கிறது? அவர்களுக்கு நிசாசி வாரிற்றுக்குபோதுமான கூலி கிடைக்கிறதா? அதுவும் வருஷத்தில் எத்தனை நாட்கள் கிடைக்கின்றன என்பவற்றை அரசாங்கத்தார் தெரிந்துகொண்டார்களா? கிராமங்களில் விவசாயத் தொழில் செய்யும் தாழ்த்தப்பட்டவர்களுக்கு நடவு காலம் அறுப்பு காலம் என்னும் இரண்டு காலங்களும் சேர்ந்து வருஷத்தில் மூன்று மாதங்கள்தான் வேலை செய்து பிழைக்கிறார்கள். மற்றைய காலங்களில் அவர்கள் படும் அவஸ்தைக்கு அளவுண்டா? அவர்களைப் பாதுகாக்க அரசாங்கத்தார் இதுவரை என்ன வழிகண்டுபிடித்தார்கள்? இனி என்ன செய்யப்போகிறார்கள்? இந்த நிலைமையில் மலாய் நாடு முதலியவற்றிற்குப் பிழைக்கப்போனவர்கள் ரப்பர், ஈயம் முதலியவற்றின் விலை குறைவால் வேலையின்றி திரும்புகிறார்கள். இனி ஏழைத் தொழிலாளருக்கு பிழைப்பு எப்படி?

பொறுப்பாட்சியும் ஸ்தல ஸ்தாபனங்களும்.

"இந்திய அரசியல்வாதிகளின் இளர்ச்சியால் அரசாங்கத்தார் தற்போது இந்தியாவிற்குப் பொறுப்பாட்சி நல்க முன்வந்து, இங்கிலாந்தில் வட்டமேஜை

[Swami A. S. Sahajanandam] [27th February 1931]

மகாநாடு நடத்தி, தற்போது அதன் சார்பாக மகாத்மா காந்தியடிகளும், லார்டு இர்வினும் கலந்து பேசி வருகிறார்கள். அதற்கு முன் முதன் மந்திரியா யிருந்த கனம் டாக்டர் சுப்பராயன் லோகல் போர்டு ஆக்கடைத் திருத்தி சிறுபான்மை வகுப்பினருக்குப் போதிய அளவு பிரதிநிதித்துவம் அளிக்கும் பொருட்டு ஸ்தானங்கள் ஒதுக்கிவைக்கும்படி ஏற்பாடு செய்தார். தற்போது அவ்வேற்பாடு தவறான முறையில் பயன்படத் துடங்கியுள்ளது. மாகாண பொறுப்பாட்சியிலும் சமஷ்டி பொறுப்பாட்சியிலும் தாழ்த்தப்பட்ட மக்களுக்கு எவ்வளவு உரிமையளிப்பார்களோவென தாழ்த்தப்பட்ட மக்கள் கவலையடைந்துள்ளார்கள். கையிலிருக்கும் ஸ்தலஸ்தாபனங்களில் சரியான பிரதிநிதித்துவம் அளிக்கவில்லை யெல், மாகாண பொறுப்பாட்சியிலும் சமஷ்டி பொறுப்பாட்சியிலும் பாதுகாப்பு அளிப்பார்களென்று தாழ்த்தப்பட்டவர்கள் நம்புவதென்படி? ஸ்தலஸ்தாபனங் களில் போதிய பாதுகாப்பளிக்க வில்லையெல், இந்தியா பொறுப்பாட்சியும், மாகாண பொறுப்பாட்சியும் வந்த பிறகு பாதுகாப்பளிப்பது மிகவும் பொய்யே யாகும். படிப்பில்லாமையாலும், ஜாதிக் கொடுமைக்கு அடிமையா யிருப்பதாலும், நாட்டிலுள்ள ஸ்தலஸ்தாபன பிரதிநிதிகள் ஆதிதிராவிடர்களுக்கு நியாயமான உரிமை நல்க மறுக்கிறார்கள். உதாரணமாக தென்னாற்காடு ஜில்லாவில் 23 ஸ்டீம் ஜனங் களிருக்கிறார்கள். அதில் ஆதிதிராவிடர் மட்டும் 6 ஸ்டீம் சேர்ச்சம் பேர்களிருக் கிறார்கள். ஜில்லா போர்டில் ஜனத்தொகையின்படி பார்த்தால் இவர்களுக்கு மொத்தத்தில் நாலில் ஒரு பாகத்திற்கு அதிகமாக கொடுக்கவேண்டும். ஆக்டின் படி நாலில் ஒரு பங்கு ஸ்தானங்கள் ஒதுக்க வேண்டியதாயிருக்கிறது. அதில் முஸ்லிம், கிறிஸ்துவர், பெண்கள் ஆங்கில இந்தியர்களுக்கும் ஸ்தானங்கள் கொடுக்கவேண்டும். ஸ்தானங்கள் ஒதுக்கியவற்றில் ஷே வகுப்பினரது ஜனத் தொகையைப் பார்த்து அதற்கேற்ப ஸ்தானங்கள் வழங்காது ஒவ்வொரு வகுப் பினருக்கும் மும்மூன்று ஸ்தானங்களாகப் பிரித்தார்கள். இவர்கள் ஆறு ஸ்டீத் திற்கும் அறுபதினாயிரத்துக்கும் வேறுபாடு தெரியாதவர்களாய் யாதொரு நியாய முமில்லாமல் பிரித்துள்ளார்கள். இவ்வாறு ஆதிதிராவிடர்கள் வாயில் மண்ணைப் போடுவதற்குக் காரணம், சாதித் திமிரும், படிப்பின்மையுமேயாம்.

“இவ்விஷயத்தில் லோக்கல் போர்டு மந்திரி தக்க வழிகாட்டி ஆதிதிராவிடர் களின் ஆதரவைப் பெறவேண்டும்.

நிருவாக ஊழல்கள்.

“மக்களது சொத்துக்கும் உயிருக்கும் ஆபத்துவராமல் காக்கவும், தவறு தல்கள் ஏற்பட்டால் நீதி வழங்கவும் தற்போதுள்ள அரசியல் இருக்கிறதே யொழிய உள்ளபடியாக பொருளாதாரத் துறையில் மக்களை முன்னேற்றம் செய்வதற்கும் நிலைமையில் அரசாங்கம் இல்லை. பொருளாதார நிலைமையை விருத்திசெய்யும் முறையில் அரசாங்கம் இருந்தால் இந்தியாவிற்குப் பொறுப்பாட்சியே வேண்டாம். தற்போதுள்ள அரசாங்கம் பொருளாதார நிலைமையை விருத்தி செய்யாததோடு கஷ்டப்பட்டுச் சம்பாதிக்கும் பணங்களை வரியாக வாங்கி விழலுக்கிறார்களே.

விவசாயம்.

“உதாரணமாக, விவசாயத்திற்காக பண்ணைகளும் காலேஜ்களும் இலாகாக் களும் ஏற்படுத்தி ஏராளமான பணத்தை இறைக்கிறார்கள். அப்படி செலவழிப் பதால் உண்டான பயன் யாது? விவசாய இலாகாவில் பயிற்சி பெற்றவர்கள் எங்கேனும் ஏர் உழைக்கண்டீர்களா? பயிரிடப் பார்த்ததுண்டா? விவசாயம் காசி தத்தோடும் பணச்செலவோடும் ஒழிகிறது.

கைத்தொழில்.

“கைத்தொழில் இலாக்காவில் பயிற்சிப் பெற்றவர்கள் எங்கு சென்று கைத் தொழில் செய்கிறார்கள். அவர்களால் எதேனும் தொழிலிலிருத்தியடைந்து பிழைப்பிற்கு வழி ஏற்பட்டதா? பணம் விழலாகச் செலவிடப்படுகிறது.

கல்வி.

“கல்வி இலாகாவில் ஏராளமான பணம் செலவழிக்கப் படுகிறது. தற்போது நடைபெறும் கல்விப் பயிற்சியால் யாதொரு நலனும் உண்டாவதில்லை. எல் லோரும் பி. ஏ. படித்தால் உத்தியோகம் எங்கேயிருந்து கிடைக்கும். படித்தவர்

[27th February 1931] [Swami A. S. Sahajanandam]

கள் பெரும்பாலும் கைத்தொழில் செய்ய முன்வரமாட்டார்கள்; உத்தியோகமு மில்லை; தொழிலுந்தெரியாது; செய்யவுமுடியாது. இந்த நிலைமையில் கல்வி தவறுதலான வழிக்குக் கொண்டுபோகிறது. ஆதலால் மூலாதாரப்படிப்போடு விவசாயம், கைத்தொழில் முதலியனவும் கற்றுக்கொடுத்து வருதல் வேண்டும். அதற்கு அரசாங்கம் சரியான முயற்சி எடுக்கவில்லை. இதற்கு முன்னிருந்த மந்திரிகளும் கவனிக்கவில்லை. அவர்கள், பதவிவந்ததும் கைக்குவரும் பேப்பர்களை ஒழிப்பதே வேலையாயிருப்பதால் பயனுள்ள காரியங்களைக் கவனிக்க அவகாசமில்லாதவர்களாயிருக்கிறார்கள். ஆகவே நிருவாகமெல்லாம் ஊழலாகவே இருக்கின்றன.

பூரண மதுவிலக்குவேண்டும்.

“கலால் இலாக்காவால் அரசாங்கத்திற்கு ஐந்து கோடி ரூபாய்கள் வருகின்றன. இந்த ஐந்து கோடியைப் பெற வழி நெடுக பதினேழு கோடிகள் செலவழிக்கின்றன. செலவழியும் பதினேழு கோடியும் ஏழை மக்களது இரத்தமாகும். சிறிது வருமானத்திற்காக இவ்வளவு பெரிய நஷ்டத்தை விளைவிக்கக்கூடாது. உடனே பூரண மதுவிலக்கை அனுஷ்டிக்கவேண்டும். அரசாங்க நிருவாகத்திற்காக பணம் வேண்டுமே, என்ன செய்வதெனச் சொல்லுகிறார்கள். அவரவர்கள் குடும்பப் போஷணைக்கு வேண்டிய அளவிற்கு மேல்வருமானம் தரத்தக்க நிலங்களுடைய வர்களுக்கு, அளவிற்கு மேம்பட்ட நிலங்களுக்குச் சிறிது வரியை அதிகப்படுத்தி இந்த பணத்தை எடுக்கலாம்.

“குடும்ப வாழ்க்கையின் நிர்வாகத்திற்கு மேல் வருமானமுள்ளவர்களுக்குத் தான் ஏழைகளாலும் கள்வராலும் இடையூறு வராமற் பாதுகாப்பு செய்யவும், அவர்கள் நிலங்களுக்கு வேண்டிய வசதி செய்து கொடுக்கவும் வேண்டும். பணக்காரர்களுக்கு வசதி செய்ய ஏழைகளைப்பிழிய வேண்டாம், பணக்காரர்களுக்கு வரி விதித்துக் கொள்ளலாம். உடனே பூரண மதுவிலக்கு முறையை அனுஷ்டானத்தில் கொண்டு வரவேண்டும்.

மத சம்பந்தமான போர்டு.

“சென்ற ஐந்து ஆண்டுகளாக மத சம்பந்தமான போர்டு என்ன வேலைகளைச் செய்தது? ஜில்லா முன்சீப்கள் ஒவ்வொரு கால் வருஷங்களுக்கும் வேலைகளின் ஜாபிதா அனுப்புவதுபோல் இவர்கள் எதேனும் அனுப்புகிறார்களா? இந்த போர்டால் சீர்திருத்தம் அடைந்த கோயில்கள் எத்தனை என்று சொல்லக்கூடுமா? ஜில்லாக்களிலுள்ள கமிட்டிகள் நல்ல வேலை செய்ய சட்டத்தில் போதுமான பாதுகாப்பு இல்லை. யானும் ஒரு கமிட்டியில் உறுப்பினராயிருக்கிறேன். கமிட்டியார் டிரஸ்டிகளை கணக்கு கேட்டால் டிரஸ்டிகள் கொடுப்பதில்லை. அவர்கள் எதேனும் நடவடிக்கைகள் எடுத்துக்கொள்ள வழியில்லை. முன்னுள்ள டிரஸ்டியை நீக்கி வேறு டிரஸ்டியை நியமிக்கலாம். அப்படி நியமித்தவுடன் புது டிரஸ்டியிடம் பழைய டிரஸ்டி நிருவாகத்தையும் கணக்கு வழக்குகளையும் கொடுப்பதில்லை. தற்போது சட்டமிகுக்கும் நிலைமையில் கமிட்டியார் ஒன்றும் செய்ய அதிகாரமில்லை. புது டிரஸ்டி கேஸ் எடுத்து கோர்ட் மூலம் பெற வேண்டும். புது டிரஸ்டி கையிலிருந்து பணம் செலவழிக்க வேண்டும். பழைய டிரஸ்டி கோயில் பணத்திலிருந்து செலவழிக்கிறார். அதனால் யாதொரு நியாயமும் உண்டாகவில்லை. சட்டத்தினாலொழிய போர்டாலும் கமிட்டியாலும் யாதொரு பயனும் இல்லை.

போலீஸ் இலாகா.

“போலீஸ் இலாகாவால் ஆதிதிராவிடர்களுக்கு யாதொரு நன்மையுமில்லை. போலீஸ் சப் இன்ஸ்பெக்டர் செலக்ஷனாக்கு யானும், எனது வகுப்பு பிரதிநிதிகளும் கிருஷ்ணன் என்னும் ஆதிதிராவிட சிறுவனுக்குச் சிபார்சு செய்தோம். முதல் வருஷத்தில் 2 மாதங்கள் வயது குறைவு என்று தெரிவித்தார்கள். மறு வருஷத்தில் 6 மாதங்கள் அதிகமாகி விட்டது என்று எழுதிவிட்டார்கள். எங்கள் தலைவர்களில் ஒருவராகிய திரு. மிகு. சிவராஜ் இன்ஸ்பெக்டர் ஜெனரலைக் கேட்டார். அவர் நீங்கள் சொல்லும் நபருக்கே கொடுக்க வேண்டும் நிபந்தனை என்னவென்று சொல்லிவிட்டார். ஆகவே ஆதிதிராவிடர்கள் விஷயத்தில் போலீஸ் இலாகா மிகவும் கவலையின்றி நடக்கிறது. கான்ஸ்டேபில் வேலைகள்

[Swami A. S. Sahajanandam] [27th February 1931]

ஆதிதிராவிடர்க்கே கொடுத்து வந்தால் ஜாதிக் கொடுமைகள் ஒழிந்துவிடும். சிதம்பரம் கோயிலில் ஆதிதிராவிட பக்தர்கள் சுவாமியைத் தொழுவதற்கு போகக்கூடாது. ஆனால் சிதம்பரத்திலேயே பிறந்த ஒரு ஆதிதிராவிடர் காண் ஸ்டேபில் உத்தியோகத்திலிருந்து கொண்டு அந்த கோபுர வாயிலாக நுழைந்து அந்தக் கோபுரவாயிலாக வருவார். அவரை இன்னொருவரோடு தெரிந்திருந்தும் யாரும் தடுப்பதில்லை யாதலால் சர்க்கார் தாழ்த்தப்பட்ட மக்களை ஜாதி கொடு மையினின்றும் சுலபமாக மீட்கக் கருதினால் இனிவரும் போலீஸ் நியமனங் களெல்லாம் ஆதிதிராவிடர்க்கே கொடுக்கவேண்டுமெனக் கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன்.

ஐக்கிய நாணயச் சங்கங்கள்.

“ஆதிதிராவிடர்களுக்குத் தொழிலாளர் இலாகாவால் ஆங்காங்கும் ஐக்கிய நாண யச் சங்கங்கள் வைக்கப்பட்டுள்ளன. அவை ஆதிதிராவிடர்களுக்கு வாங்கிக்கொடு த்திருக்கும் மனைக்கட்டு கடன்களை வாங்க உதவியாயிருக்கின்றனவையொழிய, மற்றபடி வேறு சங்கங்களால் அடையக்கூடிய பயன்களை ஆதிதிராவிடர்கள் அடையமுடியவில்லை. அவற்றால் எங்கேனும் கூட்டுறவாகக் கடன்வாங்கி வியா பாரஞ் செய்துள்ளார்களா? கூட்டுறவாக பொருளாதாரத் தொழில் தொடங்கி யுள்ளார்களா? யாதொரு பயனுமில்லையென்றே சொல்லுவோம். சங்கங்களால் பொருளாதார அபிவிருத்தியடையப்படி திருத்தியமைக்கப்படவேண்டும்.

கலெக்டர்களின் நிருவாகம்.

“கலெக்டர்களின் நிருவாகங்கள் சரியாயில்லை. ஏற்கனவே இருந்த பிரிட் டிஷ் ஆபீஸர்கள் நாட்டில் என்னென்ன குறைகளிருக்கின்றன? அவைகளை நிவர்த்திக்கும் மாகாணங்களென்னவென கவனித்து மக்களுக்குப் போதியவண் ணம் பாதுகாப்பும் உதவியும் புரிந்து வந்தார்கள். கலெக்டர்கள் சரியாயிருந் தால் இந்தியாவிடக்குச் சுயராஜ்யமே வேண்டியதில்லை. தற்போதுள்ள கலெக் டர் கவலையின்றியவர்களாய் குமாஸ்தாக்கள் எழுதிவைப்பதில் கையெழுத்துப் போடுவார்களாயிருந்தால் கொடுமைகளைச் சிக்கமுடியாத மக்கள் சுயராஜ்யம் வேண்டுமெனச் சொல்ல முன் வந்துவிட்டார்கள். உதாரணமாக தென்னாற் காடு ஜில்லா கலெக்டர் ஸ்ரீ பிரிக்ஸ்டாக், சிரஸ்தார் எழுதிவைப்பதில் கையெழுத் துப் போடுவாராயிருக்கிறாரே யொழிய தானே ஆராய்ந்து பார்த்துச் செய்யும் வழக் கமில்லை. என்னைப்போன்ற ஜனப் பிரதிநிதிகள் சொல்லும் வார்த்தைகள் அவர் காதிற் ஏறுவதில்லை முதலில் ஒரு கலெக்டர் ஒரு ஊருக்குப் போனால் அங்குள்ள மனிதர்களில் தக்கவர்கள் யார்? யார் யார் இராஜாவிசுவாசமுடையவர்கள்; யார் யார் இராஜாங்க விரோதமுடையவர்கள்; யார் யார் பொதுஜன சேவை செய்பவர்கள் என்று ஆராய்ந்து பார்க்கவேண்டாமா? எங்கள் கலெக்டருக்கு அவ்விதமான ஆராய்ச்சி எதுவுமில்லை சிரஸ்தார் இஷ்டத்திற்கு எழுதிவைப்பதில் கையெழுத்துப் போடுபவர் பிரிட்ஷ் ஆபீஸர் என்றால் பேரன்பு செலுத்தும் யானே மனங்கிடுத்து சொல்வோனின் நிர்வாகம் எப்படியிருக்குமெனச் சொல்லவேண்டியதில்லை. சுதந்தரமின்றி குமாஸ்தாக்கள் வயப்பட்டு அவர்களை கலெக்டர்களாக்கி வெறும் கையெழுத்து போட்டு நிற்கும் பிரிட்ஷ் ஆபீஸர்க ளிருக்கும் வரைக்கும் அறிவுடைவர்கள் பொறுப்பாட்சி கேளாது மற்றென் செய் வார்கள்.

கலெக்டர்களுக்கு அட்வைசரி கமிட்டி.

“கலெக்டர்கள் ஆங்காங்கும் ஆலோசனைக் கமிட்டிமூலம் யோசனைக் கேட்டு நிருவாகம் செய்தால் குடிசைகளுக்குப் பெரிதும் பயன்படும். மாகாணத்தின் தலை நகரத்தில் சட்டசபையைக் கூட்டி ஜனப் பிரதிநிதிகளின் யோசனைகளைக் கேட்டு அரசாங்கம் நடந்துவருகிறது. குறைகள் இங்கில்லை, குறைகள் ஜில்லாக்களில் கிராமந்தோருமிருக்கின்றன. ஆங்காங்குள்ள கலெக்டர்கள் ஆங்காங்குள்ள தக்கவர்களை அந்தந்த ஜாதிகளின் பிரதிநிதிகளைக் கூட்டுவித்து அவர்களமூலம் ஆங்காங்குள்ள மக்களின் குறைகளைக் கேட்டு நடப்பார்களாயின் நாட்டிற்கு நலமுண்டாம். அப்போது கலெக்டர்களுக்கு சிரஸ்தார்கள், குமாஸ்தாக்கள் தப்பு யோசனைகள் சொல்லி கலெக்டர்களின் நிருவாகத்தைக் கெடுக்கமாட்டார்கள். ஆகையால் கமிட்டிவேண்டும்.

[27th February 1931] [Swami A. S. Sahajanandam]

ரெவினியூ போர்டு.

“ரெவினியூ போர்டை ஒழித்துவிடவேண்டுமென சில ஆண்டுகளுக்கு முன் சில பெரியவர்கள் தீர்மானங்கள் கொண்டுவந்தார்கள். வந்தும் அதிர்ஷ்டவசத் தால் இதுவரை நின்றது. கலெக்டர்களும் டிப்டி கலெக்டர்களும் சரியான படி நிர்வாகம் செய்கிறார்களா? என்று அடிக்கடி ஷே யார்கள் வேலைகளைப் பார்த்து வருகிறார்களா? அப்படியிருந்தால் கலெக்டர்கள் ஆபீஸில் இப்படிப்பட்ட ஊழல்கள் ஏற்படுவானேன். இனியேனும் சரியான முறையில் போர்டு நடத்துமாறென எதிர்பார்க்கிறேன்.

“ஸ்ரீ. நரசா ரெட்டியார் கடப்பை ஜில்லாவில் உள்ள கிராமாந்திரங்களில் குடி தண்ணீருக்கு ஏழைகள் படும் கஷ்டம் சொல்லிமுடியாதென்றும், இவ்விஷ யத்தில் சர்க்கார் பராமுகமாய் இருப்பது கண்டிக்கத்தக்கதென்றும், ஜனங்களுக்கு காடுகளை உபயோகித்துக்கொள்ள உரிமையளிக்கவேண்டுமென்றும், ஷே ஜில்லா வில் கல்வி அபிவிருத்தியை சர்க்கார் கவனிக்கவேண்டுமென்றும் கூறினார்.”

*Mr. T. NARASA REDDI:—“Sir, I have to thank, on behalf of myself and my hon. Colleagues from my district, the hon. the Finance Member of this province for the frank and lucid budget he has presented. But, at the same time, I feel it my duty to express my feelings of dissatisfaction at the insipid and uninteresting portions of the speech that he has made. Sir, the budget has provided merely for the bare running of the routine administration without any provision for the good of the people. In and out of time, all the Members of this House have expressed that the good of the people is the primary thing which the Government ought to have at heart. When we look into the budget, we do not find that there is any scope for improvements or developments which will meet the dire needs of the people. We, Sir, people from the Ceded districts have been fed up with a false hope that a big project like the Tungabhadra project will be given to us, and though this hope was held out long ago, the Government have not taken any steps for the fulfilment of that hope or the execution of the project. Sir, it will be wise if our hopes are set at rest once for all, because the people are fed up with them. It is simply tantalizing for the people to hope that a millennium is going to dawn in their districts. On the other hand, what we practically see here is that there is no iota of hope of getting a project like the Tungabhadra project. Sir, even minor projects have not been thought of, and, so far as my district is concerned, people have subscribed for the execution of some small projects like digging channels from rivers. But all the same, even though they subscribed their mite, the Government have not been coming to the help of the people in the matter of executing small minor irrigation works in the district of Uddapah.

“Be that as it may, leaving aside big projects, what of the bare necessities of life for human beings in this unhappy backward district? The present budget makes a very poor provision for rural water-supply. With a small provision of about 4 lakhs, this district and the neighbouring districts of Anantapur and Kurnool may not even be getting some Rs. 10,000 or 15,000 each. Sir, I would put it to every Member of this hon. House whether this provision can meet at all the needs of one or two villages. Sir, the representatives of these Ceded districts are well aware of the fact that to dig a single well it sometimes

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requires Rs. 5,000. As such the needs of the people cannot be met unless it be in one or two villages, while the dire necessity for more wells is very keenly felt by the people. In many of these villages, it is a pity to see people flocking in summer round wells to draw their supply of drinking water. The Adi-Dravidas are not sometimes even allowed access to these wells. They have to wait till all the caste people have drawn their water and then put in their pots, and thus their needs are more dire than the needs of other people. Sir, in any case, the plight of these poor villagers for want of plentiful supply of drinking water is a very sorry sight to be witnessed by anyone.

"Sir, as regards forests, I need hardly say that the people of these Ceded districts are not cared for by the officers that be. In these districts, especially in the district of Cuddapah, there is no such thing as forest, except perhaps in one taluk, viz., Rajempet. In this district, the District Forest Officer has been maintained at a high cost and after all for whose good? Not for the good of the people but for the good of the officers themselves! To boot, in Rayachoti taluk, there used to be unreserves where people were freely allowed to graze their cattle and where people were freely allowed to take fuel for their domestic purposes, and now people are prevented by the authorities from entering those forests or grazing their cattle there freely. Such a thing must be put an end to, and the business of the authorities must be to concern themselves with the good of the people and to see that their immemorial rights are maintained.

"Then, Sir, with respect to education, in this district of Cuddapah, it has become a thing of the past that the people are an uneducated set. People are now coming forward in greater numbers with a desire for education, and yet the authorities have not taken any step to improve the educational facilities of the district at all. To witness, I shall state one instance. In this taluk of Rajempet, the people wanted a high school and they also subscribed Rs. 3,500 for the purpose. When the President of the District Board approached the authorities for starting a high school, he was told 'you cannot have another school so close by while you have one at Nandalur'. Under these deplorable conditions, I think we people of the backward districts cannot hope to go forward."

* Mr. MAHBOOB ALI BAIG:—"Mr. President, Sir, after a careful examination of the speech made by the hon. the Finance Member, I am extremely glad to be able to say that except for a few remarks made by him, the speech is a very 'sympathetic and an imaginative one'. That we should 'try to adjust the revenue receipts and the expenditure, whether there are balances or no balance' is the most salutary policy. For if the hon. the Finance Member underestimates the receipts, there may be a necessity for extra taxation. He would be avoiding it by not underestimating it but by estimating it correctly.

"I would like to refer in this connexion to the remark made by Sir Patro advising us to set our faces against supplementary grants. I think the inevitable incident of balancing the receipts and the

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expenditure is that the hon. the Finance Member must oftentimes have to come to the Council for supplementary grants. It is better for him to come to the Council for supplementary grants rather than underestimating the receipts and overestimating expenditure. I suppose that is the spirit in which the hon. the Finance Member has proceeded to work out the budget. Sir Patro was not right in saying that the hon. the Finance Member must not come to the Council for supplementary grants. It is better always to adjust our budget as carefully as possible. It is not possible for him to precisely and mathematically say what would be the expenditure. After all, budget is based on an expectation of the revenue and of the expenditure. Sometimes it so happens that, in the course of the year, the Finance Member finds that the receipts are not as much as he expected and that he has to meet expenditure—of course legitimate expenditure—he has to come, of a necessity, to the Council for supplementary grants. If the matter happens to be a beneficial one, the Council could not grudge him the supplementary grant.

"Now, coming to some of the remarks made by the hon. the Finance Member, I wish to make a few comments. First, there is the question of land revenue assessment. I should have wished, and especially people who come from rural parts would have wished, that the hon. the Finance Member gave a guarantee—of course after consulting the hon. the Revenue Member to his left—that in this year at least the assessment from the agricultural lands, would not be enhanced on account of the resettlement schemes, and that on the other hand, people would be given some relief and that some remissions would be made. We expected him to say this. But it is a great disappointment to see that he still expects that the condition may become better and that he will be able to collect more revenue. It is a disappointment, especially, because the taxation is not in kind but in money. If Government wanted to collect the taxes in kind, of course nobody would grudge. Unfortunately the prices have gone low and yet the same tax has been asked by the Government to be paid. That is really an injustice. On the other hand, we have this inconsistency. Though the prices of foodstuffs have gone down the salaried officer is not willing to take less. If he is paid in kind that would be better, more reasonable and just. Therefore, we, people coming from the Northern Circars and persons coming from agricultural parts, are very much disappointed. We hope that Government will at least this year take less money from the agricultural classes.

"The second point I want to touch upon is in regard to Excise. 3-45
Believing not only as a Mussalman, but as a sane man (laughter), as a p.m.
thinking man, I should think that the time has come when we must put a stop to this liquor traffic.

"I do not know how this agitation is demoralizing, as the hon. the Finance Member has described it. It may be so from the point of view of adjusting the budget, but no Government has a right to take advantage of the weakness of certain persons who take to drink and increase its revenue. So, I think the sooner we get rid of this immoral revenue, the better it is for us.

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"The third thing at not finding which I am disappointed is retrenchment. Sir, I am alive to the fact that we cannot effect retrenchment in schemes which are already in progress, because it will mean, comparatively speaking, loss of the money already invested on them. I am not referring to them. I am only referring to retrenchment in salaries. All the world over, there has been retrenchment in salaries. Just as the previous speaker said, there has been reduction in salaries of the Government servants in Australia and New Zealand. That is what is happening in other provinces also. Therefore, the best way of balancing the Budget of a country is to take stock of the receipts and if the receipts fall short of the expectations, to cut short the salaries of the officials. Now prices have gone down considerably and therefore to balance the Budget the best thing to do would be to cut down the salaries and not impose additional taxes. After cutting down the salaries if you still find that you cannot balance the budget, you can think of effecting retrenchment in schemes already in progress also.

"Sir, in this connexion, I am compelled to bring to the attention of the Government the fact that the policy of communal representation which was approved and passed by this Reformed Council early in its life, has, I am sorry to say, not been adopted in all departments, and especially in the Judicial Department, it has not been adopted at all. Sir, those who are against this policy raise the bogey of efficiency. Sir, it is very difficult to test the efficiency of a person. I ask any person how he can test the efficiency of an officer. It may be, in very rare cases, that efficiency can be tested. All tests of efficiency of course must be very unsatisfactory. The only thing that can be done is to insist on a certain standard of qualification. One officer that has been appointed is as good as another except in some rare cases. So, if a man is duly qualified, why should he be not appointed? Sometimes it is said that sufficient number of candidates were not forthcoming and so men belonging to a particular community were not selected. If the candidates that are coming as applicants are qualified men, there is no justification for the Government to say that no qualified men are forthcoming. When a man duly qualified makes an application, how can anybody test his efficiency? It is only when he is given a job that he can be tested. All officers, for that matter, are men of average ability. So, my submission is that, with regard to the bogey of efficiency, the sooner the Government are disillusioned the better for us and for the Government. And by being disillusioned, the Government will be doing justice, bare justice to all communities which are not represented or not properly represented in the services."

* Mr. A. RAMAKRISHNA REDDI:—"Sir, while congratulating the hon. the Finance Member for his very lucid exposition of the Budget, I should say there is very little in it that is satisfactory. There is not the least attempt made, Sir, to ameliorate the condition of the poor ryot. Even during this acute economic crisis, it is surprising that the Government should still be thinking of pursuing re-settlement operations

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presumably with a view to fleece more money from the ryots. Sir, it will be nothing short of callous inhumanity if at a time like this the ryots of the Kurnool district are made to pay enhanced rates of land revenue. Sir, all the money that has been allotted for the purpose of re-settlement, I think, could have been diverted to more fruitful channels, such as the nation-building activities, especially in view of the facts that there is very little chance for the return of the economic conditions to the normal. Sir, it is expected that with the coming of provincial autonomy a more liberal land revenue policy is imminent. The hon. the Finance Member knows the Kurnool district, shall I say, even better than I do and I request him, knowing the poverty of the district, to throw his whole weight on the side of the poor ryots and see that the question of re-settlement of the Kurnool district is dropped.

"Sir, coming to Irrigation, we find that the question has again gone to the background. The Ceded districts more than any other district in the Presidency are in dire need of irrigation projects. Besides the Thungabhadra project, there are many smaller projects in the district, and it is disappointing to see that in the present Budget also, all these projects have been dropped with the exception of the Thippayapalem project in the Kurnool district, for the inclusion of which I should like to thank the hon. the Finance Member on behalf of my district.

"Sir, for the Forest department we find that a very large sum has been allotted. In my opinion, every pie of this is being spent in the teeth of public opposition so long as the Forest department continues to be as it is. If the hon. the Finance Member thinks of retrenchment at all, I should suggest to him that he should first lay his axe on this department. We have a very large number of Forest officers and extra assistant conservators of forests who do very little work and spend all their time in joy-rides on elephants, and tiger-hunting and keep themselves in utter ignorance of the grievance of the ryots on the one hand and the mischief of their subordinates on the other. In spite of all this agitation that is going on against the Forest department, it remains an enigma Sir, as to why the Government have not bestowed a moment's thought on the question, to see why the department is so unpopular and absolutely no attempt has been made to popularize the department so far as the public are concerned. I think it is high time that an attempt is made to devise some methods by which this department is made popular and responsive to public opinion.

"Now coming to the question of water-supply for drinking purposes, it is a crying need in the Ceded districts. Sir, I should like to say that no Government can say that it is civilized if it has not been able to supply even drinking water to its subjects. In the Kurnool district it will be a matter of ordinary knowledge that in almost every village the villagers have to go miles to get drinking water. Year after year the question is being raised and the Government are still indifferent to this problem of making adequate arrangements for rural water-supply.

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"Sir, as far as the local boards are concerned, this budget is very disappointing. There is very little that may be expected this year by way of grants and even of what little that may be expected, an unfortunate district like the Kurnool district would get nothing when the actual distribution comes in the face of competition with the favourites of the ruling deities. Anyway it is to be expected that things would be better this year at least under the present regime when the actual question of distribution of grant comes.

"Again, this year, in addition to the cutting down of the grants, additional burden is imposed on the local boards in the shape of reimbursement of the moneys spent on the conduct of elections. Under this condition, the local boards in my district which are leading a hand to mouth existence will suffer greatly. Unless the Government come to their help it will be absolutely impossible for them to pay for these expenses which they are expected to pay. In this connection may I point out to the hon. the Chief Minister, so that the confused procedure that is being adopted by the Inspector of Local Boards with regard to the division of circles, is likely to prolong the work and thereby throw greater burdens on the local boards. Instead of first determining the taluk board areas and then proceeding with their division into circles the Inspector of Local Boards has called for proposals for the division of taluk boards into circles all at once and the taluk boards have submitted them on the basis of the existing taluk board areas which have to be necessarily altered under the present Amendment Act and therefore the taluk boards will have to be asked to send fresh proposals. I think much time and much money could have been saved with clearer conceptions in regard to these matters. The present Act provides that normally a taluk board area should consist of one taluk, but unfortunately, there are in existence now two or three revenue taluks which comprise a taluk board area and proposals are being sent on the basis of these two or three taluks. So that even in this way, the work will be prolonged and the cost of elections will be increased for no fault of the local boards.

"In connection with temple committees also we find that there is absolutely no money allotted to them. It is well known that these temple committees are in dire need of money and even the small contributions that have been collected for some time have gone dry on account of the non-functioning of the temple committees during the last six or seven years for the reason that the Government have not chosen to constitute these committees. It is better that the Government fill up these offices quickly and give them some money to carry on the work.

"For the above considerations and many more which I have not the time to detail here, I have to say that the Budget is very unsatisfactory and disappointing from the point of view of the ryot."

* Mr. C. R. PARTHASARATHI AYYANGAR:—"Sir, the framers of the Budget have assumed that our sources of land revenue are bound to go

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on increasing. If they had read Indian history, they would have understood what is again and again reiterated there that it is the other way about.

"Now, Sir, the first thing I wish to put forward is that although judicial decisions from time immemorial have been reiterating over and over again that it is the inalienable right of every ryot to occupy land, and cultivate and improve to the best of his ability, without being again and again called upon once in every thirty years to pay more, still the idea has been firmly held by the Government that the ryots can be asked to pay enhanced rates. Anyhow, Sir, now that we are on the eve of a change, this principle has to be reiterated for the simple reason the king or the ruler has only the right to take from the ryot only so much as is necessary to protect the ryot. It is a law the truth of which is not unknown to the Indian ryot. Notwithstanding the decisions by Judges like Sir Subrahmanya Ayyar and by the Privy Council the Government hold the idea that they have a right to go on revising land revenue.

"Therefore that idea is to be got rid of as early as possible. Now 4 p.m. the idea that we do get some revenue somehow is predominant. Government should try to adjust their expenditure according to their income and try to take up something from the people what is really necessary to keep law and order. Anybody who has read ancient Indian history would find that Excise had never been a source of revenue to the State. If anybody has read the writings of Megasthenes about ancient India they would find that there was no drinking evil in India in those days. When that was the state of affairs in ancient India, now the hon. the Finance Member budgets for 502 lakhs of rupees under Excise, 239 lakhs under Stamps and 31 lakhs under Registration. I ask 'are we to live on the evil habits of the people, namely, drink evil'? Can you conceive of any state which lives by encouraging drinking and is this a source of revenue for any State to rely upon? (A voice 'because you are a lawyer you can speak on both sides of the question.') I know that charge will be made against me. But for the lawyer the I.C.S. will be nowhere. Political Reforms would have been impossible but for the lawyer, and we would not have been where we are to-day. (Question.) You will have to remember that a lawyer is a stable element, whereas an I.C.S. is an unstable element.

"Well, Sir, coming to Registration and Stamps, they come in for their due share that we should rely on them as a source of revenue is not a matter for congratulation.

"Now, Sir, if the Legislature wants to achieve the highest ideal, and if there should be a stable Government, the Government must eschew the revenue from drink. It is because of this drink evil, there has been the civil disobedience movement. Therefore, the sooner we get rid of this source of revenue the better will it be for us.

"Sir, we are now on the eve of great changes. I would suggest one or two improvements which can be made even now so that we may have a very safe and strong foundation on which our future Government may

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be built. The first and foremost is village reconstruction. I submit that the village temples may be revived. The Hindu Religious Endowments Board which has been brought into existence for the purpose, among other things, of preserving the ancient Hindu ideals in the matter of temple worship may address itself to this task. The Government helps missionaries and salvation army, maintains an Ecclesiastical department and large sums of moneys are being spent over Christian establishments. Will the Religious Endowments Board open their eyes wide and see these things? If they do so, then they will realize how large sums of money are being spent for other religions, whereas very little is spent for the religion of our motherland. If our religion had been taught to our people in the right spirit, there would have been no civil disobedience movement. The old religious spirit has been destroyed. If that ideal is kept, we can build our India of the future on a stable foundation. The future of India as chalked out to us in our ancient books by our forefathers is a guide for our future. True religious teachers in the past have always laid down that we should admit our people, without any distinction of caste, into the highest of our institutions. The same person can teach what religion is, what education is and how to administer ordinary drugs. If only the present-day forester freely mixes with the people, the latter will themselves realize the benefit of avenue trees and try to plant them in co-operation with the villagers. Cannot our Ministers be a little more enthusiastic and idealistic? Can they not have a broader vision about these things?

"One or two more points about the co-operative movement. The co-operative movement has got its own self-less side. That self-less side is completely ignored. Now the people are using the co-operative movement for their own selfish ends. If the village is made responsible for the co-operative ideal, then the importance of making the village a unit and its reconstruction will be realized. If the co-operative movement is to be made a real success, its activities should be extended, not only to the credit side but also to the producing and marketing side of various products in our country. For instance, if the co-operative movement has really had its effects among our people, there would not have been a Rally Brothers to export all the groundnuts from this country and import them as manufactured articles such as biscuits, oil-cake, etc., from foreign countries. Why not our Minister in charge do something in that direction and help the people to convert their groundnuts into cakes, oil and biscuits in this country itself?"

Pandit GANALA RAMAMURTI then addressed the House in Telugu. As he began his speech, Mr. V. T. ARASU rose to a point of order and said: "On a point of order, Mr. President, Rule 53 of the Legislative Council Instructions lays down that any member making his observations will speak in the English language and if he does not know it, the President shall call on the speaker to make his observations in the language with which he is conversant. You know, Sir, that the hon. Member is well conversant with English, because on the 6th of November last when he congratulated you on your election as President, the hon.

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Member made a beautiful speech in English. May I request you, Sir, to direct the Member to speak in English so that his speech may be of benefit to the Members of this House?"

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"On the 6th November he only read out the speech in English. He is proficient in Telugu and is therefore allowed to speak in Telugu."

Pandit GANALA RAMAMURTI continued his speech in Telugu. The following is the English translation of the same:—

"Mr. President, Sir, in these days of severe criticism against the proposals of the Government Members by the public, the hon. Mr. Stokes, the Finance Member of this province, has tactfully managed to escape from public opposition regarding his Budget speech, for which indeed he deserves congratulations. The Budget which he presented the other day to this House, exhibits a certain amount of sympathy towards popular wishes at the first sight, but after a careful analysis one would come to the conclusion that as the moon in the mirror it does not intend to do any substantial good to the public in view of the deliberations of the Round Table Conference. Though the hon. the Finance Member was able to produce his Budget in a voluminous form and make it appear grand like a lion by quoting figures, it is but a lamb to those who carefully examine its details. The Finance Member expressed his sympathy for the present economic distress, but no remedy was sought therefor in the Budget. Only proper medical aid but not mere lip sympathy could cure the disease.

"Sir, in view of the impending reforms the duty of any and every responsible Government is to seek proper measures and to create an atmosphere so that hereafter people may stand upon their own legs and be able to shoulder the burden of Dominion Status which is said to have been offered to this country. After a careful study of the Budget Memorandum one would not venture to say that this principle was kept in view by the hon. the Finance Member in framing the present Budget. I need not argue this point at length. That no large sums have been allotted to the nation-building department is a clear proof for the same.

"Sir, associating myself with the sentiments expressed by my hon. Friend, Sir A. P. Patro, I strongly disapprove the conduct of the Government in their policy of extravagance in regard to the Pykara Hydro-Electric Scheme. His Excellency the Governor in opening this Council observed that hereafter the primary and secondary education would be patronized by the Government and not the University education. The present Budget is not fulfilling this promise, Sir. As it is a topic that chiefly concerns the higher castes, let me not deal with it any longer. I do not understand why the Government have not got the courage to come forward and patronize the vocational training for the students in all aided schools and colleges. It is an irony of fate that after 150 years of benign British rule in this country, the Indian

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graduate is unable to earn his livelihood independently. As a Vice-Chancellor of the Madras University observed in his Convocational Address, our universities are more or less factories to produce clerks for Government departments. Unless the present curriculum is overhauled, the problem of unemployment will not be solved. Sir, along with the Indian graduates, members of my Viswakarma community, the population of which is nearly 12 lakhs in this presidency only, are also facing this unemployment problem. The present economic distress is manifested in the misfortunes of the members of my community and unless the Development Department come forward to help the metal workers the pitiable condition of my community would not be solved. In spite of the recommendation of the special officer for the improvement of cottage industries, the Government did not extend their helping hand to better the condition of the metal workers and this is evidently known by the answers given to my questions by the hon. the Minister for Public Works. Unless Agricultural and Industrial Banks are started in large numbers, the industrial and agricultural growth of this country will be an Utopian idea only. If the Government really wants the revival of our industrial enterprises, they should immediately come forward to start an industrial fund earmarked for the Viswakarma community. I need not any longer stress on the responsibility of the Government to protect the national arts and crafts. Projects like the Pykara Hydro-Electric Scheme may provide luxury for the rich but cannot help the wants of millions of people in this country. Under the present circumstances it is not just and proper on the part of the Government to spend lakhs of rupees from the poor tax-payers' money over such schemes.

"In conclusion I want to say one word only. The income of the merchant population has awfully decreased. The poor ryot in delta lands, and especially in lanka lands, has become a pauper owing to the fall of prices. Under these circumstances the Government may be pleased to stop collections of the kist for some more days. It is not an exaggeration when I say that they are paying the tax by selling their wives' *talis* (a gold ornament in the neck) and if the present state of affairs continues they cannot pay for the remaining terms in time. With these few observations I close my general remarks on the budget."

4-15
p.m.

* Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI:—"Mr. President, Sir, I do not propose to avail myself of the suggestion of my hon. Friend, Sir Patro, to travel from China to Peru. I shall confine myself to a few remarks. I think that this Budget is the beginning of the end of the many budgets which a non-responsible Member of the Government presents to this Council. For that reason I do not propose to criticize the policy that has so far actuated the Government in making up their revenues. But I may request the hon. the Finance Member to regulate his budget for the next year at least in such a manner as the succeeding Government may not find itself in a hopeless mess. Sir, I must say that the hon. the Finance Member belongs to a type of

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officers who, without importing much controversial matters in their statements, slowly hypnotize their audience. I am provoked to make this remark because of his profuse sympathy and correct appreciation of the economic condition of the presidency at the present time. But when we proceed from that sentence to a later paragraph in the Budget Statement, I am afraid, Sir, that he has not translated his sympathy into any benevolent act. I find myself in complete agreement with my hon. Friend from Bezwada, Mr. Mahboob Ali Baig, when he requested the Government to so regulate the collections of land revenue and mitigate its severity that the distress due to the fall in prices which is facing the country might not be more acutely felt. The revenue under Land Revenue has been, for the last five or six years, somewhat stationary near Rs. 7½ crores. It is very surprising that the hon. the Finance Member should have budgeted for the same amount even this year, knowing as he does the acute poverty and the economic condition of the people and the heavy fall in prices of agricultural produce. If you take 100 to be the index number of the prices ranging in the year 1924-25, I think the hon. the Finance Member will wholeheartedly agree with me that there is at least a fall of 40 per cent on an average, in the prices of agricultural produce. Worked on that basis, the amount that is to-day budgeted for, viz., Rs. 763 lakhs as land revenue, works out to commodities worth nearly 10 crores of rupees. If, instead of putting Rs. 7 crores and 63 lakhs as the land revenue, he had put 10 crores, I need not remind this House to what pitch of anger it would have been roused on account of the stupendous amount which the agriculturists have to pay. That is the exact amount which the agriculturist will have to pay by way of value of articles he has to part with, in order to satisfy the demands of the Government in respect of land revenue. You are trying to demand this large amount from the poor agriculturist at a time when the produce is worth next to nothing. His lands have deteriorated in its capital value; his little holdings, his little possession of silver trinkets have fallen down considerably. My hon. Friend, the Finance Member, attributed this fall in prices, to various reasons carefully avoiding the part which the India Government has played in the fixing of the ratio and contraction of currency which have considerably affected the price of agricultural produce.

"Coming to the Excise revenue, the hon. the Finance Member declared that there has been a fall in the revenue, owing to the civil disobedience movement. If the civil disobedience movement was really responsible for the decrease in revenue under Excise, I think it has established a very good case for its continuance; because nobody deplores the evil of drinking which has taken a deep root in this country, more than hon. Members of this House, and the earliest occasion when this Excise revenue will vanish to nothing, will be most welcome.

"Referring to the condition of irrigation facilities and other assistance to the ryots, it is a well known fact that Trichinopoly and Tanjore which were devastated by floods three or four years ago, had their shares of calamity even last year. Again, the Ceded Districts always

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complain of chronic poverty and it is really a very sorry spectacle that Member after Member representing these districts, should be bewailing here their lot. I have been accustomed to hear these tales for the last seven years. I have been in this Council and it is a pity that neither the hon. the Finance Member nor the Revenue Member did think it necessary to consider their case and to try to remove the causes of their afflictions.

"Sir, my hon. Friend, Sir Patro, made certain remarks with regard to Pykara Scheme. He is a very important member of the Justice party which is in office now. I think I am not wrong in supposing that he escaped being the leader of the party himself. Having regard to his status in that party, his remarks regarding the Pykara Scheme rather terrified me. It is up to the hon. the Chief Minister to draw the attention of my hon. Friend, Sir Patro, to the former's remarks made in connexion with this scheme. Sir, we have been anxiously waiting for a time when the Government would nationalize some of these energies and put them to use not only for luxurious purposes but also for industrial purposes more and more. It was only the other day that we were trying to criticize the hon. the Law Member for having given away the licence for supplying electric energy, to a private firm instead of giving it to the local body. I dare say that the hon. the Law Member would receive the support of the Justice party in his programme of executing these hydro-electric schemes. The hon. the Law Member must, at the same time, see that in this matter no private firm is encouraged as against any local body and State undertaking.

"With regard to the remarks of my hon. Friend, Sir Patro, on supplementary grant, I am inclined to agree to a certain extent. It is no doubt necessary that, when a budget is presented, all possible channels of expenditure should be explored and the House should be made fully acquainted with the full amount that may be necessary for prosecuting a scheme. What is now happening is, this House is sometimes deluded at first by a small figure being put before the Council and by sanction being obtained; the Government then come forward with supplementary grants for amounts far in excess of the original demand. If Sir Patro wants to discourage such a practice, I entirely agree with his point of view. Sometimes such mistakes are committed by the Ministers themselves. Recently the Council sanctioned a sum of one lakh for the costly mistake committed by Sir Patro himself in sending away Assistant Engineers of the Public Works Department against the rules. The Secretary of State said that those officers should be paid compensation. In such cases it is inevitable that the hon. the Finance Member should come forward with supplementary demands.

"With regard to the necessity for retaining the Special Malabar Police, I wish only to mention—having regard to the genesis and history of the constitution of this force, that I am more than convinced that the time has come when this Police force should be disbanded. I fear that this Police force has been put to use which it was not the

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intention of the Government at first. I also fear that both the ordinary Police and the Malabar Special Police have demoralized to such an extent that it is absolutely necessary that the whole history of this force should be studied by the hon. the Home Member and that he should rectify the rot that has set in.

"I only wish to make one more observation, Sir, and that is with regard to the City of Madras. My hon. Friend, the Chief Minister, while asking for a supplementary grant in connexion with the road-cess that was given by the Government of India—of course for allotment to various local bodies—evidently forgot to make any provision for the City Municipality. But on my reminding him, he promised that if any scheme was put forward before him, he would consider the case sympathetically. And I hope, Sir, that when the time comes for presentation of schemes, he would not plead that the funds at his disposal were spent away and that the Corporation must wait for a long time more. Whatever might be the feelings of the mufassal members with regard to the City Municipality, I may tell them that having regard at least to their stay here, they must be a bit grateful for the amenities which the City is affording them and that they should not have any antipathy as between the City and the mufassal municipalities. When I make this special claim on behalf of the City Municipality, I am also making that claim in regard to the other municipalities."

* Rao Sahib V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—"Sir, I congratulate the hon. the Finance Member on the lucid exposition of the Budget Estimates for 1931-32. But at the outset I may say that it does not augur well for the interests of the depressed classes.

"Sir, much water has flown under the political bridge, and wherever we see, there is a changed condition not only in rupees, annas and pies but in the degree of oppression of the depressed classes. Sir, time and again we have brought to the notice of the Government the acute oppression to which the depressed classes have been subjected to during the past eight or nine months; but yet to-day they are in the same position as they were in then. I know of instances where the depressed class people were treated mercilessly and their legs were broken and they were kept in hospitals for months together. The District Magistrate in one of the districts ordered the withdrawal of cases by the Police. This instance I brought to the notice of the Government about eight months back. The condition is such not only in one district. Recent events in Ramnad about which we have tabled a resolution in this Council, would clearly show how horrible the state of affairs is. The hon. the Home Member has the good fortune to handle both the portfolios of the depressed classes and the Police, and he could have done something; but I do not know the reason why the matter still hangs fire.

"Now, Sir, coming to the Budget, I find that in 1930-31, there was a provision of Rs. 13.27 lakhs; but to the great surprise of us all, we find only 9.98 lakhs being budgeted for the year to come. The recent

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floods and the cyclone that swept over the Presidency have clearly left the depressed classes in a helpless condition and have also shown to what sufferings they are likely to be exposed. Their economic condition after the floods is such that many philanthropic institutions have come forward to do something for them. When, however, the question of the betterment of the depressed classes comes up before the Government for serious consideration, we find that adequate provisions are not made for them. I find that the original provision for the betterment of the depressed classes was Rs. 1,54,781 non-recurring and Rs. 42,902 recurring. The Finance Committee adopted, as ultimate amounts, Rs. 27,782 recurring and Rs. 75,000 non-recurring; but finally, only Rs. 11,000 recurring and Rs. 75,000 non-recurring have been accepted by the Government. This kind of cutting down of the provision is not a welcome thing so far as the betterment of the depressed classes is concerned. Why should the Government cut the beggar's doles? And this is made, Sir, at a time when we are so much oppressed not only by the caste Hindus but also by the very elements! Since the Government thought it advisable to provide only such small amount for the betterment of the depressed classes, I think that most of this money will go towards the upkeep of the staff and practically there will be very little left for the actual betterment of the people. I would therefore request the Government to carefully go into this matter again and, if necessary, bring in a supplementary demand for mitigating the sufferings of the depressed classes.

"Now, coming to the question of the education of the depressed classes, some time back not only myself but also other members of my group here pressed on the Government that on no account should the management of the affairs of the depressed classes be changed from the Labour Department. But to the surprise of us all, the memorandum says:

'The decrease in the revised estimate for the current year is due chiefly to delay in the opening of new schools and to short expenditure on the construction and repair of wells, pathways, etc.'

If the schools had been left in the hands of the Labour Department, much advance could have been done; but this delay in the opening of new schools has caused much suffering to the depressed classes. Moreover, we find that only Rs. 1,35,000 are provided for this year against Rs. 8,40,000 provided last year.

"Now, coming to the services, wherever I go, in the various districts, there is a great clamour that our community is not being given sufficient representation in the public services. When the Public Services Commission came into existence, we thought that our proportion would increase. We have even produced a few graduates, but they are still lingering without getting a place and our representatives have also given vent to their feelings on this question. Therefore, it is high time that this matter is looked into.

"One of the pressing needs in the matter of the elevation of the depressed classes is proper hostel accommodation. Taking a small Indian

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State—or even I may say Mysore—they maintain two hostels, one in Mysore and one in Bangalore. The hostel at Bangalore provides for 152 students and spends Rs. 27,000, while the hostel at Mysore provides for 154 students and spends Rs. 23,000, including clothing, books, etc. But here in this Presidency of 26 districts we find only four hostels spending only Rs. 35,000. It is high time that an extension is made by getting a few more hostels, like the Paddison Hostel at Madras, which also must be enlarged to take a large number of students from the mufassal. This matter has been brought to the notice of the Government on several occasions, and I hope something will be done.

"One thing, Sir, which I would like to refer to is the constant change of clerks from headquarter hospitals. It has been brought to the notice of the hon. the Chief Minister that a clerk from Ootacamund has been transferred to Mangalore, from Mangalore to Ellore, again a clerk from Coimbatore has been transferred to Chittoor and a clerk from Ellore to Chittoor. It is not only waste of money that is involved in the transfer of these clerks, but they are put to a lot of suffering and inconvenience, which I am sure the hon. the Chief Minister will kindly look into.

"Recently, there was some scheme for the elevation of the Irulas, a section of the hill tribes in the Coimbatore district. The Forest department took away the lands owned by the community; but after the Labour Commissioner started work, the lands were given back to them; but so far no facilities have been given to them for house-building. I hope this and other things will receive the kind attention of the hon. the Home Member.

"Coming now to the rules regarding grant of loans in co-operative house-building societies, I may say that they have to be carefully looked into. According to the rules, a really poor man does not get any benefit at all. One of the rules which is being strictly observed is that only those who are able to get regular monthly income will be given loans. Recently, the Government have increased the rate of interest from 6½ to 7½ per cent, and consequently, the co-operative societies have also enhanced the rate from 7½ per cent to 9 per cent. This does not afford any help to the really deserving members of my community who wish to seek the help of the societies in the matter of loans. Moreover, Sir, I do not know whether there are any rules demanding security from the father or the grandfather, when a member applies for a loan offering his own property, really a good security.

"One other thing which I should like to bring to the notice of the Government is the unsatisfactory state of communications between Mettupalaiyam and Coonoor. The road is full of dust and the bridges that were washed away by the recent floods have only been temporarily repaired; and the sooner this is looked into the better."

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"Mr. President, Sir, whatever one might say about the statement of the hon. the Finance Member, one must admit that it is couched in very fine language. Within the

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time that one has at his disposal for discussing the Budget for a year, it is impossible to criticise or say anything at all with regard to each item of the budget. What one can say is this: that the Government's policy ought to be not to overburden the people with heavy taxation; while as a matter of fact the temptation on the part of the Government has been first of all to increase its expenditure and make financial commitments to such an extent that it becomes impossible for Government to go on without adding to the burdens of the tax-payer in the province. That seems to have been the policy of the Government all along. I have no doubt that that policy will very soon have a change when we have a change in the Government. Sir, the first charge on the finances of any Government should be public health, sanitation and other nation-building subjects. But in our province, the Government are not giving the due attention that they ought to give to these departments and we find in the estimates presented to us that instead of making bigger provisions for those departments, on account of financial stringency, a good deal of cut is made in each of the items.

4-15 p.m. "Sir, the Government seem to think that their only policy is to maintain a police force, whatever its cost might be. We have seen that any civilized Government rests on the goodwill of the people whom they govern. So, it is not necessary to have such a costly force in any province. Now, Sir, the Civil Disobedience movement has shown once for all that it is not by maintaining a police force and using that force against civil resisters and on the innocent people that the Government can carry on the administration, but by goodwill and by lowering the burden of taxation. The Government can carry on only by the money that they get from the poor labourers and from the agriculturists of the province and by making use of that money in a proper manner and for their amenities. That ought to have been the policy of the Government, but the Government have not done so.

"Take for instance the Public Health Department. I understand there have been several schemes for improving the health of the people of the province. We know there is cholera in some of the districts of the province and the Government cannot take measures to prevent that epidemic, because they have not got enough money. On the other hand, they spend six lakhs more for maintaining the police and so they do not find money to spend on the necessities of life.

"Coming to the question of Education, when I come forward and ask the Minister for Education to open a girls' school in the north of Madras, I am told by the hon. Minister in charge that he does not find money for the purpose. On the other hand, they find money to spend on the police force and on building bungalows after bungalows for their officers throughout the province by spending lakhs and lakhs of rupees. But, when a request is made to the hon. Minister to provide a necessity for a whole community in the north of Madras by establishing a school for Muslim girls, he comes forward and says that he has no money. After all, how much would this school cost; probably a few thousand rupees; and this he is not able to do or the Finance

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Member is not able to find the necessary funds for the purpose. I do not know whether dyarchy which is coming to an end is responsible for this and it is a riddle which has to be solved between the hon. Minister and the hon. the Finance Member.

"Now we are considering the financial position of the coming year. We are hopeful that the times are changing and as the hon. the Finance Member himself has said there is a bright feature on the horizon and that our future Government will be such as will give relief to the poor people. Let me tell the Government that if the Government of India, during the pourparlers for peace, do not accede to the demands of the Congress and the people—the Congress stands for the people,—the situation will become worse and worse and some of us who are now in this Council will not be here, but will be forced by the Government to go out and join the Civil Disobedience movement. I, therefore, hope that the Government here and the Government of India will not create such a situation.

"Then coming to the Justice Party, which was in power some years before, and is now in office to-day, that party laid communal representation and communal justice as one of their fundamental planks in its programme, I do not know if it has justified its policy either in the past years or now with regard to the treatment of the Muslim community. I hope that it will direct its attention to this matter and see that if it has gone wrong, it would rectify that wrong.

"This morning, my hon. Friend, Sir Patro, said that one can travel from China to Peru. When he came to the Pykara scheme, he pointed out that the Government ought not to have done in the way they have done in regard to the scheme. Let me say that the Government have made a colossal mistake in the matter of handing over the whole business of generating electrical energy to a foreign firm, while there are firms in our own country who could have very well taken on this scheme and done it very successfully. I do not know the reason why the Government have continued their old policy even when times are changing by trying to exploit India for the benefit of the people who do not belong to this country and whose interests do not lie here. This shows what the policy of the Government is in regard to the industries of this country. They do not take measures to advance the conditions of industries. The problem of unemployment is becoming more acute every day and the Government have not tried to solve it. If Indian firms come forward and offer, even then the Government do not give them encouragement. I hope Government's policy would change. Even if changes are not made to-day, it is bound to happen when we have provincial autonomy in the near future. Even under provincial autonomy, unless 80 or 90 per cent of the finances of the province are not entrusted to be controlled by the legislature, it will be of no use. If only 20 per cent of the finances are to be controlled by this Council, then it will not be provincial autonomy. I hope that we will have provincial autonomy according to which the finances of the

[Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan] [27th February 1931]

province will be solely controlled by the legislature represented by the people of this province.

"Coming to the question of retrenchment, the Government have made vast commitments, by increasing their establishments and their expenditure to such an extent that it is impossible to reduce them and they have to find money somehow or other by levying taxes here and levying taxes there. The one remedy that I would suggest to Government is that they should resort to cutting down the salaries. I know that the Civilians are there, their salaries and their pensions are there, and we cannot touch them, but there are many other things in regard to which we can make retrenchments. I hope hon. Ministers themselves will give a lead in the matter by cutting their own salaries in order to show to the Government that they mean business and that they want a curtailment of the salaries all round, so that we need not go to the poor tax payer in order to extract from him his last pie."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"The House will now adjourn and reassemble at 11 a.m. to-morrow."

III.—PAPERS PLACED ON THE TABLE OF THE HOUSE.

* Copies of the Report of the Public Accounts Committee on the accounts of the Government of Madras for 1928-29 and of the Appropriation Accounts for 1928-29.

R. V. KRISHNA AYYAR,
Secretary to the Legislative Council.

27th February 1931]

APPENDIX.

[Vide answer to question No. 445 asked by Mr. K. Koti Reddi at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 27th February 1931, page 89 supra.]

Statement showing the area under cultivation of groundnut and the average price of machine shelled groundnut kernels per candy of 530 lb. Madras Coast for the three years ending 1929-30.

Years (1st July to 30th June).	Acres under cultivation.	Average price of shelled groundnut per candy of 530 lb. Madras Coast.		
		July.	January.	April.
	A.C.S.			
1927-28	3,336,536	57 9/16	54½	54½
1928-29	3,679,349	60 1/8	51½	48 13/16
1929-30	3,209,316	52 3/16	46 3/8	45½

THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OF THE GOVERNOR OF MADRAS.

Saturday, the 28th February 1931.

The House met at eleven of the clock, Mr. President (the hon. Mr. B. RAMACHANDRA REDDI) in the Chair.

PRESENT:

Usman Sahib Bahadur, *Kt.*, The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir Mahomed.
Krishnan Nayar, *Kt.*, The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M.
Campbell, *c.s.i.*, *c.i.e.*, *c.b.e.*, *v.d.*, *I.C.S.*,
The hon. Mr. A. Y. G.
Stokes, *c.s.i.*, *c.i.e.*, *I.C.S.*, The hon. Mr. H. G.
Muniswami Nayudu, The hon. Diwan Bahadur B.
Rajan, The hon. Mr. P. T.
Kumaraswami Reddiyar, The hon. Diwan Bahadur S.
Abdul Hameed Khan Sahib Bahadur.
Ahmed Meeran Sahib Bahadur.
Alamelumanga Thayarammal, *Mrs.* K.
Annamalai Chettiyar, Mr. S. A. A.
Arasu, Mr. V. T.
Ari Gowder, Mr. H. B.
Arogyaswami Mudaliyar, Diwan Bahadur B. N.
Basheer Ahmed Sayeed Sahib Bahadur.
Basu Dev, Mr. C.
Biyabani Sahib Bahadur, S. M. K.
Bayappa Reddi, Mr. P.
Bhanoji Rao, Mr. A. V.
Bhley, Mr. Frank.
Browning, Mr. W. M.
Devadasan, Mr. M.
Dharmalingam Pillai, Rao Sahib V.
Dorai Raja, Mr. S. N.
Ellappa Chettiyar, Rao Bahadur S.
Foulkes, Mr. R.
Gopalaswami Mudaliyar, Diwan Bahadur M.
Harisohandrudu Nayudu, Mr. A.
Hilton Brown, *I.C.S.*, Mr.
Indriah, Mr. C.
Jagannadha Raju, Rao Bahadur G.
Jagannatham, Mr. H. M.
Jayaram Nayudu, Rao Sahib C.
Kesava Ramamurti Nayudu, Mr. K.
Kolanda Reddi, Rai Sahib C.
Kondappa, Mr. A.
Koti Reddi, Mr. K.
Krishnamurti, Rao Sahib D.
Kumara Raja of Venkatagiri.
Luker, Mr. A. T.
Madanagopal Nayudu, Mr. R.
Madhusoodhanan Thangal, Mr.
Maharaja of Venkatagiri.
Mahboob Ali Baig Sahib Bahadur.
Mahmud Sahamnad Sahib Bahadur, Khan Bahadur.
Manikkavelu Nayakar, Mr. M. A.
Moidoo Sahib Bahadur, Khan Bahadur T. M.

Moses, Mr. P. C.
Muhammad Meera Ravuttar Bahadur, K. P. V. S.
Muniswami Pillai, Rao Sahib V. I.
Muthiah Chettiyar, Mr. M. A.
Nachappa Gounder, Mr. K. A.
Nanjappa Bahadur, Subadar-Major S. A.
Narasu Reddi, Mr. T.
Narasimhaswami, Mr. D. V.
Narayanan Nambiyar, Mr. V. P.
Narayanaswami Pillai, Mr. T. M.
Natesa Mudaliyar, Rao Bahadur C.
Palat, Mr. R. M.
Parthasarathi Ayyangar, Mr. C. B.
Pate, *I.C.S.*, Mr. H. R.
Patraik Mahasay, Srinan M. G.
Patro, *Kt.*, Rao Bahadur Sir A. P.
Pattaburamayya, Mr. K.
Pocker Sahib Bahadur, B.
Premayya, Mr. G. R.
Raja of Bobbili.
Raja of Kallikote.
Rajagopala Pillai, Mr. P. V.
Ramachandra Padayachi, Mr. P. K.
Ramakrishna Reddi, Mr. A.
Ramamurti, Pandit Ganala.
Ramamurti, *I.C.S.*, Mr. S. V.
Raman Menon, Mr. K. P.
Ramaswami Ayyar, Mr. T. S.
Ramaswami Mudaliyar, Mr. V. M.
Ranganatha Mudaliyar, Mr. A.
Ranganatha Mudaliyar, Mr. M. D. T.
Rangaswami Reddiyar, Mr. M. B.
Ratnasabhapati Mudaliyar, Diwan Bahadur C. S.
Sahajanandam, Swami A. S.
Sami Venkatachalam Chetti, Mr.
Satyanarayana Choudari, Mr. C.
Sesha Reddi, Mr. B. P.
Shetty, Mr. A. B.
Siva Raj, Mr. N.
Sreshta, Mr. M. S.
Srinivasa Ayyangar, Mr. T. C.
Srinivasan, Rao Bahadur R.
Sriramulu, Mr. G.
Subrahmanya Bhatt, Mr. U. C.
Subrahmanyam Chetti, Rao Sahib P.
Sundara Rao Nayudu, Mr. T.
Syed Tujudin Sahib Bahadur, Khan Sahib.
Vasudeva Pillai, Mr. V. G.
Venkateramayya, Rao Sahib Badeti.
Watson, *I.C.S.*, Mr. H. A.
Yakub Hasan Sahib Bahadur.
Zamindar of Minampalli.
Zamindar of Mirzapuram.

[28th February 1931]

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

STARRED QUESTIONS

Motor Vehicles Act

Trial of the accused in motor bus cases.

* 161 Q.—Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the accused in motor bus cases are not charged before a Court of Law and that no opportunity is given to the accused in the motor bus cases to defend themselves before punishments are awarded;

(b) whether it is a fact that there is a standing order of the Commissioner of Police, Madras, to the effect that no case in a motor bus should be reported unless such report is supported by two independent witnesses and also that the signature of either the driver or the conductor is taken at the time of his committing the offence;

(c) in how many cases this has been followed;

(d) whether he will be pleased to lay on the table a list of buses that have been charged by Inspectors of Police while the buses were running, under clause 5 of the 'G' permit, giving reasons for so doing;

(e) whether these Inspectors have knowledge of motor mechanism, its structural strength and its component parts and fittings;

(f) whether it is a fact that trapping of motor buses for speed test is being done in the city only by one set of officers all throughout the year; and

(g) in how many cases these speed reports were challenged in the Court of Law and in how many cases prosecutions were successful?

A.—(a) The accused in all motor cases are brought before the court and thus have full opportunities to defend themselves.

If, by the word 'punishment', suspension of driving endorsements is meant, then the position is as follows:—

A record of the drivers, conductors and owners is maintained and, when it is found that the rules are frequently disregarded, the endorsements and permits are suspended. In cases where the facts are clear, the endorsement is suspended at once in order to obtain the explanation of the defaulter immediately and decide on the disciplinary action to be taken.

(b) Yes, there is a standing order.

(c) In all.

(d) It is the duty of Inspectors to turn all ramshackle buses off the road. Each Inspector is supplied with a book of notices under condition 5 of G permit. The defects of the vehicle are noted and a copy of the notice is served on the owner. No statistics are maintained.

(e) The Inspectors have general knowledge of motor mechanism and parts.

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(f) Speed traps are laid by Sergeant-Majors assisted by sergeants, head constables and constables. The staff working under the Sergeant-Major is frequently changed.

(g) Out of 568 cases in 1930, 500 ended in conviction. The others are pending trial.

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"May I know from the hon. the Home Member whether the police do not punish even the bus owners and suspend their cars for the faults committed by the drivers?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—"The Commissioner of Police can do that I suppose."

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"May I know whether the accused are presented before the Court?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—"For what purpose?"

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"For that same purpose."

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—"It is not necessary."

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"May I know whether this Standing Order which Government say in their answer is still existing, is observed in all cases?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—"Yes, Sir."

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"May I know whether the witnesses are examined by the police officer concerned?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—"I must ask for notice."

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"If the hon. the Home Member is not aware of it, may I know whether he will call for information?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—"Yes, Sir."

Mr. V. T. ARASU:—"May I know whether the Government consider it right to punish the owners of buses for acts of misfeasance or non-feasance on the part of their drivers or conductors?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—"The owners must employ proper drivers."

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"May I know whether the drivers and the conductors are not given licences by the police themselves before they are employed by the owners of the buses?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—"Notice."

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"It is said that it is the duty of the inspectors to turn all ramshackle buses off the road. May I know what is the standard on which this ramshackling of buses is made by the inspectors?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—"Common sense."

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Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—“May I know what that common sense is?” (Laughter.)

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—
“I can't say, what is obvious.”

Newspapers

Proceedings against newspapers and printing presses under the Press Ordinance.

* 462 Q.—Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(i) (a) against how many newspapers and printing presses proceedings were taken under the Press Ordinance in 1930 and 1931;

(b) how many of them paid security and how many of them closed down;

(c) the total amount of money received by the Government by way of deposit of security;

(d) whether any warning was issued to the *Swarajya* before action was taken against it;

(e) what were the articles for which action was taken against that newspaper;

(f) whether the Printer and Publisher of the *Swarajya* was informed as to which of the articles published in it were considered objectionable by the Government;

(g) whether security was demanded from the keeper of the *Swarajya* Press for printing the *Swarajya* newspaper or for other matter;

(h) if the latter, the matter or matters objected to;

(i) whether any instructions were received from the Government of India regarding the demand for security from newspapers and printing presses;

(j) if so, what they are; and

(ii) whether the Government will be pleased to place on the Council table the correspondence that has passed between the Government of India and the Madras Government on the Press Ordinance?

A.—(i) (a) In 1930 against 25 newspapers and 37 printing presses. In 1931 against one newspaper and two printing presses.

(b) Four newspapers and 12 printing presses deposited security; 19 newspapers and 21 printing presses closed down; notices demanding security were cancelled in the cases of the remainder.

(c) Rs. 20,000.

(d) No.

(e) There were several articles.

(f) No.

(g) & (h) The reason for demanding security from the keeper of the *Swarajya* Press was that it printed matter of the nature described in section 4 (1) of the Indian Press Ordinance, II of 1930, in *Swarajya*.

(i) Yes.

(j) & (ii) The instructions received from the Government of India were of a confidential nature which it would not be in the public interest to disclose.

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Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—“It is said that under the Press Ordinance, security was asked from the printer and publisher of the *Swarajya*. May I know whether any warning was given to them?”

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—
“There is no necessity for that.”

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—“May I know whether the Government are not aware that there is a provision even under the Government of India order that warning should be given first before security is demanded?”

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—
“There is no necessity for a warning, and that in the case of the *Swarajya* there were so many objectionable articles that Government thought that no warning was required.”

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—“May I know what those articles are?”

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—
“Notice.”

Diwan Bahadur C. S. RATNASABHAPATI MUDALIYAR:—“With reference to answer to clause (i) (b) may I know whether any warning was given to the several printers and presses referred to in the answer?”

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—“No, Sir, and as I said a few minutes back, I do not think any warning is required.”

Diwan Bahadur C. S. RATNASABHAPATI MUDALIYAR:—“With regard to the several articles that appeared in the *Swarajya*, may I know in what period, i.e., from what date to what date they appeared?”

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—
“Notice.”

Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—“May I know whether those articles published in the *Swarajya* appeared before the date of the passing of the Ordinance or after the date of the passing of the Ordinance?”

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—
“Which Ordinance, the first or the second?”

Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—“The first Ordinance.”

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—
“Notice.”

Mr. C. R. PARTHASARATHI AYYANGAR:—“Does it not seem necessary to the Government that a warning should be given to a press before demanding security from it?”

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—
“There is no necessity for a warning, as I said before.”

Police

Alleged lathi charge on picketers in Madras City.

* 463 Q.—Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) the total number of arrests made in the City for picketing foreign cloth shops since December 1st, 1930;

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- (b) how many of them were placed before a magistrate and sentenced ;
- (c) whether it is a fact that the City Police charged with lathis the picketers in Godown street and Triplicane and injured several of them ;
- (d) whether he will furnish a detailed statement of the injuries received by the picketers as a result of the lathi charges ;
- (e) whether it is a fact that on Saturday, the 17th January, in Godown street, a picketer, who had already fallen on the ground as a result of the lathi blows was beaten with lathis both when he was lying on the ground and while he was being carried by constables ;
- (f) whether it is a fact that volunteers who were standing singly in different shops, were forcibly brought together, then declared ' an unlawful assembly ' and on their refusal to disperse, badly beaten with lathis ;
- (g) whether the Government have approved of the beating of peaceful picketers instead of placing them before a magistrate to be dealt with according to law ;
- (h) whether the Government will place on the table the report of the Commissioner of Police on the lathi charges in Godown street and Triplicane ;
- (i) whether it is a fact that on Tuesday, the 13th instant, and Wednesday, the 14th instant, picketers in Pycroft's Road were caned and beaten with lathis ; and
- (j) whether the Police entered a hotel in Pycroft's Road and indiscriminately beat the inmates including the proprietor and whether the licence of the hotel was cancelled and for what reason ?

A.—(a) One hundred and thirteen arrests were made between 1st December 1930 and 28th January 1931.

- (b) Sixty-one were placed before magistrate of whom 57 were sentenced.
- (c) Lathi charges were made when the unlawful assemblies could not be otherwise dispersed.
- (d) No information is available, and as no one received serious injury the Government do not propose to call for it.
- (e) No.
- (f) No.
- (g) The Government are not aware that any peaceful picketers have been beaten.
- (h) No such report has been received.
- (i) On 13th and 14th January unlawful assemblies in Pycroft's Road were dispersed by the police.
- (j) On 14th January after the General Stores, Pycroft's Road, had been closed a crowd remained outside for about two hours and eventually when the police had gone away attacked the shop, smashing the windows and removing the name board. When the police returned and attempted to disperse this crowd stones were hurled at them from a coffee hotel opposite. The police had therefore to enter the hotel and clear out their attackers. The hotel licence was subsequently cancelled as it was found that the proprietor was harbouring hooligans.

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Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN :—" Are the Government aware of the fact that some of the volunteers were injured and that they were taken to a private hospital and treated there ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" Government are not aware."

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN :—" Then will they make inquiries ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" The suggestion will be considered."

Mr. YAKUB HASAN :—" May I ask the Government whether they are not aware that the picketers were non-violent, but if they still maintain that they were violent, may I know in what manner they were violent ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" When the volunteers gather round a shop the rowdy element gather round them and they begin to show a tendency towards violence."

Mr. YAKUB HASAN :—" Therefore the picketers were peaceful but the people who gathered round the shop showed tendency to be violent ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" We can't say the picketers were always peaceful ; for when the rowdy element shows a tendency towards violence the picketers also join them." (Laughter.)

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN :—" Does the hon. the Home Member say this from his experience or does he merely guess ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" I speak from report."

Mr. YAKUB HASAN :—" May I know whether Government admit that at any time the picketers were peaceful ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" That is not the point."

Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" May I ask for some details as to how they were violent ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" When the picketers go to a shop, a lot of people gather round them, and sometimes the traffic is obstructed, and the rowdy element also joins them and there is always a tendency towards breach of peace."

Mr. C. R. PARTHASARATHI AYYANGAR :—" With reference to clause (c) may I know who determined the question whether an assembly was an unlawful one or not ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" In this particular case there was the Assistant Commissioner of Police."

Mr. C. R. PARTHASARATHI AYYANGAR :—" Was he present in every case of picketing in the City ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" Yes, Sir."

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Mr. YAKUB HASAN :—"Is it not a fact that when the Police, when stones were hurled at them from the hotel, entered the premises of the hotel they were told that the people who threw stones had entered the hotel against the protests of the hotel-keeper?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—"No, Sir."

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN :—"With reference to clause (e) the answer is 'No'. May I know on what basis Government deny this allegation?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—"From the report of the Commissioner of Police on this."

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN :—"And there is no mention in it about this?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—"No mention."

Mr. V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—"When picketers are peaceful and when the people who gather round them are riotous, may I know why the picketers should be molested when they are not responsible for it?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—"They are responsible for the unlawful assembly."

Mr. V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—"May I know what is meant by the term 'responsible'? May I know how they are responsible?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—"When the picketers go to a shop what happens is this: a crowd gathers round them and there is always a tendency on their part towards breach of the peace."

Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—"With regard to the incidents in the Godown Street, may I know whether there has been a single case in which a volunteer was beaten because there was violence?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—"No actual violence is necessary; in fact the Police need not wait till that thing happens. Whenever they apprehend a tendency towards violence they can interfere."

Mr. V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—"In the case of picketers with a mass of people round them, may I know whether Government will still persist in using violence against every member of that assembly even though there may be some among them who are innocent?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—"That is a hypothetical question."

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN :—"May I know whether Government deny that volunteers who were standing singly in different shops were forcibly brought together, then declared an unlawful assembly and on their refusal to disperse, badly beaten with lathis?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—"I deny that."

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Rai Sahib C. KOLANDA REDDI :—"Was there any report that any particular volunteer was violent?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—"That is not necessary."

Diwan Bahadur C. S. RATNASABHAPATI MUDALIYAR :—"May I know whether the crowd that gathered there was to see the peaceful picketing or the brutality of the Police?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—"I refuse to answer that question."

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN :—"May I know once again whether Government call five persons each standing in a different place an unlawful assembly, or five persons standing together in one place for a particular object which is objectionable to the Government, an unlawful assembly?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—"I would request my hon. Friend to refer to the Act for the definition of the term."

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN :—"May I know whether the hon. Member knows the Act?" (Cries of order, order.)

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—"Yes." (Cries of order, order.)

Mr. C. SATYANARAYANA CHOUDARI :—"Am I to understand that peaceful picketing constitutes an unlawful assembly?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—"I don't say that. I say when picketers start their work a crowd gathers round them and shows a tendency towards a breach of the peace."

Number of occasions the Police resorted to firing since April 1930.

* 464 Q.—Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR : Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state the places and the number of occasions in each place, where the Police resorted to firing from April last year together with the reasons for opening such fire?

A.—Between April 1 and December 31, 1930, the police had to resort to firing on 16 occasions in the following places; Madras City, Gudivada, Arcot, Stolingamalur, Vellore, Tindivanam, Ellore, Gudiyattam, Madurai, Komarapalayam, Melapalayam, Bodinavakkamur, Rajapalayam, Aruppukottai, Kalappanaickenpatti and Tiruchuli. The Government are satisfied after due inquiry that on each of these occasions resort to firing was unavoidable.

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—"Sir, may I point out that my question has not been answered? I asked why firing was resorted to, and the answer is 'the police had to resort to firing etc.' May I now ask the Government to state the reasons which made firing unavoidable?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—"If there had been no firing, there would have been utter disorder in the various places mentioned in the answer."

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Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" I want to know what are the facts that led to firing ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" As I have already said, we had to resort to firing in the interests of law and order. "

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN :—" Every child knows that. "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" But there are many children who do not understand it ? "

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" There were sixteen occasions of firing. May I take it that the reasons were the same on every such single occasion ? or were they different in different places ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" Each case had to be decided on its own merits. "

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" Then may I know what were the reasons for the firing in each case ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" In all the sixteen places the trouble arose on account of the civil disobedience movement. "

Mr. C. SATYANARAYANA CHOUDARI :—" Is the hon. the Home Member aware that according to the Montagu-Chelmsford Report whenever firing takes place it must be followed by a committee of inquiry to probe into the circumstances leading to that firing ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" Notice. "

Recruitment of constables from the depressed classes.

* 465 Q.—Rao Sahib V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI : Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) the number of police constables recruited during the years 1929 and 1930 ; and

(b) how many of them were drawn from the depressed classes ?

A.—(a) & (b) The information is given below :—

Year.	Number of constables recruited.	Number belonging to depressed classes.
1929 ...	2,015	113
1930 ...	2,467	151

Rao Sahib V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI :—" May I know whether Government will be pleased to increase the percentage of recruits from the depressed classes in future years ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" I shall draw the attention of the Inspector-General to this fact. "

Mr. M. DEVADASAN :—" With reference to clause (b), may I know how many applications were received from members of the depressed class community for appointment as police constables ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" Notice. "

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Religious disputes

Alleged assaults on the Adi-Dravidas of Singanailur.

* 466 Q.—Rao Sahib V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI : Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have received any complaints from the Adi-Dravidas of Singanailur regarding assaults on them by the caste people of the village in July 1930 ; and

(b) if so, what action have the Government taken on those complaints ?

A.—(a) & (b) No. A complaint was received from the hon. Member. As some of the criminal cases connected with the incidents referred to are sub judice the Government have not taken any action thereon.

Rao Sahib V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI :—" With reference to clause (a) may I know whether Government have received any report from the District Magistrate after this incident ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" No, Sir. "

Rao Sahib V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI :—" Is it not a fact that the District Magistrate has ordered the withdrawal of all the complaints against people who were responsible for this incident ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" Notice, Sir. "

Electricity

Electrification of Salem and Erode municipalities.

* 467 Q.—Mr. C. R. PARTHASARATHI AYYANGAR : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government of Madras have taken or propose to take electric power from the Government of Mysore ;

(b) if so, why and how they propose to utilize the power so taken ;

(c) whether the Government have any scheme for helping the local authorities with loans for generating and distributing electricity ;

(d) whether the Government sanctioned an electric scheme for Salem to be taken up by the municipality and if so when and with what result ;

(e) whether the Government have sanctioned the grant of licence to Messrs. Octavius Steel & Co. for starting an electric scheme to supply electricity to Erode and Salem municipalities, if so, when and under what circumstances ; and

(f) whether the municipalities were consulted before the grant of the above licence and if not, why not ?

A.—(a) & (b) Yes. For the requirements of Mettur Project headworks and for supply to Erode and Salem towns.

(c) Applications from local authorities for loans to finance electric supply schemes, are dealt with according to the circumstances of each case.

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(d) The answer to the first part of the question is in the negative. The second part does not arise

(e) Yes, on 6th January 1931 for the reasons explained in the answer to question No. 161 asked at the meeting of the Council held on the 28th January 1931.

(f) Notice of the application of Messrs Octavius Steel & Co. was published, and the Municipal Councils informed Government of their views upon the matter.

Mr. C. R. PARTHASARATHI AYYANGAR :—" May I know whether municipalities are offered in the first instance a chance to take the licence ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" Yes, Sir."

Mr. C. R. PARTHASARATHI AYYANGAR :—" If so, in the case of Salem and Coimbatore, had they any chance in the matter ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" At first Salem stated that it did not want it; Erode Municipality wanted to take it up, but Government were convinced that Erode would not be able to carry it out "

Mr. C. R. PARTHASARATHI AYYANGAR :—" What about Coimbatore ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" Coimbatore does not come in at all under this question."

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN :—" With regard to Erode, am I to understand that Government do not depend for the information on the officer in charge of it ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" No, Sir."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" For how many years is this contract of Messrs. Octavius Steel & Co. to continue ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" I believe it is for 20 years with the right of purchase by Government ultimately."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" May I take it that in the meanwhile no other scheme for electric supply will be available to them ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" It will depend upon the then circumstances" (Laughter.)

Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" May I know the reasons which led the Government to refuse the grant of licence to the Erode Municipality ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" The reasons are fully stated in the exhaustive answer referred to."

11-15 a.m. Diwan Bahadur C. S. RATNASABHAPATI MUDALIYAR :—" May I know, Sir, if any agreement has been taken from Messrs. Octavius Steel & Co. binding them to any minimum quantity that is to be taken by the company ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" These are all governed by the provisions in the licence."

Mr. YAKUB HASAN :—" Is there any clause in this agreement by means of which this lease can be terminated before twenty years ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" My answer to my friend's question is the same, namely, that all these are exhaustively dealt with in the licence."

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Diwan Bahadur C. S. RATNASABHAPATI MUDALIYAR :—" May I know, if the Government will be pleased to lay on the table of the House a copy of the agreement entered into between the Government and Messrs. Octavius Steel & Co. ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" There is no special agreement so far as I recollect now, except the licence. It was published in the newspapers."

Diwan Bahadur C. S. RATNASABHAPATI MUDALIYAR :—" Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a copy of the final licence ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" If there is any difference between that and the one published in the newspapers, I shall consider the suggestion."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" What are the maximum and the minimum rates at which this company has agreed to supply power ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" I do not remember, Sir."

Jails

The health of Mr. Yagnanarayana in Cuddalore Jail.

* 468 Q.—Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that Mr. N. Yagnanarayana, Advocate, Bapatla, a political prisoner in the Cuddalore District Jail, has been sent to the General Hospital for treatment;

(b) whether it is a fact that the medical officer-in-charge has reported to the Government that he is showing symptoms of tuberculosis;

(c) whether it is a fact that he lost two pounds at Cuddalore before his transfer to the General Hospital; and

(d) whether, in view of the state of his health, the Government have any intention of ordering his release?

A.—(a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) The Medical Officer, District Jail, Cuddalore, reported that the prisoner lost 14 pounds in weight.

(d) As there is every reason to believe that the convict will improve in health under sanatorium treatment in Bellary, the Government do not propose to release him on medical grounds.

Qualifications, etc., of Mr. Howe.

* 469 Q.—Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) the age of Mr. Howe, when he was appointed Superintendent of Jails;

(b) what were the posts he had held previous to this appointment;

(c) under what circumstances he was obliged to relinquish his former appointment or appointments;

(d) what are his educational qualifications;

(e) whether he has passed his second language examination; and

(f) for how many years he has been in service?

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A.—(a) Thirty-two years.

(b) He did not hold any appointment under the Government before he entered the Madras Jail Service.

(c) Mr. Howe was, prior to his appointment in the Jail department, employed in the Calcutta Industrial Bank, Limited, which, it was stated, went into voluntary liquidation.

(d) & (f) The hon. Member is referred to the Quarterly List of Gazetted Officers of the Jail Department and the Certified Schools corrected up to the 31st December 1930.

(e) No.

State Prisoners*Number of and maintenance grants to Mappilla prisoners.*

* 470 Q.—B. POCKER SAHIB Bahadur : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) the number of Mappillas who are now under confinement under

(i) Mappilla Outrages Act and (ii) State Prisoners Act, in connexion with the Malabar Rebellion of 1921;

(b) how many of such persons are confined in jails and in which jails;

(c) how many of them are confined outside jails, and in which places, and the number of persons confined in each place;

(d) the amount granted by the Government to each of such persons for maintenance;

(e) whether any of such persons confined outside jails are allowed free quarters by the Government;

(f) what is the rate of maintenance allowed by the Government for the maintenance of the family of such of the persons so confined as have been permitted by the Government to bring their family to the place of confinement of such persons: (i) for the wife and (2) for each child; and

(g) whether the Government have given any employment to such persons confined outside jails or rendered any help to such persons to get employment?

A.—(a) Sixteen under the Mappilla Outrages Act, 1859, and 190 under the Madras State Prisoners Regulation II of 1813.

(b) Two are in the District Jail, Cuddalore.

(c) A statement ^a is attached.

(d) Ordinarily each State prisoner is given Rs. 12 per mensem for the first six months after his release from jail and Rs. 8 or Rs. 5 per mensem thereafter according as he is detained in Madras City or elsewhere.

A prisoner in jail is given an allowance of Rs. 8½ per mensem—Rs. 7½ per mensem being for food and clothing and Re. 1 for his pocket expenses.

(e) No.

(f) Rupees 4 per mensem for one wife and Re. 1 per mensem for each child under 13 years of age subject to the conditions that the allowance for the wife will be reduced to Rs. 2 per mensem six months after the date of the prisoner's release from jail and the children's allowance will be limited to a maximum of Rs. 3 for any one prisoner.

^a Printed as Appendix I on page 235 infra.

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(g) Some of the prisoners are employed in Government offices as peons, watchmen, etc. The Government have asked District Magistrates and the Commissioner of Police, Madras, to see that the State prisoners confined in their respective districts are given every assistance in securing employment.

B. POCKER SAHIB Bahadur :—“ With reference to the answer to clause (d) of the question, I want to know from the hon. the Law Member whether he thinks that Rs. 8½ per mensem which is given as maintenance in jail is sufficient for these people to maintain themselves outside the jails also where they have to pay rent for a house to live in, while they had no necessity to pay any rent in the jails ”

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—“ It is a matter of opinion, Sir. ”

B. POCKER SAHIB Bahadur :—“ Is it a matter of opinion that they have not to pay any rent in the jail or they have to pay rent outside the jail ? ”

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—“ Well, that is also a matter of opinion, because they may be able to get lodging without the need for payment of rent. ”

Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—“ May I know, Sir, how long the Government propose to keep them in jail, considering the fact that it is ten years since the Malabar Rebellion took place ? ”

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—“ I am afraid that my Friend has not understood the question on the paper. It does not refer to the persons who are in jail. All the 202 persons referred to except two are outside jails ”

B. POCKER SAHIB Bahadur :—“ They are outside the jails at present no doubt. But were not all of them detained in jail from 1921 onwards ? ”

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—“ As soon as they were sent out of Malabar they were sent to jail, but afterwards they were released from jail and detained as stated in the answer. ”

Mr. YAKUB HASAN :—“ How long is it proposed to detain them outside the jail ? ”

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—“ So long as the authorities in Malabar think that they are dangerous to the peace of Malabar. ”

Mr. YAKUB HASAN :—“ Will the hon. Member consider the question of releasing them or removing them from detention at an early date in view of the fact that there is no longer any need for it or fear of any trouble ? ”

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—“ As a matter of fact, even now the report from the District Magistrate is that the presence of these people in the district of Malabar will cause breach of the peace and turbulence. ”

B. POCKER SAHIB Bahadur :—“ Does the hon. Member think that they are more dangerous to the safety of the country than the whole civil disobedience movement in the whole of India put together ? ”

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The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" If that question were conceived in the right spirit, I would have answered it, Sir. But having regard to the spirit in which that question is put, I refuse to answer that question."

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN :—" The hon. the Law Member said, Sir, that a report has been received from the Collector of Malabar. May I know when such a report came?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" Notice."

Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" Considering the fact that Government maintains now and for a number of years Special Police in Malabar, do Government consider the further detention of these people necessary?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" The Government do think so, Sir."

Mr. K. P. RAMAN MENON :—" Will the Government be pleased to appoint a special officer to look into these cases, considering each case one by one, and then see if they can be released one by one?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" I am afraid the Government cannot do that."

Mr. C. SATYANARAYANA CHOUDARI :—" What does the hon. the Law Member mean by saying that they will be released after the Government are satisfied that their presence in Malabar will no longer be dangerous to the public safety? Does he mean by Government the Collector of Malabar or does he mean the Law Member also?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" By Government I mean Government."

Mr. C. SATYANARAYANA CHOUDARI :—" May I know what it means?" (No answer.)

Health and comfort of Mappilla prisoners.

* 471 Q.—B. POCKER SAHIB Bahadur : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have been receiving periodical reports on the conduct, health and comfort of the persons confined under the Mappilla Outrages Act and State Prisoners Act as required by section 6 and section 3 of the Mappilla Outrages Act and State Prisoners Act respectively; and

(b) how many persons confined under the Mappilla Outrages Act and the State Prisoners Act in connexion with the Malabar Rebellion of 1921 died (1) within the jails and (2) outside the jails, giving particulars as to (a) the disease of which and the age at which each of them died, (b) the place where the deaths occurred, and (c) the number of deaths in each year?

A.—(a) Yes.

(b) The Government have no information.

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B. POCKER SAHIB Bahadur :—" Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state why the Government say that they have no information as to whether these persons are dead or alive?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" The Government do not say that they do not know whether these persons are dead or alive. What they say is that they do not possess the information with reference to the various items mentioned in clause (b) of the question."

B. POCKER SAHIB Bahadur :—" Does not the answer mean that the Government do not know whether they are dead or alive? The particulars could have been obtained. Were they not under the surveillance of the police officers?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" The dead men cannot be under the surveillance of the police."

B. POCKER SAHIB Bahadur :—" If they were alive would they not have been under the surveillance of the police officers?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" I think these persons have to report themselves occasionally to the police."

Diwan Bahadur C. S. RATNASABHAPATI MUDALIYAR :—" Clause (b) of the question wants information as to how many persons died within the four walls of the jail. Have not the Government that information in their records, Sir?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" I am afraid my Friend has not understood the question correctly."

Diwan Bahadur C. S. RATNASABHAPATI MUDALIYAR :—" Do the Government have the information about these deaths in jail?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" No, Sir."

B. POCKER SAHIB Bahadur :—" Is it not callous on the part of the Government to say that they have no information as to whether these persons confined in the jail died or not?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" There is no callousness at all on the part of the Government."

Conviction of Mappillas under the Mappilla Outrages Act and the State Prisoners Act.

* 472 Q.—B. POCKER SAHIB Bahadur : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state the reason why Mappillas are being confined under the Mappilla Outrages Act and the State Prisoners Act at present?

A.—Mappillas implicated in the last Malabar Rebellion are confined under the Mappilla Outrages Act or the Madras State Prisoners Regulation 11 of 1819, because their return to Malabar might endanger public peace and safety.

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B. POCKER SAHIB Bahadu :—"Is the Government aware that the Mappillas as a community have been absolutely loyal and they have not taken any part in the civil disobedience movement, and they are not at all more dangerous than the persons who pursue the civil disobedience movement so far as Malabar is concerned?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"The question does not arise from this question and answer on the paper."

Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED :—"May I rise to a point of order at this stage, Sir, with your leave? Is the hon. Member entitled to say that the question does not arise?"

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"When the question does not arise, it does not arise."

Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED :—"It is for you, Sir, as President to say it and not for the Government Member to rule on the point."

Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—"Is it not a fact that a very large number of persons were implicated in the Malabar Rebellion, and that a very large number were incarcerated in various jails? In view of the fact that it was many years since the rebellion took place and there has been no trouble, will Government be pleased to appoint a committee consisting of Members of this House and others to enquire into the necessity for their further detention?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"As I stated to my hon. Friend Mr. Raman Menon, the answer is in the negative."

Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED :—"May I know in whose opinion that the Mappillas are dangerous if they return to Malabar, whether it is in the opinion of the District Magistrate alone or whether it is the opinion of the hon. the Law Member also?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"It is the opinion of the Government based upon the reports of the district authorities."

Diwan Bahadur M. GOPALASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—"In view of the fact that a large number of Mappilla convicts are located in the Alipuram Jail in Bellary and their decent behaviour, does not the Government consider that they will not certainly endanger the safety of the public?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"I am afraid the Mappilla prisoners who are confined in the Alipuram Jail have nothing to do with the State prisoners referred to in this question."

Mr. YAKUB HASAN :—"May I ask whether the conditions that brought about the Malabar disturbance are still there in Malabar, to apprehend similar disturbances later on?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"The causes that led to the rebellion of 1921, I am sorry to say, are still there."

Mr. YAKUB HASAN :—"What are those causes please?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"Incitement of the people to disobey the Government and to act against the orders of the Government."

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Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED :—"May I know whether the opinion of the Government that they are dangerous to the public peace in Malabar is also the opinion of the hon. the Law Member?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"The two opinions are identical."

Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED :—"May I know whether it is identical because he is the Law Member, or will it also be identical if he is not the Law Member?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"I refuse to answer that question."

Forest Panchayats

Grazing fees in Bellary and Kurnool districts.

* 473 Q.—**Mr. A. RAMAKRISHNA REDDI**: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) the rate of grazing fee per unit collected by the panchayat in the Kurnool district; and

(b) the rate of grazing fee per unit existing in the Bellary district?

A.—(a) 4 annas by 4 panchayats.
6 annas by 1 panchayat.
8 annas by 20 panchayats.

(b) 3 annas by 1 panchayat.
4 annas by 95 panchayats.
5 annas by 7 panchayats.
6 annas by 2 panchayats.
8 annas by 6 panchayats.

Diwan Bahadur M. GOPALASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—"May I know whether the Government will be pleased, in view of the answers given to clauses (a) and (b), to introduce a uniform rate for these grazing fees? For example, we find a rate of 3 annas levied by one panchayat, 6 annas by another and 8 annas by a third and so on. Will the Government be pleased to see that a uniform system is adopted?"

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL :—"I will consider the suggestion."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—"Are these rates prescribed by the panchayats themselves or by the panchayat officer or by the Board for the panchayats?"

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL :—"I must ask for notice with regard to this question as each case will have to be examined."

Irrigation

Enquiry into the failure of freshes in the Palar river.

* 474 Q.—**Mr. M. A. MANIKKAVELU NAYAKAR**: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state why a committee of enquiry about the failure of freshes in the Palar river has not yet been appointed?

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A.—G.O. No. 345 I., dated 9th February 1931, constituting a committee is placed on the table^a. The hon. Member has since been added to the committee.

Mr. M. A. MANIKKAVELU NAYAKAR :—"The resolution passed in this Council recommended that certain officials and members representing North Arcot and Chingleput districts should be appointed to the committee. May I know why only certain members representing these two districts were appointed, and if so, on what principle this was so done?"

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL :—"The Government considered it unnecessary to trouble more than those appointed."

Mr. C. R. PARTHASARATHI AYYANGAR :—"May I know whether there was any agreement between this Government and the Mysore Government about the waters of the Palar, and if so, whether the papers connected with this were placed before the committee for examination?"

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL :—"I should like to have notice of that question."

Investigation of the causes of failure of freshes in the Palar river.

*475 Q.—Mr. V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have now arrived at any decision regarding the appointment of a committee to investigate into the causes of the failure of freshes in the Palar river; and

(b) whether the Government will lay upon the table of the House the papers relating to the preliminary investigation, compilation of the statistics and correspondence, if any, between the Madras Government and the Government of Mysore relating to this question and referred to in answer to question No. 33 answered on 19th November 1930?

A.—(a) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the answer to question No. 174.

(b) No. The relevant material will be placed before the committee.

Mr. V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—"May I know, Sir, whether the hon. Member is aware that in 1902 the Madras Government permitted the Mysore Government to raise the height of the Betmangala tank by 9 feet?"

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL :—"I must ask notice of the question."

Mr. V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—"May I know if he is aware that according to the agreement entered into between the Mysore and the Madras Governments, the Mysore Government is entitled only to a draw of 72 million cubic feet of water?"

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL :—"I must ask for notice."

Mr. V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—"May I know, Sir, whether the terms of that agreement are being carried out and what check if any has been placed by the Madras Government to see that the terms are adhered to?"

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The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL :—"I do not think, Sir, that all these arise out of the question on the paper. It is much better that the hon. Member puts another question if he wishes to have all this information."

Mr. V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—"May I know why the terms of reference to the committee confine themselves only to the question of failure of freshes in the Palar and does not extend to other questions, about other alternative schemes to bring freshes?"

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL :—"We want the committee to let us know their opinion whether the available information is sufficient. The Government must have this before them before they collect further information."

Mr. V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—"May I know whether the Government is aware of the proposal that it is within practical politics to connect the Cauvery and Palar through channels for a distance of about 69 miles?"

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL :—"No, Sir."

Mr. V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—"Will the Government enquire into the feasibility of the proposal?"

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL :—"No, Sir."

Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—"May I know whether any enquiry has been made as to the action taken by the Mysore Government as a result of which the water in the Palar has diminished?"

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL :—"The Government have already been in correspondence with the Mysore Government on the subject."

Mr. V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—"May I know whether the hon. Member is aware that the Mysore Government have increased the F.T.L. of an important tank called the Amanikere tank without the permission of the Madras Government?"

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL :—"I must ask for notice of the question."

Mr. V. T. ARASU :—"Will the hon. Member be pleased to depute an officer of the Government to go into the Mysore territory and find out whether the Mysore Government have in any case exceeded the limits of permission granted to them to raise the level of certain tanks?"

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL :—"It is not possible to adopt that course without the consent of the Mysore Government."

Mr. V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—"May I know why certain papers regarding the raising of the F.T.L. of the Amanikere tank were denied to the committee on the ground that they are confidential?"

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL :—"I must ask for notice of the question."

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Minor Irrigation*Restoration of breached tanks in Wandiwash taluk.*

11-30 * 476 Q.—Mr. M. A. MANIKKAVELU NAYAKAR: Will the hon. the
a.m. Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether the village panchayat of Theyyar, Wandiwash taluk, North Arcot, sent up resolutions and mahazars to the Executive Engineer and the Collector of the district praying for the immediate restoration of the tanks that have breached recently by heavy rains;

(b) whether the Collector or the Executive Engineer sent up proposals for the restoration of the breached tanks in the taluk;

(c) if so, whether the Government have sanctioned their proposals, wholesale or in part, or totally negatived them; and

(d) the reasons for the action taken by them?

A.—(a) The Government have not the information.

(b) to (d) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the answer to question No. 249 given at the meeting of the Legislative Council on 30th January 1931. The Government have also sanctioned an additional appropriation of Rs. 17,500 for expenditure during the current year and have included a provision of Rs. 4.03 lakhs in the next year's budget for the purpose. As regards minor irrigation works in charge of the Revenue Department the Government have provided in the next year's budget a sum of Rs. 80,000 for the repair of damaged tanks and a sum of Rs. 3,600 for the additional staff required for the execution of these repairs.

Mr. M. A. MANIKKAVELU NAYAKAR:—"In answer to question No. 249 on the 30th January 1931, the hon. the Revenue Member expected a further report from the Collector of the district. Has he since received such a report, and if so, will he be pleased to lay it on the table of the House?"

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL:—"The report has just been received, and I shall consider the question of placing it on the table of the House."

Mr. V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"May I know, Sir, whether the estimates of damaged tanks have been prepared and works taken on hand?"

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL:—"The works are being taken up as quickly as possible."

Mr. V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"I may tell the hon. Member that I have got several letters in my pocket that will show?"

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL:—"Is that a question?"

Mr. V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"I will put it in the form of a question. May I know whether the estimates of all damaged tanks have been completed and whether Government will call for information?"

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL:—"So far the work is being done as rapidly as possible. I do not think it necessary to call for further reports."

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Mr. V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"In answer to a previous question put on another occasion, the hon. Member was pleased to state that all damaged tanks should be repaired before the commencement of the next monsoon. Am I to understand that he has now qualified the answer?"

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL:—"No, Sir."

Epigraphy

Publication of the researches of the Epigraphist department regarding village administration.

* 477 Q.—Mr. C. R. PARTHASARATHI AYYANGAR: Will the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to state whether the researches and the deciphered inscriptions of the Epigraphist department relating to village administration have been separately published by this Government?

A.—The Government of Madras have not issued any such separate publication.

Mr. C. R. PARTHASARATHI AYYANGAR:—"May I know whether the Government will be pleased to gather all the inscriptions relating to village administration?"

The hon. Mr. H. G. STOKES:—"We have not got the expert staff capable of gathering information."

Mr. C. R. PARTHASARATHI AYYANGAR:—"If they have deciphered any so far, will the Government be pleased to lay on the table of the House all information gathered till now?"

The hon. Mr. H. G. STOKES:—"Such information as has been gathered has been gathered by the Central Government and it is not at the disposal of this Government."

Mr. T. C. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR:—"Such of them as have been already deciphered will they be made available to the public?"

The hon. Mr. H. G. STOKES:—"I should consider that to be entirely a matter for the Central Government."

Mr. T. C. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR:—"Seeing that the publications of some of these inscriptions are not easily understood by the people, will the Government be pleased to consider the desirability, if necessary, with the co-operation of the Government of India, of publishing such inscriptions with notes?"

The hon. Mr. H. G. STOKES:—"The publication in popular form is a matter for the Archaeological department which is in the hands of the Central Government and not of this Government."

Madras Record Office

Appointment of the Assistant in the Madras Record Office.

* 478 Q.—Mr. M. A. MANIKKAVELU NAYAKAR: Will the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) the number of permanent vacancies that occurred in the Madras Record Office during the last five years and the number of Brahmans, Christians and non-Brahmans who were confirmed and promoted;

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(b) whether at present the post of Assistant is vacant owing to the retirement of the present incumbent; and

(c) whether the Government propose to consider the claims of non-Brahmans in filling up this vacancy?

A.—(a) Five; four Brahman and one non-Brahman were confirmed and two Brahman, one Christian and one non-Brahman were promoted.

(b) Yes.

(c) The appointment will be made by the Curator and not by the Government. Steps will be taken to see that the claims of non-Brahmans are not overlooked.

Mr. M. A. MANICKAVELU NAYAKAR :—“ Sir, in answer to clause (c), it is said that steps will be taken to see that the claims of non-Brahmans are not overlooked. What steps have been taken?”

The hon. Mr. H. G. STOKES :—“ The Government have already drawn the attention of the head of the department to the matter.”

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN :—“ What is the definition of the term non-Brahman?”

The hon. Mr. H. G. STOKES :—“ By non-Brahman I mean anybody who is not a Brahman.” (Laughter.)

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN :—“ May I know which are the communities that come under that term?”

The hon. Mr. H. G. STOKES :—“ All communities.” (Laughter.)

Railways

Construction of a railway line between Pattalam and Madhimangalam.

* 479 Q.—Mr. U. R. PARTHASARATHI AYYANGAR: Will the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) whether there was any proposal before the Government to construct a railway line between Pattalam near Chingleput and Madhimangalam near Polur;

(b) what became of the proposal; and

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

A.—(a) Yes, between Padalam and Arni.

(b) In August 1929 the District Board of North Arcot passed a resolution suggesting the inclusion of this line in the Railway programme and agreeing to guarantee the Railway Board against loss, if any, in its working. In November 1929, it was pointed out to the Board that the proposed line would run for about 40 miles in the North Arcot district, and for about 20 miles in the Chingleput district, and that the guarantee of the district boards would have to cover not only the loss in the working of the line, but also loss, if any, accruing to the South Indian Railway due to the short circuiting caused by the proposed line. The President of the North Arcot District Board was requested to report in consultation

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with the Chingleput District Board whether the two boards would agree to give the required guarantee. In August 1930, the President, North Arcot District Board, reported that the Chingleput District Board had declined to participate in the scheme. The matter rests there.

(c) No.

Mr. C. R. PARTHASARATHI AYYANGAR :—“ Has this matter been again taken into consideration?”

The hon. Mr. H. G. STOKES :—“ Not to my knowledge, Sir.”

Medical

Alleged private nursing homes maintained by Government Medical Officers.

* 480 Q.—Mr. V. T. ARASU: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that certain paid Medical Officers in the Government hospitals in the City of Madras have their own private nursing homes where rich patients—who would otherwise join the hospital and help to augment the income to Government from the hospital—are taken away for the private benefit of the officers concerned;

(b) whether it is a fact that in some cases a hospital ‘team’ is transferred in its entirety to run such private nursing homes; and

(c) whether the Government will put an end to such irregularities as are noted above?

A.—(a), (b) & (c) Medical Officers are not permitted to maintain regular nursing homes.

Mr. V. T. ARASU :—“ Does the hon. Minister categorically deny that some of the officers attached to the General Hospital do not run regular nursing homes of their own?”

The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU :—“ No information.”

Mr. V. T. ARASU :—“ If I should place before the Chief Minister facts relating to the running of regular nursing homes by several officers of the Madras General Hospital, will the Minister see that disciplinary action is taken against them?”

The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU :—“ If specific cases are brought to my notice, I shall have an enquiry.”

Mr. C. R. PARTHASARATHI AYYANGAR :—“ Are they not permitted under the rules?”

The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU :—“ No.”

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUCALIYAR :—“ Will not the Surgeon-General be able to furnish the information whether they are running or not?”

The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU :—“ These medical officers are not permitted to run nursing homes and Government have no reason to think that that rule is violated.”

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Poor Houses*Committee to enquire into the prevention of vagrants in the City.*

* 481 Q.—Mr. V. T. ARASU: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have any proposals on hand to deal with the problem of homeless vagrants and casual labourers sleeping in the streets or in such temporary shelters on the roadsides they can find; and

(b) if there are no proposals, whether the Government will consider the desirability of constituting a special committee for going into the question?

A.—Existing proposals relate to Madras City only.

The problem of homeless vagrants in so far as they are destitute and disabled, will be dealt with by the Committee which Government propose to appoint shortly in pursuance of the resolution passed in the Legislative Council on the 24th January 1930.

The problem of homeless coolies is one for the Corporation of Madras to tackle and the latter have made a beginning in the matter. They are constructing model quarters at Bogipalayam for 300 families the entire cost of which estimated at Rs. 2.5 lakhs is being borne by Government as a special case.

Public Health*Supply of water to Salem from Mettur.*

* 482 Q.—Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDAR: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) at what stage the scheme of supplying water to Salem town from Mettur is;

(b) how long it will take for Salem town to actually enjoy the Mettur water;

(c) whether there is any proposal to supply water to all the villages in the vicinity of the pipe line; and

(d) if so, what are the villages and how many in number?

A.—(a) & (b) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the answer given to clause (a) of question No. 358 on 31st January 1931.

(c) Yes.

(d) The Government understand that water will be required for 21 villages on the route. Full information regarding the names of these villages cannot be available till the investigation is complete.

Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDAR:—"May I know when the investigations will be completed?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU:—"They are expected to be completed within a short time."

[28th February 1931]

Education*Representation of Muslims in the District Educational Council of Ramnad.*

* 483 Q.—AHMED MEERAN SAHIB Bahadur: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Excise be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that there are no Muslim members in the District Educational Council of Ramnad since the last four years;

(b) whether he has ascertained or proposes to ascertain the reason for the absence of any representation of the Muslim community in the said council; and

(c) what steps the hon. the Minister proposes to take to ensure representation of the Muslim community on the said District Educational Council?

A.—(a) One seat on the District Educational Council, Ramnad, has been reserved for the Muslim community and in September 1928, the Government nominated Mr. S. Kadir Muhammad Ninar, M.A., B.L., to be a member of the District Educational Council.

(b) & (c) Do not arise.

AHMED MEERAN SAHIB Bahadur:—"What is the total strength of the Educational Council, Ramnad?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR:—"Notice, Sir."

Prohibition of students in the Presidency College from going upstairs during recess hours.

* 484 Q.—Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDAR: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Excise be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a rule in the Madras Presidency College prohibiting students from going upstairs during recess hours in the noon; and

(b) if so, whether it is not considered to be a hindrance to those students who quietly sit in their class-rooms and attend to their studies during the period?

A.—(a) Yes.

(b) No.

Grants to the Municipal High School at Tiruvannamalai.

* 485 Q.—Mr. V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Excise be pleased to state—

(a) when the Municipal High School, Tiruvannamalai, was started as Government Anglo-Vernacular School and when it was elevated to the status of a high school;

(b) the subsidy or grant allocated to it for the past several years;

(c) whether the subsidy or grant has ever been revised in view of the new status of the school;

(d) whether the staff of the school are enjoying the privileges of a Provident Fund scheme and annual increments;

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(e) if not, whether the Government are aware that it is due to the management pleading their inability to give effect to the above owing to their not receiving an enhanced subsidy; and

(f) whether the management have ever brought to the notice of the Government their need of an enhanced grant to introduce several much-needed improvements in the school and if so, what the reply of the Government was to the same?

A.—(a) Definite information as to when the school was started is not available. Form IV was opened in the school in 1921 and forms V and VI in 1922 and 1923, respectively.

(b) Rs. 500.

(c) No.

(d) & (e) The Government have no information.

(f) The Council asked for an enhancement of the subsidy. The Government expressed their inability to comply with the request. The subsidy has, however, been raised in the current year to Rs. 550.

Mr. V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"May I know, Sir, whether Government is satisfied that Rs. 50 subsidy is a substantial encouragement?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR:—"The additional Rs. 50 was given not because an increased subsidy was considered necessary by Government. Government recently passed a Government Order fixing lump sum grants for all secondary schools instead of varying grants and in doing so a five per cent increase was given to all schools. As a result of that order there was a Rs. 50 increase in the case of this school also.

Mr. V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"Will the Government be pleased to call for the information as to whether the Provident Fund system has been introduced in the school as also the system of graded increments?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR:—"It will not serve any useful purpose because the opening of forms 4 to 6 was sanctioned by Government on the express understanding that the municipality should not ask for any additional grant on that account."

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Police

Alleged lathi charge at Godown street on 17th January 1931.

486 Q.—Rai Sahib C. KOLANDA REDDI: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether at the picketing of foreign cloth shops in Godown street, on 17th January 1931 the police resorted to lathi charge immediately after their arrival;

(b) whether instead of placing the picketers before a magistrate the police dragged them, after the beating, and left one of them lying in a lane while driving away others; and

(c) if so, under what provision of law this was done; and what disciplinary action was taken, or is proposed to be taken against the police offenders?

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A.—(a) On their arrival the police found that an unruly crowd had collected. When the crowd was ordered to disperse some persons refused to do so. The police officer in charge thought it necessary to disperse this unlawful assembly by force after due warning had been given.

(b) The allegation is untrue. No picketers were dragged by the police or left lying in a lane.

(c) Does not arise.

Land Revenue

Remission of kist in Tanjore district.

487 Q.—Mr. A. P. N. V. NADIMUTHU PILLAI: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government are aware of the fact that in many villages in the Tanjore district where less than one-third of the entire extent has been affected by the floods, the postponement of the collection of kist and the grant of remission have not been considered; and

(b) what steps do the Government propose to take to relieve the distress?

A.—(a) The Government have no information. The grant of remission and the postponement of kists were not governed by the principle suggested by the hon. Member.

(b) The hon. Member's attention is invited to—

- (1) G.O. No. 2366, Revenue, dated 11th December 1930,
- (2) G.O. No. 93, Revenue, dated 16th January 1931, and
- (3) Board's Proceedings Ms. No. 3280, dated 23rd December 1930, a copy of which is annexed.

Education

Teaching of agriculture in high schools.

488 Q.—Sriman M. G. PATNAIK Mahasaya: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Excise be pleased to state—

(a) the number of high schools in the Presidency and the number of such schools in which agriculture was taught as an optional subject in 1929-1930;

(b) the number of pupils who appeared for the Secondary School-Leaving Certificate Examination with agriculture as an optional subject in 1929-30;

(c) how many of the successful pupils joined the Agricultural College at Coimbatore, and in what class they were admitted;

(d) whether any special subsidy or grant was given to any high school in connexion with the teaching of agriculture during the last three years; and

(e) what steps are taken by Government to create and develop agricultural bias in elementary education?

A.—(a) The number of high schools for boys was 331. The number of schools in which 'agriculture' was taught as a subject under group 'C' of the Secondary School-Leaving Certificate scheme was eight.

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- (b) Seventy-seven.
- (c) The Government have no information.
- (d) The following subsidies were sanctioned to the Board High schools, Poonamalle and Palakonda, towards the expenditure on account of the teaching of 'agriculture' as a form of manual training in those schools:—

	1926-27.		1927-28.		1928-29.	
	Recurring.	Non-recurring.	Recurring.	Non-recurring.	Recurring.	Non-recurring.
Board High School, Poonamalle ..	315	125	310	..	407	..
Palakonda ..	815	500	554	..	985	..

- (e) Nature study is a subject in the curriculum of Elementary schools. The question of introducing the teaching of the elements of agriculture in select higher elementary schools with the aid of school gardens is under consideration.

Educational improvement of the Viswabrahmans.

489 Q.—Pandit GANALA RAMAMURTI: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Exoise be pleased to state—

(a) on what principle the division into depressed classes and castes other than the depressed classes was made in the Madras Educational Rules, Appendix 17-A;

(b) whether copies of resolutions passed from time to time by the Andhra Provincial Viswabrahman conferences which were convened under the auspices of the All-Indian Viswakarma Liberal Federation requesting the Government that the names of communities now called as Kamsalas, Kammalans and Thattans should be corrected as Viswabrahmans, that this caste be added to the list of depressed classes for the purpose of educational improvement and that the education of this community also be taken under the supervision of the Labour Commissioner have been sent to the Government; and

(c) what action the Government propose to take with regard to those resolutions?

A.—(a) The division was carried out in pursuance of the orders in G.O. No. 855, Education, dated the 19th May 1925, a copy * of which is placed on the Table.

(b) No such resolutions have reached Government. The name Viswabrahman has however been added to the list of backward classes as an alternative nomenclature to Kammalan and Kamsala.

(c) Does not arise.

* Printed as Appendix IV on page 287 infra.

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[Note.—An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.]

II.—GENERAL DISCUSSION OF THE BUDGET FOR 1931-32.

The general discussion on the budget was then resumed.

* Rao Bahadur C. NATESA MUDALIYAR:—“ Mr. President, Sir, I congratulate the hon. the Finance Member for the lucid way in which he placed his budget before this Council in introducing the financial position of the Province, not to speak of the beautiful style and the language in which his whole speech is couched. We can call a province financially sound only when the expenditure of that province is to depend solely on the receipts without drawing upon the accumulated balances of previous years. It is a sound principle in taxation that the taxes should not be levied more than what is necessary for the required expenditure. Sir, unfortunately the financiers of our province levied taxes much more than what was necessary for the expenditure so much so that the balances year after year accumulated and it attracted the attention of the powers-that-be and ended in the iniquitous impost. Then, Sir, the Madras Government perhaps never felt that the iniquitous impost was being paid by squeezing the life blood of the ryots and tax-payers. When there was the remission of the iniquitous impost, they did not correspondingly remit the burden of the tax-payer. Normally, Sir, the tax-payers living in Madras and owning lands in the Chingleput district come to be reminded of their lands only when they have to pay the kists or some extraordinary expenditure is to be incurred. Such is the uselessness and trouble of possessing lands in the mufassal especially at Chingleput district. This was so when normal conditions prevailed. Now the agricultural produce is sold at 35 to 50 per cent less than the usual price. What will be the position of the tax-payer, you can imagine. Do the Government intend to remit the tax to the extent of 35 to 50 per cent? The Government must come to the rescue of the tax-payer. If the Government are not going to remit the tax, I wish the Government take the tax in kind. The ryot is ready to pay the tax to the Government in kind because his produce sells very cheap. Government ought to consider this, especially in a poor district like Chingleput where the ryots are suffering very much. The Mettur Project is supposed to irrigate thousands of acres of now cultivable lands which were remaining uncultivated. If the Sangameswaram project is undertaken—the authority on that subject Mr. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar is here—about a million acres of lands can be brought under cultivation. The other day when Mr. Sundara Rao Nayudu asked a question when the Tungabhadra was going to be connected with the Coom, there was a laughter. In fact the proposal was to connect the Tungabhadra to Kistna and thus bring it to Nellore and then to Madras and then take it to the southern districts. That was the proposal. Then our Coom will become one of the navigable rivers.

[Mr. C. Natesa Mudaliyar] [28th February 1931]

"Yesterday reference was made to the necessity of making use of the water power in the province to make it industrially great. I was then very much disappointed when Sir Patro was speaking on the Pykara Hydro-Electric system. All the schemes that are undertaken may not be remunerative. Some of them are experiments; they may fail. We are to gain experience by that failure. The Panama Canal could not have been a realized fact but for the risk they undertook. After succeeding in digging the Suez Canal they undertook to dig the Panama Canal, but were disappointed after sinking 60 million pounds and after eight years of struggle. This was in 1880. Then, in 1904, other people went there and, on the very foundation laid by Jessop, floated a company and now the Panama Canal is a realized fact. The knowledge derived from this unsuccessful original attempt was that medical men must precede the engineer, at least as far as this case was concerned, and when the people's health was improved, the engineer must succeed. It was, with the assistance of that medical man, Ronald Ross, the Panama Canal became a success. It now connects the two oceans, Pacific and Atlantic. When Sir Patro was a Minister he must have brought forward many such schemes. I am glad, Sir, that Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar inaugurated the Pykara Hydro-Electric Scheme. The Glen Morgan Scheme was undertaken as a preliminary step. It was finished within the time allotted and within the budget estimate. It supplies now Ootacamund, Coonoor and some tea estates. Only Rs. 40,000 remuneration was expected of this scheme, but Rs. 60,000 is realized and there is demand for electricity from various quarters. When Part I of the Pykara Scheme is finished, there will be supply of electricity for Erode, Salem and Coimbatore and when the whole scheme is finished it will be able to supply electricity for Madras too. Then if the other things like the Periyar falls in Madura, Papanasam in Tinnevely, etc., are taken advantage of the whole province will be lit with electricity and the agriculturists will be benefited both for pumping and lighting and other purposes. Electricity can be supplied at a cheap rate. Such schemes are undertaken all over the world. For instance there is the Shanon scheme in Ireland. In Russia I learn electrification is at its zenith. Then, Sir, where is the room for doubt expressed by Sir Patro?

11-45
a.m.

"Sir, coming to the Police, I find that there is a large outcry against the excesses of the police and the Members of this House have brought several allegations against the police to the notice of the Government. I request the hon. the Home Member to appoint a committee to enquire into these allegations. We are hearing rumours, Sir, that the hon. the Home Member who is now sitting on the reserved side will soon be transformed into a responsible Minister. If so, the appointment of a committee will be a transition stage from irresponsible executive to responsible popular Government. Thereby I do not mean to reflect on the hon. European Members of the Reserved Half. I know they are very courteous and are paying particular attention to the opinion of this Council. I congratulate them for the same.

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"Now, Sir, coming to Education, I request the hon. Minister for Education to see that physiology and hygiene and Hindi or Urdu are taught in the high schools, making them compulsory subjects. Without physiology, without knowing where the brain is situated, our young men are passing M.A. in Mathematics. Again without knowing Hindi or Urdu we cannot travel advantageously beyond our province. All these things should be made compulsory in our schools. One more request I have to make to the Education Minister. In female education, both Hindus and Muslims are backward. But, thanks to the missionaries in this country, our Christian sisters are forward in education. True, for Muslims we have got one Hobart School, but that is not enough. Till now there is not a single female Muslim graduate in medicine or even a diploma-holder. So, every effort should be made to encourage medical education among Muslim girls. Then, even our own Hindu women observe gosha. After twelve years of age they are not allowed to go to the school. Even when they escape the social bar and pass the examination, what is there for them to do? I know a Nayudu lady who passed her M.A. very high and who secured many of the medals in the Presidency College. She was not given any post in our Queen Mary's College. She is young and an unmarried lady. When she was asked to go to Rajahmundry, her parents were not willing to send her away. She is now sent as an Inspectress of Schools. She should be prepared to go out and be able to inspect all the schools. Another young unmarried Nayudu girl who passed her examination in Medicine was transferred to Kadir, a far off place from here. I hope that in order to encourage young Hindu and Muslim ladies they will be kept in the city and not driven away wherever the Government likes to send them."

* Mr. U. C. SUBRAHMANYA BHATT:—"Mr. President, Sir, if to have realized the difficulties ahead of us but have done nothing to surmount those difficulties, if to have realized the serious political situation in the country but have done nothing in the Budget to allay the political situation, if to have realized the acute economic depression and have made no provision in the Budget for the relief of the poor suffering people, if these are virtues on the part of the Government, I say the hon. the Finance Member deserves the congratulations of this House. It is said that a man should cut his coat according to his cloth. I may say that before purchasing the cloth it is also better to see whether the purse of the man would afford him the costly fabric that he is purchasing. Judged from that standpoint, I may say that the Budget falls short of our expectations. Though the Finance Member has realized the keen economic depression in the country, he has not reduced the expenditure by anything appreciably. The same old costly administrative machinery is maintained. One would have expected from all this realization on the part of the Finance Member that he would have made drastic cuts and drastic retrenchment in all directions and that he would have cut the pay of several officers and brought it down. But what is there in the Budget to show a change of attitude? There is absolutely nothing. He wants the servants of Government to be paid as liberally as before,

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though the prices of foodstuffs and other articles have come down and there is absolutely no necessity now to keep up the high salaries to which they have been raised during the time of the war when prices were high. One would have expected that some remissions in revenue would have been made on account of the fall in prices of agricultural produce. But what remission is there? The whole Budget does not show anything whatsoever. Though prices of articles have fallen and the poor ryot finds it difficult to sell his produce, the same old assessment is demanded from him, and no remission whatsoever is offered to him. Such being the case, when one looks into the speech of the hon. the Finance Member, especially the portion where he says that the times are hard, it appears that it is all simply to show that he realizes the political difficulties and also the economic difficulties, in order to evoke the sympathy of the people. But I shall be charitable to him, and the view I would take is that he has not had the boldness of his conviction to carry on very drastic cuts in the Budget and also meet the requirements of the public. If he had only taken the House into his confidence and inaugurated measures in his Budget for the relief of the toiling masses in the country, he would have been congratulated for his bold policy. But we are where we were, and with all our sympathy the poor toiling citizen and cultivator is not a whit better.

"Sir, coming to the special needs of my district, I may say that the Budget does not show anything regarding the new resettlement which is going on in South Kanara. So far as this district is concerned, the case is not one of enhancement of assessment but one of reduction. Because, during the last settlement, there was a mistaken calculation while transposing South Kanara seers to Madras measures, whereby they have all along been collecting 18 per cent more than what the South Kanara ryot ought to have paid according to a proper and correct calculation. And as for this subject of resettlement in South Kanara, I hope to deal with it in more detail if I have an opportunity during the course of the discussion on the Budget grants. But I may now say that so far as my district of South Kanara is concerned, it should be a case of reduction and not of enhancement of land revenue assessment. Secondly, Sir, to go on with the resettlement operations at this time of fall in prices is a thing which could not be expected of a Government which professes to be sympathetic towards the ryot and of a Finance Member who seems to have realized the difficulties of the ryot, as he says he has.

"Then, in his Budget speech, the Finance Member has said that he has realized the grievances of the Members of this House as also of the country in the matter of the excise revenue. He appears to have realized all the attempts on the part of the Members of this House to wipe out the excise revenue. Still he, in collaboration with the Transferred Half, in charge of Excise boldly said 'No, I do not want it, I stand by prohibition', I am sure they would have done something in that direction. But the real difficulty is that neither the hon. Minister in charge nor the Government, nor the Finance Member want to give up that revenue.

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But still they want to throw dust into the eyes of the public and say that they are for prohibition, and they want to foist upon the public a propaganda committee costing Rs. 2 lakhs. Sir, the public are not mere children to be fooled by this sort of eye-wash. I may say that to spend two lakhs of rupees on propaganda every year is adding insult to injury. Again, it is really a wonder to me how in spite of the recommendation of the Finance Committee the same old figure of Rs. 4 lakhs was attempted to be restored though unsuccessfully. (The hon. Mr. H. G. Stokes: The same old figure has not been maintained.) I say that to spend anything in that direction is nothing but adding insult to injury which has already been perpetrated on the people.

"Lastly, I may say that the Budget does not do anything to alleviate the indebtedness of the poor ryot population and to improve the condition of public health and the availability of medical aid in rural parts in a larger measure; nor has there been any expansion in the matter of veterinary assistance so far as villagers are concerned. These needs have not been provided for, except that the same old things are maintained. One would have expected that in view of the extreme indebtedness of the agricultural classes, in view of the large number of cattle that die of disease in villages, and in view of the havoc which malaria causes in many districts, provision for work in these directions being expanded. But I only find in the Budget that the same old standard is maintained without scope for any expansion whatsoever. With these remarks, Sir, I resume my seat."

* Mr. V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"Mr. President, viewing the Budget from the point of view of the labourer and the agriculturist, whose cause I am chosen to represent in this Council, I am compelled to characterise it as a 'marking-time' Budget only. This Budget which has been presented to us has not disclosed any novel features of policy or programme, and the Government as it is constituted to-day is perhaps responsible for the framing of the Budget in this manner. I need hardly remind this House of the two canons of sound finance, namely, that the equilibrium of revenue expenditure must be maintained with the revenue income, and secondly that the tax-payer who pays for the tune must have a full return for his money by way of services and of aid. Apply the first canon to the Budget that has been presented. Perhaps, hon. Members of this House may on a superficial examination come to the conclusion that a deficit of about ten lakhs is nothing and that therefore the finance of this Presidency is sound. If hon. Members will turn their attention for a moment to the Budget and the way in which it has been framed, they will find that the hon. the Finance Member has budgeted for an increase of Rs. 20½ lakhs in the shape of land revenue. I do not know how, in these days of economic distress and of fall in prices, he would be justified in expecting an increase of about Rs. 20½ lakhs from land revenue. One could have anticipated that the after-effects of this disease of economic distress would not vanish this year or even the next year just like the after-effects of any malady that takes a long time to vanish.

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12 noon. "I would even say, Sir, that we are unable to see the end of the economic condition that has overtaken us. Perhaps it may be five years at least before it can improve. I therefore think that it is wrong to bank upon such slender hopes as a rise in Land Revenue.

"Now taking the items which show decrease in expenditure, I would, by way of illustration, point out the three major items that have been decreased in the Budget. The hon. the Finance Member has stated that there is a decrease of Rs. 37.40 lakhs under Education, Rs. 7.44 lakhs under Public Health and Rs. 2.44 lakhs under Industries. In these departments, from the point of view of the nation, there ought not to have been any decrease at all. And mind you, Sir, that the decrease which has been shown in the expenditure of these departments is not effected by curtailment of the high salaries and reduction in the top-heavy administration, but by diminishing the expansion of these very vital departments. I would therefore say, that considering the process of inflation of income and decrease in expenditure, the Budget does not even satisfy the first canon, viz., the maintenance of the equilibrium by balancing the income and expenditure.

"Now, Sir, according to the second test, I should think that it is unnecessary for me to remind this House of the top-heavy nature of the administration in this Presidency. The tell-tale statistics are before us. Considering the average income of an Indian, the manner in which the salaries of officials are fixed is out of all proportion. I do not think, Sir, that any arguments are necessary to convince this House that the high cost of administration is eating the very vitals of our finance leaving it like an apple rotten to the core. I submit that it is highly essential to remedy this state of affairs and therefore this House must make itself responsible for applying the axe of retrenchment, if necessary, ruthlessly. Countries like England, Germany, New Zealand and Australia, which are autonomous in nature and in which public opinion can make itself felt, have voluntarily undertaken this task. Under the circumstances would it be too much to expect the Treasury Bench to similarly take up the task and relieve the distress in the Presidency? I have no doubt that if they act in this manner the officials under their protecting wings will not lag behind. But whatever it is, Sir, as I said before, the Budget does not disclose a consistent policy or a constructive programme of work. Sir, I would substantiate this remark. Let us take the case of the land revenue assessment. Land revenue assessment, as hon. Members know, was first made and taken by way of a certain percentage of the produce. Later on, this share of the produce was commuted in terms of money and the assessment was fixed. This state of affairs suited the conditions of those days. Now that economic distress is facing the peasant and there is a heavy fall in the price of the produce, it is cruel to ask the ryot to pay the land assessment fixed without any relation to the present circumstances. I would say that it would be like Shylock insisting upon his pound of flesh. The poor agriculturists will be crushed by the demand for the payment of the land assessment fixed before the present economic condition came into being.

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"Again, Sir, turning to the Excise policy of this Government, no doubt the revenue that has been budgeted for the coming year is only five crores as against the six crores budgeted for in previous years. Sir, it must be noted that this diminution in the Excise revenue is not due to the eye-wash of the temperance propaganda initiated by the previous Council. I must say that it is due to the awakening of the masses of this country and by the lessons taught by and learnt from the life and teachings of that spiritual leader, Mahatma Gandhi. As far as the Excise policy of this Government is concerned, Sir, this House has time and again pointed out the necessity for total prohibition. In answer to this demand, the stock argument of the Government was repeated, even recently in answer to an interpellation, by the hon. Minister for Excise that if total prohibition is introduced how can the deficit in revenue be made good. My answer to that would be 'Rationalize your administration by effecting retrenchment in the departments.' If that is not sufficient, try to make our agriculturists and our workers more prosperous, make their income increase and then they will willingly share any burden caused by this loss of revenue from Excise.

"Now turning to the Forest department, I would like to remind the hon. Member in charge of this portfolio that as early as 1890 the Government has declared its Forest policy in these terms: The House will excuse my reading the policy declared in a memorandum in 1890.

'That the forest is not to be worked for the profit of the Government, but rather for the benefit of the people. The chief object of reserved forests throughout the great part of the country is the provision of small timber, fuel and leaves for manure. They are to be worked to meet the wants of villagers in this respect and are not to be converted into close preserves for the growth of timber. Generally speaking, the forests must be worked for fuel and fodder.'

"Now, I ask what has become of this policy to-day? We have the sorry spectacle of the village agriculturists not being able to secure green manure or leaf manure. We have again the spectacle of their cattle not being allowed to graze in the forest except on payment of very prohibitive grazing fees. And, so far as valuable timber is concerned, in the case of sandalwood in my district the pattadars are not allowed to deal with it commercially. The Government have taken the monopoly of dealing with sandalwood with the result that when there is depression as there is now, these unfortunate pattadars are not able to sell their produce at a higher price which they can get outside. I would say that these defects must be immediately remedied. In this connexion I would request the hon. Member in charge of Forests to re-constitute the Forest Advisory Committees which were in existence till about 1926 and which for some mysterious reason have been abolished.

"Sir, the reason for my stating that there is a lack of programme in connexion with the Budget is this: Ours is a province depending mainly on agriculture with more than 80 per cent of the population engaged in it. That being the case, rural development schemes must

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be the first concern of the Government. The ideal of one well, one road, one school and one dispensary in each village has not even been thought of in this Budget, not to speak of any provision being made therefor.

"As regards improvement of agriculture, better methods of organization for the marketing and sale of the produce of the agriculturists, better methods of giving aid either by way of co-operative societies or aid to agriculturists' collective farming which are all within the pale of practical politics in other countries, all these things have not been thought of. The Budget has not made any provision even for trial on these lines on a small scale.

"Again, Sir, the results of costly experiments which have been financed have not been sufficiently popularized to the poor agriculturists who are entitled to the benefit of these costly experiments. Methods must be devised to make the results of these experiments available to the agriculturists.

"Sir, in regard to Public Health, I wish to say that preventible diseases such as cholera and smallpox, the incidence of which is almost negligible in other countries which are advanced in the science of public health, claim many victims in our villages. I find no large provision in the Budget to combat these preventible diseases. An expansion in this direction must be provided for in any Budget.

"Regarding the question of starting new industries, our Government I am afraid has been behaving like a person in a guilty frame of mind. Whatever it has touched has failed. Take for instance the Kerala Soap Factory. It shows a deficit in the present Budget of Rs. 20,000. The same was the case with the Jam Factory. The case of the Chenai Nair Forest Exploitation scheme is not different. It has gone into liquidation. We see that the failure of these concerns is due to the unbusinesslike way in which they are managed. They failed because of the heavy administrative expenses and not because there was anything intrinsically wrong with them.

"Sir, there is one other matter of immediate concern to a person like me interested in the labour problem in the city, to which I wish to refer. The Government have not made adequate provision for housing schemes. There was a provision last year of two and a half lakhs for this purpose, but this year the provision for the same has been much reduced. And I am afraid no fresh schemes are to be taken up for housing the labourers in the city."

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"The hon. Member has very much exceeded his time."

* Mr. V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"Looked at from any point of view, either as an agriculturist, or as an industrialist or as an ordinary citizen, I must say that the resources of this Presidency have not been properly husbanded even though the hon. the Finance Member has given the warning that the revenues are inelastic and that nothing more can be expected. This warning must recoil upon his head, because the revenues have been made inelastic by the shortsighted policy of the Government.

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"In conclusion, Sir, I would say that even like any ordinary businessman, the Madras Government must rationalize its administration to make it more economical, businesslike and nationalize its outlook." (Cheers.)

* Mr. C. SATYANARAYANA CHOUDARI:—"Sir, even a cursory glance at the Budget will show that this is a Budget over which the representatives of the people and the people themselves ought to weep and not rejoice. And yet, I am very much amused that, speaker after speaker has risen to congratulate the Finance Member for the Budget that he has presented. Some speakers began with congratulations and ended practically with condemnation of the Budget. Some there are, Sir, like my hon. Friend, Mr. Yakub Hasan, who began with murmurs and complaints and ended with pious hopes and words of peace. The hon. the Finance Member has been described by some as frank, as clever, and as capable. I have absolutely no quarrel with those descriptions of the hon. the Finance Member. I even agree with them. Though I have not known the Finance Member very long and though I had not the good fortune to be here on the 24th of this month when he presented the Budget and made his Budget speech about which so much is said, still, Sir, I would say that the hon. the Finance Member is really capable. Sir, unless he is extraordinarily capable, it would not have been possible for him to hypnotize several Members of this House into a mood of congratulating him over a Budget which, when carefully scrutinized, is found to contain no substance at all from the point of view of the ryots. Sir, it is for this I should congratulate the hon. the Finance Member though I am unable to congratulate him for the Budget he has presented.

"Coming to the Budget I am sorry to say that I feel very strongly about it, because I feel very much the pinch of the Budget. Speaking 12-15 p.m. as a representative of the people, I do feel that the pinch of the Budget is very great. So I do hope that whatever I am going to say by way of criticisms of the Budget will not be misunderstood; I do hope that they will be understood in the spirit in which I am offering them. When I pass these criticisms I mean no disrespect to the hon. the Finance Member. I do feel that the Budget is very disappointing and provoking. It reminds us that we are after all slaves in our own land; it reminds us that we have no control over our own money; it reminds us that, even after the advent of the so-called responsible Government ten years ago, we are, as in the past, hewers of wood and drawers of water in our own homes; and it reminds us that we are no better than the butlers of the Britishers who are not entitled to anything more than the leavings and the remnants and the crumbs of their dinner table. It is this feeling that is roused in me by this Budget. I say this is the position assigned to the ryots in this Budget. This Budget more than one thousand arguments has convinced me that we are even to-day under a delusion of a popular Government.

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"Having said so much about the general nature of the Budget, at the same time I must say that when I am making these criticisms, I am not unaware of the difficulties of the hon. the Finance Member. I am aware that the Montagu-Chelmsford Report provides that the provision for the Reserved Departments shall be the first charge upon the revenues of the Province. I am also aware of the Instrument of Instructions to the Governor which enjoins the Governor to provide first and foremost for the Reserved Departments. But what I do ask the hon. the Finance Member is this. Even in making this provision for the Reserved Departments, should he not keep the interest of the ryots in mind, should he not have framed this Budget in a more humane and sympathetic manner so that some relief may be given to the miserable ryot? I ask the hon. the Finance Member whether he does not know the present condition of the ryots in the Presidency. I ask him whether he does not know that the ryots are heavily indebted and that they are sometimes starving. Does he not know that they are being pressed on the one side by the creditors and on the other by the Government for their dues? If any authority is necessary to show that the condition of the ryots is miserable and pitiable, I may tell him that what he may consider to be his political Bible on Indian matters, viz., the Simon Commission Report, does it. The Simon Report makes a touching reference to the miseries of the Indian ryots. The Royal Commission on Agriculture has also reported to the same effect. That Commission has recommended that special relief ought to be provided for the ryots in the matter of enabling them to get more and more amount under Agricultural Loans Act and Agricultural Improvements Act. The Royal Commission on Agriculture has further recommended that steps ought to be taken to see that the ryots are given more help in matters of irrigation works. I want to know whether the hon. the Finance Member has moved an inch in the way of putting these recommendations into effect.

"Now, Sir, the condition of the ryots I have given, is the condition prior to 1931. His condition to-day is one thousand times worse. Crops have failed. The little crop he has been able to raise does not fetch him good price. The condition of the ryot was graphically described to me in a village thus:—'We ryots are walking on our knees.' That is the condition of the ryot; and a Budget which does not provide for the ryot who is actually on his death-bed is a Budget which cannot get the approval of the representatives of the people.

"Coming to the details of the Budget, it provides for an income of 18 crores. Out of this, $7\frac{1}{2}$ crores are to be realized from taxes on lands. Now, Sir, land is a necessity for more than 75 per cent of the people of this Presidency, and the hon. the Finance Member wants to collect as much as $7\frac{1}{2}$ crores as land revenue. Then the hon. the Finance Member proposes to get about $5\frac{1}{2}$ crores from Excise. Now, Sir, may I ask whether this is the time when Government should take advantage of the evil of drinking habit of the people and raise revenue from that source? To tax the land which is the mainstay of the people and to make money out of the vices of the drinking people are opposed to all sound canons of taxation.

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"The second point that I wish to mention is this: the sources of revenue to the Government are inelastic. While they are showing a tendency of shrinking, the departmental expenditure is growing, so that it is absolutely necessary for the hon. the Finance Member to think here and now and devise ways and means to see that he is able to present a satisfactory Budget. To think of additional taxation now or hereafter is out of question. People are already overtaxed and therefore we cannot agree to any additional taxation. The only way in which you can adjust your Budget is by cutting the provisions made for some of the heads shown in the Budget. For instance, some 40 lakhs of rupees are sought to be spent under Survey and Resettlement Department. Several lakhs of rupees are sought to be spent under the head of General Administration. The hon. the Finance Member can make retrenchments in those directions. He can take steps for the reduction of officers drawing thousands. For instance, in the Civil Budget Estimate presented to us, on page 122, you will find that there were two Indian Aides-de-Camp on Rs. 360 in the year 1930-31. One post has been abolished by way of retrenchment but, another post of an European Aide-de-Camp has been created on a salary of Rs. 960 or so. I am saying this just to show that retrenchment is not made in the right spirit. Retrenchment must be made in the right spirit."

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"The hon. Member has exceeded his time."

* Mr. C. SATYANARAYANA CHOUDARI:—"My hon. Friend, Sir Patro, was saying that there is licence given to every hon. Member who is engaged in Budget discussion to talk on any subject he likes. So I request the hon. the President to allow me to talk on the political situation in our country as this is the proper occasion."

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"The licence must be used within the time prescribed."

* Mr. C. SATYANARAYANA CHOUDARI:—"I will just close in one or two minutes."

"Sir, any discussion on the Budget without reference to the present political situation is incomplete. I want to tell this Government and through them the Government of India and the British Parliament that the people of this country are no longer in a mood to tolerate this irresponsible Government. I want to tell you, Sir, and through you the Government of India and the British Parliament that, unless an effective popular Government is established and unless the demand of the National Congress is satisfactorily and reasonably met, there will not be any more peace in this land. I want to tell this Government and through them the Government of India that, if the present system of Government is to be continued and if a really responsible Government is not to be established, there will be no necessity for us to sit here. We have seen Mr. Wedgwood Benn saying one thing, Lord Russel

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saying a different thing, and Lord Irwin combining both. Mr. Churchill comes in and creates merriment and confusion. Mr. MacDonald cries for peace. We do not know where we are. This sort of thing we are not prepared to tolerate. We want also a sympathetic attempt on the part of our authorities here to solve this problem so that we may have real responsible Government and we may be saved from the infliction of such budgets as this where the interests of the ryots have been callously neglected."

* Mr. V. P. NARAYANAN NAMBIYAR:—"Mr. President, Sir, being new to the Legislative Council, preparatory making to a few remarks to-day I read some of the speeches on prior Budget occasions. That reading has given me an idea of how far such general discussions and what non-official members achieve here affect either the Budget or the policy of the Government. Mr. S. Muthiah Mudaliyar in March 1927 spoke thus on the floor of this House:—

'Now, Mr. President, I have been here in the Council for three years and this is my fourth year. I really doubt the utility of the general discussions we are having here. Every hon. Member in this House is allowed to say what he thinks of the activities of the various departments of the Government, but I am sorry to say all this leaves no impression on the Government.'

"This is the glowing tribute paid to the present system of Government by one who until recently was one of our Ministers. Never mind what others have said or felt; what is the painful experience that we have ourselves had? His Excellency the Governor concluded his address to this Council by saying

'It seems more than probable that this will be the last Council elected under the present system. I would like therefore to express my congratulations to your predecessors who have made the Madras Legislative Council an outstanding success in India and I am convinced that you are determined that this Council shall not fall short of the high standard that they have set.'

"These words were spoken in November last, but within sixty days of this solemn utterance by the present constitutional head of our province the clear and unmistakable verdict of this Council was flouted. There was no change in the policy which this House, backed by Indian opinion of all shades, severely censured on more than one occasion. There is a growing tendency on the part of some Members of this House to blame for all happenings the Indian Members of the Cabinet. But may I, with all respect to the persons who hold that view, submit that Indian Members of the Cabinet are more often sinned against than sinning? Under the present system of Government, nothing can be achieved unless the Britisher feels equally with the Indians. Born in a free country, bred up in a free country, educated in a free country, and sent out by a free country, to help in the destinies of India at a critical period in her history, when all the civilized world over is waiting to welcome as glad tidings of great joy the birth of an emancipated people on the banks of the Ganges, the Britisher must realize that he has a sacred duty to fulfil here.

"Mr. President, Sir, having said so much let me turn to the Budget of this year. The hon. the Finance Member deserves the thanks of this House for the great attention and thought that he has bestowed

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upon the question of steady underestimating of revenue and overestimating of expenditure. As a Member who was privileged to serve on the Public Accounts Committee I have had opportunities to know that special efforts are being made to achieve closer budgeting.

"I would have felt considerably relieved had alongside with this question the Government also tackled the question of bringing land settlement on a permanent basis. The Royal Commission on Decentralization reported that the general principle of assessment should not be left to executive orders. This report of 1909 was ten years later accepted by the Joint Parliamentary Committee; yet nothing has so far been done in that direction. Page 23 of the Budget Memorandum says 'Credit has not been taken for any increase from the introduction of resettlement rates in the Kistna and Godavari districts and in Malabar pending final decision of the Government in the matter.' Thanks for small mercies, and let me trust that in arriving at a decision the Government will keep in mind the present financial stringency and the grinding poverty of the poor ryot.

"Mr. President, Sir, Member after Member of this House has urged 12-30 p.m. upon the Government that future India has to be worked out in villages and not in towns and cities. That is so; and if only the hon. the Finance Member would generously unloose his purse strings when demands relating to rural life are made, I am confident that great results are possible, because in the present Chief Minister we have one who is a good deal interested in rural reconstruction. When on this point, I must urge upon the Government the necessity to examine at the earliest opportunity the question of increased pay to the village officers and village menials.

"Mr. President, Sir, I am glad that Government has decided that in future, so far as Education is concerned, the funds available shall be primarily devoted to the spread of elementary education, but the Government has not yet taken effective measures to make local bodies revise the miserable pay of elementary teachers. The Government must also see that no school which refuses to admit Adi-Dravidas or the so-called depressed classes receives any help either from the Government or local bodies. The sooner Mr. Champion's recommendations are accepted the better it would be for this Presidency.

"There is next the question of reduction of court-fee and stamp duties. In 1922 it was said this was only an emergency measure. But since then it has ever remained to be a theme for discourse. Because of want of time I shall not now further deal with the subject, but shall pass on to press upon the hon. the Law Member the necessity to examine in greater detail the classification, treatment and diet of political prisoners. This is a question which concerns the flower of Indian manhood and womanhood. The heart of all India is in it, and the Government must devote great care to this question. To quote but two instances of wrong classification from my own district. Kurur Neelakantan Nambudripad whose illom pays an assessment of about

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Rs. 15,000 was classified as a 'C' class prisoner. Mr. L. S. Prabhu, an advocate of Tellicherry, was, when he was first convicted, given 'A' class but on second conviction given only 'B' class, though his wife who was convicted a few days previously to him was placed in 'A' class. Here, may I say a word about the non-release of Mr. M. P. Narayana Menon in spite of the unanimous voice of the people of Malabar and the almost unanimous vote of this House? The hon. the Law Member knows the great regard Malabar has for Mr. Narayana Menon. Recently there was an attack on Mr. Narayana Menon. Because I do not want to embarrass the enquiry the Government is making in the matter, I do not at this stage say anything more of the attack. Mr. President, Sir, these are some of the more important points I wish to press upon Government.

"Sooner or later, and let us hope sooner than later, the present system of Government must give way to Swaraj. Every Indian and every Englishman must hasten that change. That is why non-official Members have spoken without reserve; and I appeal to the Government, in the name of humanity and in the name of things that are to come, to accept the position that, in laying down the policy in our country, our say must be fully respected."

* Diwan Bahadur M. GOPALASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"Sir, coming as I do, from what is known as a backward tract, I feel I should not indulge in any academic discussion as to what the financial policy ought to be or what exactly the canons should be that should guide the hon. the Finance Member, in framing the Budget. I shall confine myself to parochial questions. Coming as I do from a famine zone, I am afraid I cannot join in the chorus of congratulations that have been offered to the hon. the Finance Member. Having been connected with one of these areas as District Administrator, I am very sorry to see that the hon. the Finance Member has not realized the distressed condition of those parts and has not devised ways and means to rescue the poor from this distress. With regard to his own pet district, he has been kind enough to allot a sum of 12 lakhs out of the Famine Relief Funds to carry on a project. I do not grudge these famished people these crumbs but I say distinctly that this is certainly a partiality on his part. On account of this partiality of his, I cannot offer any encomiums to him; but on the other hand I have to condemn him, for he has not executed similar projects in adjoining areas. There is one project which would benefit both the Anantapur and Bellary districts, called the Byrathipana channel project. It would need only a small outlay but it would benefit two taluks of Kalyandrug and Rayadrug.

"There is one distressing feature which I find in the memorandum which the hon. the Finance Member has presented. If you turn to paragraph 90, you will see it stated there that, because there is an accumulated reserve of 40 lakhs in the Famine Relief Fund the minimum prescribed by the Devolution Rules, there is no necessity to make any further contribution to that fund. I think, Sir, I must certainly take

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exception to that statement. I do not see any reason why he should not have added the usual quota and utilized the amount to give relief to the afflicted famine zone. So far as the Bellary district is concerned, there is not the slightest doubt that certain parts are really in a depressed condition. When we represented the matter to the Collector that the people should be granted remission, he told us that it is the bounden duty of the ryot to pay his quota of revenue to the Government and that the ryot should feel ashamed and humiliated to ask for such doles. We replied that begging is not the ryot's profession. He is begging owing to circumstances which are beyond his control. Then, the District Administrator, convinced by the force of these remarks agreed for personal inspection, to ascertain whether the ryot is compelled to pay high taxes. If he, after personal inspection, concluded that the ryot said what is not true, then it is certainly shameful and humiliating on his part. If the ryot told the truth and if the District Administrator did not correctly and accurately report these facts, then certainly the shame and the humiliation is on him. If the recommendations made by the Collector are not approved by the Government, then the shame and humiliation is on the Government. These were the words which I used on a public occasion. Then the Collector was pleased to go to the various parts of the district not only on cycle and on horseback, but also in country carts to see for himself whether the story told him was true or not. Four-fifths of the district is certainly willing to pay the assessment. Their only claim now is for the postponement of the payment of the amount to a later period. With regard to one portion of the district, the Collector has made recommendations for remission and if the Government is not pleased to grant the remission, it is not discreditable on the part of the ryot to make the request but it will be discreditable for the Government not to accede to his request. Of course it is a very sorry plight for the ryots of this famine zone to have to come to the Government off and on and ask for such doles. To remedy this humiliating situation the ryots have been asking the Government to redress their grievances once for all by taking up the Tungabhadra scheme. With great gusto it was stated that this project would be taken up. A provision had been made in the Budget for this purpose; a special staff was maintained; an irrigation officer was appointed; a geological expert was asked to go into the question; sites were selected; and a report on this project was sent to the Government. Every ryot was anxiously waiting that the project would be taken up. But what happened? The Government stated later that the Nizam's Government intervened. They said they would not participate in the scheme and therefore it has been put off. Scrutinizing every corner of the Budget, I do not find any provision to give effect to this Tungabhadra project either in part or in whole. As a matter of fact, everything is ready; the sites have been selected; one site is in the Bellary district, in British territory. The Mysore Government has no control over this site; the Nizam's Government are not concerned with this site that has been selected; the site is entirely in British territory and in the Madras Presidency; perhaps one or two villages of the Bombay Presidency

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12-45 p.m. will have to be submerged by this scheme. After all, the Bombay Government is a part of the British Government and there cannot be any difficulty whatsoever in inducing that Government to allow certain villages to be converted into a reservoir. As a matter of fact, I am told that they are already eager and anxious to give effect to this project as they think a certain portion of their territory also will be indirectly benefited by it. This scheme, Sir, was taken on hand as a result of the report submitted by the Ceded Districts Irrigation Committee—I was also a member of it. We spent very many days on it and my hon. Friend, Diwan Bahadur R. N. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar, was the chairman. We submitted a report modifying in very many ways the original scheme and made it a modest scheme as far as possible, and yet it is still being put off on the plausible pretext of opposition by the Nizam's Government. Supposing the Nizam's Government respond and are willing to participate in the scheme, then the site to be selected would certainly be a different one. I know that they are really eager, anxious and zealous about it, and in that case, I think, we can participate in that scheme as it will afford relief to several other areas of several districts. Anyway, there is no reason why the present scheme should be postponed. I think unfortunately the real truth is this: I am afraid the policy of the Madras Government has been, 'unto him that hath shall be given, from him that hath not, shall be taken away.' Because the Mettur project has been inaugurated, because money is wanted for its progress, they want to put off in some way or other all the other schemes. That is, I think, the real reason why the Tungabhadra project is being shelved.

"If, however, finance stands in the way, I am sure money will be coming in. The hon. the Finance Member tells us in this memorandum that the Government of India would object to the raising of a loan and that even if we were allowed to raise one, the interest that would have to be paid would be enormous. I may assure him, Sir, both in my individual capacity and speaking on behalf of the Ceded districts—I may not only assure him, but I may assure the hon. the Revenue Member also—that the required finance will be easily forthcoming from the Ceded districts themselves, if a loan is floated. Certainly, a sufficient amount of loan can be realised at a good rate of interest. (The hon. Mr. H. G. Stokes: 'What would be the rate of interest?') I have not the slightest doubt that if a rate of 6 per cent is announced, provided the money is to be utilized for this project, an enormous sum will be forthcoming very soon. The trouble however is this: I think the Government are not realizing the terrible effects of famine. It is impossible to estimate in rupees, annas and pies the tremendous loss of life of cattle and men. As a matter of fact all money spent on famine relief will be negligible when you compare it to the sufferings and great loss of life as a result of the ravages of famine.

"I am afraid I am exceeding the time-limit. All that I want to say is this: the hon. the Finance Member might have consulted his colleagues both on his right and on his left; and should have budgeted for the usual contribution to the Famine Relief Fund, so that it might

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be of use for affording the necessary relief to the poor and distressed in the way of remissions and also in the way of writing off takavi loans which are cruelly burdensome on the ryots, so far at least as Ceded districts are concerned. If I were to unfold the tale of these takavi loans, Sir, probably hon. Members here will stand aghast. The way in which the takavi loans are being used is really peculiar, and I will take one minute more to allude to it briefly. The person who takes a takavi loan of, say Rs. 100, does not utilize any portion of it whatsoever. The amount is supposed to have been lent to the man for improvement of his land; but, as a matter of fact, it will be astonishing to the Members here when I say that a civilized Government such as ours is encouraging the advance of such loans by a procedure, according to which about 25 per cent is taken away by the middleman, another 25 per cent by the village sowcar, a third 25 per cent by us lawyers, and the remaining 25 per cent is taken away by the widowed mother or some other elderly member of the family for performing ceremonies. The loan is not utilized for any famine relief at all, and yet it is called a famine relief measure. For my part, I do not know why these loans should not be written off completely and why the hon. the Finance Member should sit tight over the accumulated reserve of Rs. 40 lakhs in the Famine Relief Fund, like the *Adishesha* of old—as our Puranas say—and should not help the half-starved people by writing off these loans out of this amount by getting the necessary permission from the Imperial Government."

* Mr. R. M. PALAT:—"Mr. President, Sir, I am afraid I cannot join the other Members in congratulating the hon. the Finance Member on his presentation of these Budget estimates. The whole of the Budget seems to be a patch-work affair, just with a view to tide over the current financial year. His speech does not deal with the question why the present low prices have come to stay or why there is such great depression in all industries. It is quite possible that the present low prices may continue indefinitely. For instance we see Russia is organizing her industries on a large scale and she has already started dumping her goods on other countries, forcing the latter to protect themselves by legislation, and if there should be an attempt by a great armed power to dump goods on us, an attempt backed by a demand from our own people to buy in the cheapest market I do not think that India would be in a position to resist. Such being the case, we must not look forward to a state of things when the present low prices will discontinue. One of our most important sources of revenue, the excise revenue, would seem to be steadily going down and perhaps in course of time—if we take the sense of this House into consideration we shall soon have a permanent settlement of land—our other main source of revenue, the land revenue, would cease to expand. So it would have been wise for the Government to anticipate the reduction in income and the normal expenditure which a future Government will have to meet and adjust their expenditure accordingly. The Government had a splendid opportunity of doing this in March 1930 when they had a

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surplus of more than 5 crores. Instead of doing that, they have dissipated almost the whole of that surplus with the result that we are this year faced with a deficit. Although the hon. the Finance Member says that the times are not favourable for borrowing, still, is that a sufficient excuse for diverting part of our reserve towards capital expenditure which should properly be met by borrowing and leave this legacy of deficit to the future Reformed Government which may come into existence in a year or two? I think that the surplus which we had, along with the remission of the provincial contribution, has thoroughly demoralized the administration and helped them to fall into the habit of framing loose budgets. That it is quite possible to budget for reduced expenditure is evident from the following figures—I am not quite sure of these figures, they are merely approximate, and would like to be corrected if I am wrong. In the year 1898 the total expenditure for the province was about Rs. 418 lakhs and it rose to Rs. 828 lakhs in the year previous to the war. It remained more or less steady till the end of the war and the Reforms came into existence, and from Plate I on page 9 of the memorandum that has been supplied to us, it is seen that the expenditure in 1920-21 was Rs. 1,176 lakhs and it rose in the year 1929-30 to 1,726 lakhs. If the expenditure is to rise like this and so rapidly with the result that we have not enough money even for necessary expenditure, I do not know how we can entrust these people with looking after the financial administration of the province.

“Again, the hon. the Finance Member in his speech mentioned that owing to the Civil Disobedience Movement the Government has had to incur a lot of expenditure. Have we in any country of the world except in India, heard that the people, if they wish, should not boycott foreign cloth and foreign goods? And what is the effect? If there is peaceful picketing of foreign goods, then the police interfere and we are further charged with the expenditure required for the upkeep of the police force.

“Then again, soon after the war broke out, a commission was appointed to increase the scale of allowances and salaries of the Civil Service and other officers in view, it was said, of the increased cost of living; but we do not find the Government coming forward now with proposals, in view of the current low prices, for any decrease in their pay. I believe that in all fairness, there should be a reduction of salaries all round by 50 per cent, beginning at the top and a stop should be put to any officer drawing any allowance beyond his pay from the revenues collected from out of the pockets of half-starved peasants. The present Budget shows a provision of about Rs. 56,000 for the construction of a bungalow for a District Judge at Rajahmundry and another at Berhampur for a subdivisional officer at a cost of Rs. 14,500. I understand there was also a proposal before the Finance Committee for constructing two bungalows in Madras for junior civilians at a cost of about Rs. 90,000. The hon. the Revenue Member has so budgeted that no money could be found for nation-building purposes; and yet we see

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money being wasted on the construction of buildings for the benefit of people who are already overpaid and who are in a position to fix their own pay, without reference to the popular will.

“The Board of Revenue is being maintained at a cost of Rs. 1,65,000 a year and many people have attacked its continuance for a very long time; but nothing has been done so far for abolishing it. The Government do not seem to take any notice of any proposal which will in any way affect or reduce the salaries or the number of their officers. I would suggest that only the minimum number required by statute of Indian civilians and the minimum number of Europeans should be employed in this Presidency and that all other posts should be filled from the provincial services, so that we may be in a position to do as we please with them and get rid of them whenever we find that they are not doing any good to the province and so that we may be in fact masters in our own house to the extent that we can under the present conditions.

“Sir, yesterday, we heard Sir Patro speaking against the Government undertaking industrial schemes and then we heard certain other Members saying that the modern tendency is for Governments to nationalize industries. I do not see why when other people are willing to finance such enterprises and especially when the Government is hard up for money, there should be any necessity for Government taking over these enterprises. There is, no doubt, a stage in the development of nations when the Government should and can take over industries, but that stage is only when we have a surplus budget. It is only when we are in a position to compare our country in the matter of social reform with a country like, say, Denmark, that the Government should start taking over the industries of the country. We have not provided for our sick, or our aged, nor have we yet opened workhouses to provide for the poor.

“There is another point, on which at least I believe the Government has, to some extent, accepted the view of the Opposition. Yesterday my hon. Friend, Mr. Parthasarathi Ayyangar, spoke about the institution of village temples and other places of worship and we find in the Budget there is a provision of about Rs. 4,000 or Rs. 5,000 a year for a mullah in Malappuram. The Government evidently intend starting with a mosque. The only thing that is lacking in the Budget is the provision of funds for the distribution of prasadam. With these few words, I close my remarks.”

* Mr. M. A. MANIKKAVELU NAYAKAR:—“Mr. President, Sir, I am glad that the hon. the Finance Member has at least now begun in right earnest to tackle the financial problem. In doing so, I may say he has done that with a certain amount of carefulness and shrewdness of a good housewife. Sir, in pursuance of that policy, I would have wished that he had given an alternative picture of the Budget by way of retrenchment and cutting down of the expenditure. No doubt, there is some difficulty in that, because sanction for giving effect to such a scheme of wholesale and all-round reduction in the expenditure on establishment, salaries and travelling allowances of highly-paid

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officials has to be looked for elsewhere, but he could at least have given us that picture so that we can think about it and see whether in the future at least we cannot devise some means of meeting that problem. Sir, taking a rapid view of the figures now and about ten years before, we can hope to arrive at a proper outlook of the picture. Sir, the year 1929-30 opened with a balance of 539.73 lakhs and the year 1931-32 will open with a balance of 283.23 lakhs and the year 1931-32 is expected to close with a balance of about two crores of rupees after paying some of our debts due to the Central Government and also after meeting some of our deficits in the previous years.

"Taking again the debts for the previous years, we see that in 1924-25 we had 1,266.46 lakhs and in 1930-31 we had a debt of 1,549.15 lakhs, an increase of 564.03 during the period. There has also been an increase in expenditure if we compare 1924-25 with 1930-31. During this period, the increase in revenue is only 200 lakhs, whereas the increase in expenditure is about 386 lakhs, that is, about 38 lakhs in excess of the provincial contribution. During that period, we have not only increased our debts, but also have been spending more than our revenues warranted. I wish to know what steps were seriously taken during that time to lessen expenditure or to increase the revenue, so that there can be a balanced Budget. As far as I know, no serious attempt was taken to probe into that problem with a view to solve it.

"We are now on the threshold of further Reforms, which will in turn inflict on us larger expenditure and therefore it is well we take stock of the situation and find out means as to how to balance our Budget. In this connexion, we have to bear three important factors in mind. Firstly, we have to cut down our expenditure very radically and in an all-round fashion and for this the present time also is very propitious. The economic depression in the country has made the price of foodstuffs go down very low, and it is at this time that any reduction in the salaries of highly-paid officials will not work great hardship on them and therefore it will be well that we look into that question. No doubt, that is a big question which the Local Government by itself cannot solve, but they can at least make a start by finding out ways and means of how to meet that problem and recommend to the higher authorities as to the lines on which they propose to effect retrenchments. Secondly, if there is a possibility, we must look into the question of raising taxation. As for raising the present level of taxation, one of the great sources of taxation, namely, that of land revenue, is completely blocked. Already the land-tax is a very heavy burden on the rural population and has reached the maximum limit and we cannot for one moment think of further raising it. On the other hand, we may have to look towards the reduction of the assessment. Reduction in assessment is also quite justified if we take into account the fact that the large impost of over 3½ crores by the Central Government was remitted. At the time when the provincial contribution was raised, it was done substantially by means of raising the land-tax. One would naturally expect, now that the remission of the provincial contribution has become a settled fact,

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this amount should go to the benefit of the rural population, but instead of that the Government have been utilizing that big amount of 3½ crores towards meeting the deficits and paying our debt charges and other such items. As a matter of fact, the rural population are quite justified in demanding that that amount should be utilized for their betterment or for the reduction of land-tax. If any reduction in the land-tax is not feasible, at least we can find out ways and means of ameliorating the condition of the rural population.

"The next factor is that of Excise revenue. We are now getting five crores of rupees by way of Excise revenue and I should think that the Council is now decided to forego that revenue in course of time and we have to find means of meeting that large deficit. If that policy is going to be effective at all, we have to employ a preventive staff to prevent illicit manufacture and distribution of liquor. For that, at least on a rough estimate, a crore of rupees will be necessary. That comes to about six crores. How are you going to find that money? Is it by additional taxation? Of course, that is one method and the other is by reduction of expenditure. If it is going to be done by increasing taxation, it can only be done by taxing other sources than land revenue. The other is by an all-round reduction. Perhaps, as I have already said, that is out of the purview of the Local Government, but yet the Local Government can examine it and make recommendations in that behalf.

"I may just say one word to the hon. the Chief Minister. Now according to the new Local Boards Act, in a very short time there is going to be fresh elections all over the Presidency and already the different districts are being divided into taluk areas for the return of members. It has come to my notice that in certain districts the division of areas or the distribution of seats to various communities is not conducted on any definite principle. In one case, they adopt the principle of population and in another case the principle of revenue, whichever suits the party in power. Therefore, I specially request the hon. the Chief Minister to go into the matter fully and if necessary to give due instruction to the Inspector of Local Boards to see that justice is done in all cases and, if injustice is manifest in certain cases, to set right that injustice.

"One word to the hon. the Home Member. No doubt, there is no lathi charge now and there need not be so much heat in the discussion. I do not know whether the lathi charge has been stopped on account of any pressure brought to bear by the hon. the Home Member or whether instructions have come from elsewhere. At any rate, it is a welcome change. The lathi charge has been first changed into cane beating and then into raiding; but during the last two or three days, even that had been stopped. I hope he will have the tact and courage to push that policy and not repeat his former tactless policy."

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* Mr. K. P. RAMAN MENON:—"Mr. President, Sir, I have to express my disappointment at the deficit Budget which has been presented by the hon. the Finance Member. It is not a Budget which inspires hope nor one which expires hope either. It is evident from reading through the Budget that the hon. the Finance Member, as he himself says in his speech, has followed a game of wait and see. I may say that it is a little more than that and I would call it a budget of despondency. Running through the whole of the Budget, we can more or less judge that it is the result of the present political situation in the country. Perhaps the hon. the Finance Member is not willing to come to grips with the situation and to find out ways and means of eradicating the evils that have crept into the system. We are on the eve of great constitutional changes and he perhaps does not want to initiate any particular departure in the matter of policy that has been laid down by his predecessors in office.

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p.m.

"One thing that I have been able to discover in the Budget is that he has made a *bona fide* endeavour to avoid underestimation of the income and overestimation of the expenditure. That, no doubt, rounds to his credit. But I must say when he comes to the question of expenditure he has not taken pains as to how best to reduce expenditure. I submit a *bona fide* attempt should be made to reduce to a certain extent the salary of officials which was raised a few years ago when prices were ruling high. I submit that, if the pay of all officers drawing a salary of Rs. 200 and above is reduced, say, by 12½ per cent or 10 per cent, there will be a large saving; and if you are able to do that, this will to a great extent reduce the deficit.

"With reference to prohibition, either enter into it wholeheartedly or drop it altogether. That is what I will say to the hon. Minister for Excise. There is no use of camouflaging in a country whose inhabitants are mainly Hindus and Muhammadans, whose religious tenets put a stricture on drink. Therefore I would submit to Government to tackle it wholeheartedly or to drop it altogether, and not to resort to subterfuges. Well, if you are going to tackle it wholeheartedly and if you are going to have prohibition I ask 'Have Government found out other sources of income to meet the demands of administration?' In this connexion I would submit to the Government, even at the risk of incurring the displeasure of my zamindari friends, to impose a sort of succession duty, whenever an heir succeeds to the estate, on all estates yielding an income of Rs. 10,000 and more. I suggest this because I do recognize it is a very great strain upon the capacity of the Government to go on as they now are doing. Therefore I put forward this suggestion while considering the question of prohibition.

"Coming to the question of Education, last year I made a suggestion, in the course of discussion on the Adi-Dravida education, to have a separate department to take charge of the education of the Adi-Dravidas altogether. There is a separate department which tackles the problem of European education. And so, why not you have an

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officer in charge of the education of the Adi-Dravidas? There is no use of accusing the caste-Hindus of refusing to admit these people into their schools. For the fact must be borne in mind that this spirit of theirs is the work of generations and so it cannot be got rid of easily. Such being the case, it is to the credit of Government that they have succeeded so far, more so when the caste-Hindus do not see eye to eye with them in the matter of education. Therefore, what I would suggest is to have a particular officer in charge of the education of the Adi-Dravidas, to start schools exclusively for them, to train Adi-Dravida teachers and to infuse into them the sense of responsibility, the sense of individuality and the sense of independence. Unless you do this, you cannot hope to succeed in your effort. So, you must tackle the problem wholeheartedly, and unless you elevate their position in the society in the manner suggested above, you will not be able to solve the problem at all. If my suggestion is to be adopted, you can begin with a district first; and to avoid any charge of partiality you can arrange the districts in an alphabetical order and begin, say, with Anantapur, and then go on with each district.

"With reference to one other question, I desire to make some remarks. So eminent a gentleman as Sir Patro said that the utility works may be left to private enterprise. I certainly differ from him on this matter. With reference to electricity it is the aim of all civilized countries to nationalize it and unless you have the support of the Government, I wonder how you can nationalize it. Last year I asked about the development of certain electricity schemes in Malabar and the only answer I received was that they were being scrutinized. I would like to have more light thrown on that.

"Then Government are differentiating between what are called educative works and commercial works. For example, there is the Kerala Soap Works. If you want to run it as an educative work, you should not look at its financial aspects; you should not see whether it is run on profit. But if you want to see that it is a success from the commercial point of view, then it is up to you to see that it works successfully. On the same footing stands also forest exploitation. If you want to place before the public specimens of forest produce other than those that are in actual use, then certainly you should run the project as an experiment, and it is up to you to find out what species of produce can be utilized by the public. I want to know how Government view these projects. I do not want to traverse the very very wide field covered in the Budget, but I will close my remarks with requesting the Government to look to the elevation of the depressed classes on the lines suggested by me."

* Subedar-Major S. A. NANJAPPA Bahadur:—"Mr. President, Sir, I join in the chorus of congratulations to the hon. the Finance Member upon the lucid Budget that he has presented and upon the general satisfactory proposals that he has made. In spite of the economies which he seems to have effected I notice that he has allotted two lakhs of rupees for the propaganda in favour of

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temperance. I consider that this is an unnecessary item of expenditure, and that besides giving some work to some of the unemployed persons, it does no good whatsoever to the bulk of the people. The money might be better utilized on rural sanitation and water-supply. The town of Salem has for a long time been notorious for want of good drinking water and certain water-works which were constructed a few years ago at a huge cost to the municipality and a burden to the taxpayer have proved a failure. I have been asking the Government ever since I entered this Council to make arrangements for a satisfactory supply of good drinking water to Salem town from Mettur dam. Last year things were so grave not only in the town of Salem, but in the whole district that thousands would have migrated, but for the fact that the Heavens themselves took pity and brought down unexpected and abundant rains at an unusual period of the year, namely, the beginning of May. Though the Mettur dam is being constructed on the borders of Salem, the district has nothing to gain by its construction. The Government have from time to time stated that it would be possible to bring in good drinking water from the Mettur dam to Salem town, thereby benefiting not only Salem town, but also a number of villages between Mettur and Salem. No further delay should be made in working out this scheme and no expenditure should be treated as too much for the purpose of saving the thousands of suffering inhabitants for want of good drinking water. It is a matter of life and death for Salem town. I request therefore that Government would be pleased to go ahead and see that good drinking water is brought from the Cauvery at Mettur as soon as possible.

"The Salem Municipality is in a state of chronic poverty with the result that the sanitary condition of Salem is neglected. Sir, if you go to Salem you will see the streets are stinking. No drains are made. Although there is a staff to look after this, they cannot do anything in the matter because of the bad condition of the drains. Consequently there is a periodical visit of diseases in the town every year. Hon. Members will be surprised to hear that at present there is cholera prevalent in the town and all this is due to the bad condition of the sanitary arrangements. So, I request the Government to make a liberal grant to the municipality for purposes of better looking after this elementary duty of theirs.

"I am thankful to the Government and to the hon. the Education Minister for having expedited affairs regarding the college site. I hope that the college will be placed upon stable foundations and that the Madras University would not any longer think of disaffiliating that college. This is an important institution with great traditions behind it and it has been a source of many advantages not only to the people of Salem town, but to the whole population of the Salem district and its neighbouring districts. Every effort therefore should be made to stabilize this institution.

"Turning to the Military side, myself, my father and grandfather were in the military. (Hear, hear.) I have given notice of

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a resolution to be brought forward into this Council to raise at least ten active *Infantry Battalions* in this Presidency consisting of all Madrasis. I may mention here that some time back there were sixty Madras Regiments and when I entered the army some 38 years ago there were 30 Madras Regiments, whereas to-day there are only one Sappers and Miners and three Pioneer Battalions. I don't understand why such a reduction should be made, when India is going to have Dominion Status before long, and this province must share with the other provinces in the matter of military strength and hence I believe and hope that this Government will recommend to the Government of India to raise these battalions. It will not be out of place to mention here that Madras Regiments were faithful to the British Crown and that they fought many a battle in and out of India for the British from the beginning the East India Company placed her foot on this soil. I will also mention that the bravery and help rendered by these Madras Battalions during the Indian Mutiny of 1857 cannot be forgotten.

"As the time allotted to me is nearing its close, I will reserve the rest of my speech to the time when my resolution comes before the Council."

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"The House will now adjourn and re-assemble at 2-30 p.m."

After Lunch (2-30 p.m.)

* Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—"Mr. President, I agree with my Friend, Mr. Narayanan Nambiyar, who said, quoting the previous speakers, that there is hardly any use wasting our time in making general remarks on the Budget, which practically have no effect whatsoever. I personally feel and if possible I would suggest that the Standing Orders and the Rules of the Council should be so amended as to include these three days also in the days allotted for the detailed voting of grants. Probably that will be more useful and we will be in a position to exercise more effective control than has been the case hitherto. Already the maximum of 12 days allotted has been found to be insufficient and now this year only 11 days have been allotted by His Excellency. I would urge that not only the full 12 days (maximum) should be allotted for the purpose of voting on grants, but also three more days, i.e., the three days which are now reserved for the general discussion should be transferred over for the voting of the various grants.

"I am glad that the hon. the Finance Member has appreciated and tried in a way to give effect to the remarks of the Auditor-General, the Accountant-General and also the reports of the various Public Accounts Committees on previous occasions and in particular of the current year. But, Sir, I find all the same that not very effective reduction has been made on the expenditure side; nor is there any great difference shown in the receipts columns. Receipts have continued to be more or less the same for all these ten years, although there has been admittedly systematic underestimating of the revenues. And similarly on the expenditure side, there has been the same features of overestimation.

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The expenditure of last year, and that during each of the previous ten years is the same as the expenditure of the next Budget year. Now, Sir, if the hon. the Finance Member had been a little more alert and had been more interested in seeing that the expenditure is reduced, he should have or at least he could have reduced the expenditure by cutting down lump sums out of the estimates prepared and passed by the various departments. I find, Sir, that in all these ten years with the exception of three years, there has been a continuous, and systematic surplus in the revenues. The three years when there was a deficit are 1922, 1923 and 1924. In these years there was a deficit because this Provincial Government had to contribute large sums of money by way of contribution to the Government of India. But when once remissions were made of those provincial contributions, it was expected that the Government would do something to reduce taxation. It was always urged on the floor of this House that there was no justification for continuing the present scales of taxation, particularly the court-fees, the stamp fees and the registration charges which had been raised pretty long ago, even after we had the provincial contributions remitted. Now all these five years since the provincial contribution have been remitted to this Government, instead of reduction of expenditure and reduction of taxes, the taxes and the revenues have been growing on *pari passu*. I do not know, Sir, what exactly are the items which consumed these 348 lakhs of remission. I hope the hon. the Finance Member will agree with me when I suggest to him to institute an enquiry by a Committee to find out where these 348 lakhs have gone. There has been no reduction of taxation and no reduction of expenditure. All the revenues have been going on expanding as the figures show for the last one decade. I therefore hope, Sir, that the hon. the Finance Member will agree to institute a Committee to find out how these 348 lakhs have been merged in the revenues and how they have been expended.

"I find, Sir, from the statement of the hon. Finance Member that only 38 lakhs have been provided for Part II new schemes for the next year. It is rather surprising and disappointing that there should have been only 38 lakhs provided for Part II schemes and out of those 38 lakhs it is a pity that a good portion has been taken away by the services which require drastic retrenchment. It has always been felt by the Treasury Bench that hon. Members on the Opposition side make very vague general suggestions with regard to retrenchment, and that they do not make any concrete suggestions so as to enable the Government to proceed on definite lines. I would suggest, Sir, that there is enough possibility for retrenchment in the Revenue department in the districts. They can certainly show reduction of establishment there. I may give one instance, namely, that of the Deputy Collectors. I consider the Deputy Collectors are too many in the districts. The duties which these Deputy Collectors have been performing for ages have been taken away by various departments which have since come into existence, for instance, the Labour Department, the Income-tax Department and so many other departments. These have taken away a good portion of the

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duties which were once performed by the Deputy Collectors. The Deputy Collectors in different districts are so many and I should say that they have not got enough work.

"So also, Sir, the hon. the Home Member will listen if he pleases, when I say, that in the districts in the Police Department there is a surplus of hands. The Deputy Superintendents of Police are in many cases only supernumerary; they are superfluous. A large number of the duties that were being performed by the Deputy Superintendents of Police are now taken away by Inspectors, Sub-Inspectors and other officers appointed by the Government. I should think if a Committee is instituted to go into the Police Services as a whole, it will no doubt recommend much retrenchment among the cadre of Deputy Superintendents. One will be enough for a district instead of so many for various circles, or divisions in the same district. I know various Deputy Collectors and Deputy Superintendents who have no work for more than two or three hours a day. I do not want to mention specific cases until the time comes, but would only say that if the Government are sincere and if they want to test the truth of the non-official Members' statements, let them institute a Committee to go into the question and they will find that much retrenchment can be effected that way.

"A sum of 38 lakhs have been provided for Part II schemes, but nearly three lakhs of recurring expenditure has been swallowed up by the Police department. I ask, Sir, what is the necessity for further strengthening the Police department unless it be that you show racial discrimination and show that Indians are not competent but that European or Anglo-Indian sergeants alone are competent to man the services. Enhancement is proposed in the salaries of the sergeants in the Reserve when there is no necessity for it. The Malabar Special Police is manned by jamadars and subadars with military training. Malabar Police is said to be an efficient police. Then why should you increase the salaries of Anglo-Indian and European sergeants or Inspectors, who are not half as efficient as the military-trained men of the Malabar Special Police. I consider, Sir, that the expenditure proposed in Part II schemes for the police especially in the Reserve is thoroughly unjustified not only from the point of view of efficiency but also on the ground of the policy that is now being pursued by the hon. the Home Member. The Home Member may gloat over his popularity among the non-Muslims. But I say, Sir, that not even a single non-Muslim in this Presidency approves of his policy or action. He may be personally a good friend to many, and I do not question that. But as Home Member his administration of the police and the other departments under his charge is a deplorable failure. I will go to the extent of saying that. But no Government Member, no bureaucrat dare face an impartial enquiry as to his administration or actions or his policy.

"Next, Sir, I want to refer to the policy of the Ministers in regard to Industries. Time and again this House has taken up cudgels against the Minister in charge of Industries for not putting the department in the charge of a technically qualified gentleman. The Directors of

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Industries have always been recruited from the Provincial Service and they have followed not one single policy but different policies. There have always been changes in policy and at no time has any single policy been continuously given effect to in the Industries department. And this feature of the Industries department, viz., the lack of continuity of policy is indeed deplorable. In this department, Part II Schemes have got only Rs. 3,900 for recurring and Rs. 15,800 for non-recurring expenditure. This is how the Industries department fares. When the handloom weaving industry could have been developed by leaps and bounds and when the whole cloth market could have been captured by the handloom weaving industry, only Rs. 3,900 are provided as recurring expenditure for the Industries department. The policy of the Industries department deserves serious and urgent revision and I hope the hon. Minister will certainly take serious steps to see that the Director of Industries is not, as is usual, recruited from the Provincial Service, but quite independently of that service, by getting a gentleman with technical qualifications and also a man of experience so that he may be in a position to direct the policy of the various branches under him rather than recruiting him from the ranks of people who are not competent to discharge their duties but merely draw salaries and mark time.

"Sir, the Government have not come forward with any relief for the poor. In this province the necessity for poor relief has become more and more pressing, and it has been years since the amelioration of the poor and the homeless, and the consideration of housing schemes in this Presidency were brought to the notice of the Government. The Government have not moved a single inch in the matter of housing the poor in the city of Madras and in the other municipalities and in the local board areas where hundreds and thousands of people are living in the shades of trees for ever without ever having even a hut to live in.

"The hon. the Finance Member stated at page 10 of his memorandum that 'the decision of the Government based on a resolution passed by the Legislative Council to limit the maximum enhancement of assessments at resettlements to 18½ per cent has retarded the growth of revenue under this head while the scope for extension of cultivation is limited.' I consider that he is right in saying that the scope for extension of cultivation is limited but how can that be raised unless the Government themselves reduce expenditure and spend more money on unproductive works also? The Government's policy seems to be to spend money only on productive irrigation systems or systems which would result in profit. If the Government want cultivation to be extended, they ought to relax the rule of not spending money on unproductive schemes. They must spend money with a view to extension of cultivation but they should not in all cases look to merely interest and profit on their schemes. It is only then that there would be ample scope for extension of cultivation, which in turn would bring them increased revenue."

2-45 P.m. * Mr. K. KESAVA RAMAMURTI NAYUDU:—"Taking the Budget Estimates for the last one decade into consideration, we will find that the

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receipts have not been able to keep pace with the expenditure. In 1920-21 the receipts were 1,587 lakhs and the expenditure was about 1,175 lakhs. In 1931-32 the total revenue is estimated to be 1,762.72 lakhs and the expenditure 1,772.17 lakhs. We find that the receipts have gone up by nearly two crores and the expenditure by six crores. What is the cause of this phenomenon of expenditure running at such a giddy pace compelling its yoke-fellow the receipt-side also to pull along with it? It is nothing but the top-heavy administration—a monstrosity peculiar to India. The administration can be compared to a huge tree with its branches spreading far and wide, with a wealth of leaf and flower and fruit; but the person who tills, manures and waters it, sits moping under its shade and starves. All the unnecessary and superfluous branches are to be lopped off. Retrenchment in the several departments is absolutely necessary to bring down the expenditure to a wholesome level. The savings thus effected might be advantageously utilized for nation-building purposes like sanitation, village reconstruction, compulsory elementary education, the improvement of agriculture and the development of industries.

"Now as regards the Land Revenue I wish to say a few words. On the receipt side we find it estimated at Rs. 766 lakhs and the Government have counted on a betterment of 20½ lakhs over the revised estimate for the current year. I wish to point out that on account of the abnormal slump in prices the ryot's income will fall by about 50 per cent on all kinds of agricultural produce. He is already heavily involved in debt and in many cases he is reduced to a state of bankruptcy. He borrows money at a high rate of interest and invests it on the cultivation work with the hope of paying it back after he markets his goods. The money he now realizes will not suffice to cover even the cultivation expenses. Some of us, the Members of the East Godavari, West Godavari and Kistna districts waited on deputation on the hon. the Revenue Member, some time back and represented to him that on account of the failure of crops and fall in prices some remission should kindly be given to the ryots where necessary and the collection of kists should be distributed over five instalments instead of three. But the January kists were collected and no concession was shown to the ryots. On the top of this, enhanced resettlement rates were recommended and a resolution was passed at the last session of this Council that those recommendations should not be given effect to. Now an Economic Enquiry Committee is constituted to go into the whole matter once again. I am sorry that my Friend, Mr. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar, an authority on the question, is not placed on it. I hope the Committee will not prove to be an ostentatious futility, but will be a beneficent agency and will go into the matter with a sympathetic solicitude and relieve the poor ryot of the proposed additional and insupportable burden.

"As regards the Irrigation schemes, nothing is so far done for the Andhra districts, except the Polavaram Island project which costs very little compared with the Mettur and the Pykara projects. It is these two projects that are gorging themselves full and are leaving the other districts flaccid and dry. There is Coringa project; there is Torrigadda

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project and these have not been taken up so far. We are not jealous of the southern districts, but we want that the Andhra districts should be treated fairly and equitably.

"This year the lanka ryots have suffered enormous losses. On account of the high floods in the Godavari in the latter part of last year many lankas were submerged. Sowings could not be done in time. The tobacco crop was a poor one of dwarfed growth and it was also eaten up by pest and destroyed by disease. Their kists fall due in this month and some amelioration will have to be given to them by way of remission.

"Now coming to Education, Cocanada wants badly a high school for girls. Many of the girls reading in higher forms go to either the Mission High School or to Pithapur Raja's College or to the girls' schools at Rajahmundry or Vizagapatam. There are two Higher Elementary schools for girls in the town and the Government are paying them nearly a subsidy of about Rs. 6,000. One school can be abolished and the other can be converted into a high school which in the first year would cost about Rs. 6,000 per year and when it becomes a full blown high school would not cost more than Rs. 11,000 per year. The scheme was drawn up during the time of Sir. A. P. Patro's Ministry, but it was eventually dropped. I request the hon. the Minister to supply this long-felt want of the city.

"The Police as usual comes to a large share of the expenditure. The Police seem to have lost the cunning of detecting crimes which is rampant in the cities even under their very noses which snore at nights. They are all alert when they see a white cap and brandish scientifically the lathis and bruise the backs and break the bones of the picketers. Sometimes those who wear khaddar are chased and beaten. Belief in Swadeshi as one of the means of achieving economic redemption for the country constitutes a crime. Police excesses have become the order of the day. Praise bestowed upon them for their exploits is flustering them and brutalizing their nature. In the interests of ushering in an atmosphere of peace and goodwill, this kind of repression must be put a stop to.

"As regards Medical, a new site was acquired in an excellent locality at a cost of Rs. 72,000 and no building grant was made for the construction of the Cocanada Government Hospital. The present hospital is far from the town and the in-patient ward is quite insufficient. It is the good fortune of Cocanada to be getting very efficient District Medical Officers and the hospital has become very popular. I request that the Government be pleased to see that the estimates for the building are soon prepared, its construction is speedily started and necessary funds are provided therefor. It is extremely disappointing to see that nothing more is provided for the Andhra University, than the annual recurring grant of Rs. 1,50,000. It is in its infancy and claims the careful nurture from the Government. Site has yet to be acquired and buildings constructed for the University purposes. We expected a liberal grant from the Government, but it is not forthcoming."

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* Rai Sahib C. KOLANDA REDDI:—"Mr. President, Sir, I am a novice to this Council. In fact this is the first time I enter its portals. So I was wondering as to what to say on this occasion. Luckily my hon. Friend, Sir Patro, veteran councillor, came to my rescue. He ordained that this is an occasion when each member has a licence to travel from China to Peru. Now, Sir, I have been very carefully observing what the previous speakers have said. I am glad to say that they have almost traversed the whole distance from China to Peru so much so that I am afraid that I have not much to say now. Sir, although this Council is housed in this magnificent hall with its tapestries, upholstered seats, lovely fans and lovelier lights, the atmosphere here is not real. I am sorry, Sir, the atmosphere here does not correspond to the atmosphere outside, either in the City or in the mufassal. I am afraid, Sir, that the atmosphere here is hollow. Now let me explain my meaning. In this House there is not much of that sympathy which you expect. In this House we, non-official members, do not have opportunities to represent our grievances, to give expression to our wants and to reflect public opinion. Now, Sir, in cases where we represent our grievances there is no response at all to it. With your permission, Sir, I shall illustrate my point. Just at the beginning of this session, as you know new brooms sweep well, we members tabled a number of resolutions and I am glad to say that most of them have been balloted for discussion. But unfortunately no time was allotted at the beginning of the session for non-official business. I am afraid, Sir, it is contrary to rule 6 of the Legislative Council Rules according to which at the beginning of a session sufficient time should be allotted for non-official business. Failing that, unluckily we have had the grudging grant of only a couple of days for discussion of non-official business in the course of these four months. Now, Sir, all these resolutions have been more or less stifled. In these two days we have been able to deal with only two resolutions and out of these the resolution on prohibition is one. Now, Sir, you know the importance and the value attached to it by one and all. My hon. Friend, the Minister for Excise, stood up and set his foot on that and said that he opposed the resolution. And this, in spite of and in the face of the resolution that was passed in this House in 1927! In that resolution it was decided that prohibition should be introduced in such a manner that the whole Presidency should become dry in the course of two decades. Now, Sir, based upon that resolution, the Prohibition Committee, they call it Temperance Committee, has been founded. Have they done anything at all to introduce prohibition in even a part of a district? Now, Sir, three years have passed away, still nobody can say that at least one taluk has been made completely dry. When such is the case, when this resolution which was a very modest one according to which in one district at least prohibition should be introduced this year it was opposed and stoutly opposed by the hon. the Minister in charge of Excise. In such circumstances, Sir, how can we, the representatives of the people, go back to the people and say that we can do something which is tangible in the Council hall? Now, Sir, there has been the boycott of the Council and we had to fight against it. Having

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succeeded in elections and come here when we achieve precious little, how can we go back and tell the people that Council entry is good? Now, Sir, that much about the resolutions. When we go to interpellations I am afraid the affairs are even worse. Sir, it is more or less our daily experience here whenever the Council meets and whenever the interpellations are delicate, whenever the interpellations are troublesome or whenever the interpellations are unpalatable, you know what answers we receive. Those answers are indifferent, nonchalant, evasive and most unconvincing. I am using parliamentary language. (Hear, hear and laughter.)

3 p.m. "Now, Sir, especially I have had a sad experience of these interpellations. I have been troubling especially the hon. the Home Member with a lot of questions upon the music of the lathi charge. Sir, in the *Hindu* of the 15th of January last, I read a report that a house in Georgetown was raided, and the ladies of the family were injured. There were two volunteers there. One of them was hounded out like a mad dog. The other fellow was bed-ridden with some illness. It was said in that instance that there was absolutely no picketing or any other activity by the volunteers in that neighbourhood. Then, I wondered why that house should be raided upon and why those volunteers should be driven out and why the ladies should be injured. So, in order to satisfy my curiosity and that of the public, I put some interpellations, to the hon. the Home Member. Do you know, Sir, what reply I got? No information! I wonder, Sir, how unless you call for information you can get any information. After all, this thing occurred in the heart of the City itself, and under the very nose of the hon. the Home Member. If he had telephoned up the Commissioner, he would have got a reply in a few minutes. Having slept a month or so over that subject, that answer was flung in the face of the Council.

"Again, Sir, I had a very sad experience in the case of some of my friends that belonged to Bezwada, who of course according to their creed or belief defied the law and went to jail. I have no complaint about it at all. Now, what I am concerned with is this, Sir. Those people are very respectable that belong to the elite of Kistna district. When I say so, I am talking of Drs. Hanumantha Rao and Sarma of Bezwada, one of whom was a Municipal Councillor, and a lot of other gentlemen belonging to the Kistna district who are as respectable as any of the members seated in this hall. Now, Sir, these people were first sent to Rajahmundry. Because they insisted upon the scheduled rations being given correctly to the prisoners, they became gall and wormwood to the jail officials and then do you know what happened? These people were ordered to be transferred from Rajahmundry to Vellore. Vellore, Sir, is an oasis in the desert of jails in this Presidency. Now, Sir, they might have been sent there quietly. But outside the jail gate, they were beaten, booted, kicked, crushed, and all sorts of atrocities were done to them. When they went to Vellore, those injuries were examined by Dr. Sastri, the Jail Surgeon there, and, according to my information, that information was placed before

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the District Magistrate of Vellore, and he sent up a report to the Government. I am saying all this subject to correction by the Government. But that is the information I received. Then, I called for information. What did the hon. Law Member say? He said that some such report was received by Government and that he received further the information that these people 'mutinied'. That is the wording used, Sir. 'Mutinied' against the jail officials! I wonder if this is not adding insult to injury. They might have left these people alone without hurrying this insult after injuring them. They are not capable of mutinying either, or of even causing the slightest hurt to anybody because they are wedded to the creed of non-violence. Even men of lower strata who are now wedded to non-violence, have not been found to be violent. While such is the case, to impute to these gentlemen mutinous conduct and violent rising against the jail officials is—again of course I must use parliamentary language (laughter)—a terminological inexactitude."

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"The hon. Member has exceeded his time-limit. He will resume his seat."

* Mr. M. DEVADASAN:—"Mr. President, much as the hon. the Finance Member has done in other directions, he has not made adequate provision for the needs of the depressed classes. So I have to say that this budget is not gratifying to us. He says that there has been a political crisis and an economic depression, and that these things resulted in the cutting of expenditure on several items to be provided for in the year 1931-32. There have been series of changes taking place every day, and the political and economic life of the country is undergoing change, but the conditions of the depressed classes remain as they were years ago. At this time when sufficient care should be taken to protect the interests of the depressed classes, I hardly understand why such a small provision should have been made for the needs of the depressed classes. We know very well that there has been oppression going on in the district of Ramnad, and my hon. Friends Messrs. V. I. Muniswami Pillai and Swami Sahajanandam have referred to it. Caste tyranny is being still practised in several parts of the Presidency. Interpellations have been put on the matter, and a resolution has been moved in this Council as you all know. In spite of these interpellations and resolutions, oppression is going on unhindered not only in the district of Ramnad but in other places also. I do not want to narrate the instances that are happening in this and in other districts. I shall reserve these instances to some other occasion. But what I have to say now is that so far as the attitude of the Government is concerned, they have not yet devoted their attention to take sufficient steps to protect the interests of the depressed classes in this Presidency. Perhaps they may have sufficient reasons. They may have to make provision to face political danger, to meet picketers, and they may have to find resources for meeting several other contingencies. But that does not justify the Government to leave the depressed classes to the mercy of the caste Hindus in different places. In the short time at my disposal, I want to refer to some difficulties and disadvantages to which my people have been subject to in various parts of the country.

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"As regards the local board administration, I want to say one or two words. The municipalities and the union boards as they are constituted do not do any good to the people. They receive taxes from the people but they do not give sufficient return to the depressed classes by the extension of those amenities and privileges which are extended to other classes of people. Then, as regards district and local boards, I have to say that no attempt is made by them to provide the depressed classes with schools and roads in the same measure as they attend to the needs of other classes of people. I will ask the House to pardon me if I am a little strong in my language. In the interests of my people, I have to make these statements.

"Then, I have to refer to the Public Services Commission. The Public Services Commission, as it is constituted, is engaged in the making of appointments. But the Commission has framed a number of rules and insists upon certain examination being attended by the aspirants to office. These rules have been more injurious to the aspirants from the depressed classes. The age rule for instance, I must say, affects a large number of people who want to get into Government service. It will be difficult, nay impossible, even for the ordinary class of people to compete with other men who have been placed in much better circumstances in life. The training and education which poorer classes of people receive at their homes and at the schools or colleges is not the same as other classes of people have been in the habit of receiving. In these circumstances, I must point out to the Government that the rules concerning age and examination should be waived in favour of the depressed classes.

"Coming to the Labour department that has been working in several parts of the districts, I have to say that it is not so powerful as to protect the depressed classes from the oppression of other people. In my own district of Tinnevely, some landlords have instituted eviction suits under colour of proprietary rights, and poor men have to defend themselves not only in their own homes but also in courts, and sometimes they get defeated in courts. The Labour officer of the district cannot do anything in such cases. In the southern districts, I have to say that the class of people known as Maravars have been in the habit of extorting a fee called *kudikaval* from the people. I do not know why the Government claiming paramount power is allowing such a blackmail to be levied by the Maravars in these days. The Police themselves are afraid to put an end to this evil.

"Coming to the Temperance Committee, I find two lakhs of rupees have been budgeted for this year. I do not want to speak much upon it, but I want to say it is unnecessary to allot two lakhs for this purpose. If the Government are really anxious to put an end to the drink evil, they can as well stop toddy sales and abolish all arrack shops. The Government may fear that there may not be sufficient revenue. According to the Budget Memorandum, nearly six crores of rupees have become available from this head. If the Government really want to stop drink, then they need not care for the revenue. Of course there will be a fall in the revenue of the province if the shops are closed

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and prohibition is started. But I want to say to the Government that if they are really anxious, they can stop it and can find out other means of income to make up the loss that may be incurred by starting prohibition. Surely Government does not depend upon the revenue available from this head alone. I am sure none of the Members of the Government would say that the Government depends upon the excise revenue.

"Then, I have to say a word about the invidious distinction that is made in some places between depressed classes belonging to the Hindu community and Christian depressed classes. This question was once discussed in this Council, but I was not a member then. During the past Ministry, this House and the Government decided that the case of the poorer classes of Christians should not be considered in the same way as they considered the case of Hindu depressed classes. But I want to press upon the attention of the Members of this House that the difficulties and disadvantages to which the Hindu depressed classes are subject, are not the less in the case of the Christian depressed classes, and that the latter stand as much in need of those privileges as are extended to the former class. Both their cases are similar. I want that my brother members should sympathise with the Christian depressed classes and get them some privileges. What I want to urge upon the Government is that some provision should be made to meet the needs of the poorer class of Christians. I will be able to point out some instances, but time will not permit my doing so. However, I may refer to one or two instances.

"I know for instance the case of a boy who was Christian by persuasion, the son of a poor farmer. His father passed away and his mother alone was maintaining him. His brother was in Ceylon employed as a rickshawallah. He was unable to maintain the boy. The mother was later on unable to maintain him. The boy was reading at Tinnevely in one of the schools, and he had to depend upon the public generosity. The Government also would not come forward to help him as he happened to be a Christian. It means that you are crucifying a man for being a Christian. I appeal to the Government to consider the case of the poor classes of Christians and make sufficient provision for their welfare."

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"The hon. Member will soon finish his speech."

MR. M. DEVADASAN:—"Sir, coming as I do from the district of Tinnevely I have to refer to some local needs. We applied to the Government for grant in favour of the municipalities of Tinnevely and Palamcottah for the protected water-supply, and the Government offered to grant a loan repayable in 20 years. We asked the Government to extend the period of repayment to 30 years which they refused and the scheme of protected water-supply was held up.

"In this connexion I wish also to submit that the needs of the agriculturists are not properly attended to. They have to put up with

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so many difficulties. They do not get facilities for obtaining manure or for grazing their cattle in the forests in which they have been accustomed to graze them.

"Then there is the question of the construction of an irrigation reservoir. This question has been pending for a long time and yet the Government have not made any provision for it in the coming Budget although they have provided money for several other schemes such as Pykara, Mettur and Thippapalayam. The latter alone has got a provision of 12 lakhs this year out of the famine relief fund. In most of the places of Tinnevely except where Tambaraparni irrigates, people suffer for want of water. Year after year they are suffering from scarcity of water and most of the people being members of the depressed classes have to bear untold sufferings. They cultivate the land, but when the crops fail, they have to bear the loss. The landlord does not lose so much. So much so, I have to point out to the Government that sufficient steps should be taken to ensure supply of water to the needs of the agriculturists."

* Khan Bahadur MAHMUD SCHAMNAD SAHIB Bahadur:—"Mr. President, Sir, I have to say that I cannot agree with some of my Friends who said that the days allotted for the general discussion might be abolished and added on to the days for the discussion of demands for grants. They think that there is no use in allowing days for general discussion. It has been the custom, Sir, to allow some days for general discussion and these days are availed of by Members for making general remarks about the different subjects from one end of the budget to the other, in the hope that those remarks will be taken note of by the Ministers and Members and proper remedies found. But, Sir, what remedies can we expect when the Ministers are not in their places to take note of our needs? Our representations, in the end, become simply a cry in the wilderness in the absence of the Members responsible for the administration of the several departments. (A voice: There is the Chief Minister.) I am glad, Sir, that there are to-day some Ministers present here. (Laughter.) If they keep away like this, who is there, Sir, to hear us? Are the Gods going to come down from the clouds and redress our grievances? Is it parliamentary, Sir, for Members responsible for the redressal of the grievances after hearing them, to be absent when the subjects in their charge are being discussed on the floor of the House? Sir, days for the discussion of the Budget are allotted not only in the Parliaments of this country but in the Parliaments of other countries also and members responsible attend and scrupulously take note and reply every question raised in these debates. Sir, my Friend, Sir Patro, and other Round Tablers who were negotiating in London for the grant of more responsibility at the Centre as well as at the circumference (laughter) will tell us that this is not the sort of responsibility that we have been asking for. If this is the sort of responsibility that we are going to get, may God protect us! (Laughter.) Well, Sir, better days may come. Now, Sir, I had to

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say something about Education also, but I find that the Education Minister is not present. (Laughter.) (A Voice: The Education Minister is here in the back bench.) (Renewed laughter.)

"Sir, it has been the fashion during the speeches on the Budget, to compliment the Finance Member. Some do it at the beginning, some end their speeches with the compliments, while others offer their compliments to him in the course of their speeches. In analysing the various financial statements, it is natural that some should be treated with approbation and others with reprobation. I can trace the origin of this custom of complimenting from my experience of about eleven years, six of which were spent in the Assembly and five in this House. In the Assembly in the first two years, the Budgets were presented by Sir Malcolm Hailey and in the next four years by Sir Basil Blackett, an expert in budgeting. He was specially brought from England, because in the first two years, soon after the introduction of the Reforms, there were large deficits in the Budget. Therefore, for balancing the Budget he was specially appointed. But, Sir, in those Budgets, if those Budgets were read from the beginning to the end, one found himself where he was when he began. Members were completely bewildered. Finance Members like Sir Basil could hold up their sleeves crores of rupees and yet nobody could find out their existence. Even such an able financial expert like Sir Purushottamdas Thakurdas was quite confounded. Some of us including—even persons like Pandit Motilal Nehru and Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya were taking lessons from him in financial matters. Even such an able financier as Sir Purushottamdas was not able to find out the defects and loopholes in the Budget. The Budgets presented to this House so far have not been similarly very clear, but this year's Budget, with all its other defects, is a plain one. It is clear and explicit. (Hear, hear.) Even a layman like me can find out where the defects lie. (Laughter.) I can point out where the fault lies.

"Sir, it is a bad principle to apply the income for the reduction of debts, as has been pointed out by some hon. Members who preceded me. It is also a bad principle to meet capital expenditure out of revenues, because, the benefits to be derived from these are to be enjoyed by future generations. So it is quite proper to ask us to bear the whole burden. You must know, Sir, that these taxes which are paid are forced out of us. These are beyond our means. When that is the case, they should not be made to pay for the benefit of the future generations also. Charity begins at home. We must first take care of ourselves and then only we can provide for those who are to come hereafter.

"Sir, the Famine Relief Fund has already reached its limit. In fact, it has gone beyond the maximum limit. It is intended for the relief of the people who will be affected by famine in the future. When we are ourselves experiencing famine conditions, what is the meaning of asking us to provide for those who are coming hereafter?

"These are the three main defects which I have been able to find in this year's Budget. I find that in this Budget, a sum of 67 lakhs

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have been set apart for the reduction of debt and 44 lakhs for capital expenditure. This means that large sums out of revenue instead of being spent on Part II Schemes have been diverted for paying off debts and for capital expenditure. (The hon. Mr. H. G. Stokes: 67 lakhs for the year 1930-31.) That could be avoided Sir, only a sum of 38 lakhs have been allotted for Part II Schemes. This is a small sum. The Finance Member may say that he cannot help it, as the major portion of the income has been swallowed up by existing schemes. That is true. The spending departments are responsible for not cutting down expenditure sufficiently. As a member of the Finance Committee, I know that the Finance Member had tried his best, to get the expenditure greatly reduced. He has pointed out that there was overbudgeting. Of course this was pointed out in the last Budget speech also, but no steps had been taken to remedy this state of affairs. I am glad that in the present year the Finance Member proposes to appoint a special officer of the Finance Department to examine the detailed working of the departmental expenditure and suggest means of cutting down those items which are not quite necessary."

3-30
P.m.

* Srimathi ALAMELUMANGA THAYARAMMAL then addressed the House in Tamil as follows:—

"கனம் தலைவர் அவர்களே! சகோதர அங்கத்தினர்களே! இந்த இரண்டு நாளாய் வரவுசெலவு திட்டங்களைப்பற்றி இச்சபையில் பலரும் பேசினதைப் பார்த்தேன். விவசாயிகள் விலைவாசிகள் குறைந்திருப்பதால் கிஸ்தி கட்டுவதற்குக் கஷ்டப்படுகிறார்கள் எனப் பலரும் பேசினார்கள். குடியானவர்களுக்கு குறைந்தது ஓர் மாதத் தவணையாவது கொடுக்கவேண்டுமென்று கேட்பதை நானும் ஆமோதிக் கேட்டேன். மற்றோர் விஷயம், மேட்டூர், பைகாரா ஸ்கீம்களைப்பற்றிப் பேசினதைக் கேட்டேன். அவை மிக பெரிய விஷயம். ஆதலால் பெரியோர்கள் கவனத்திற்கு விட்டுவிடுகிறேன்.

"தண்ணீர் வசதிகளில்லாமல் சில ஜில்லாக்களில் குடிகள் மிகவும் கஷ்டப்படுகிறார்கள். அவைகளில் ஒன்றாகிய கோயமுத்தூர் ஜில்லாவில் திருப்பூர், தாராபுரம், உடுமலைப்பேட்டை, பொள்ளாச்சி முதலிய தாலுகாக்களில் குடிக்கத் தண்ணீரின் ஜனங்கள் மிகவும் கஷ்டப்படுகிறார்கள். தண்ணீர் கெடுதியினால் சுகாதாரத்திற்குக் குறைவுண்டாகி காலரா முதலிய பலவியாதிகள் உண்டாவதற்குக் காரணமாகின்றன. ஆதலால் ஜல சப்ளை (water-supply) விஷயமாய் கவர்ன்மென்டார் கவனம்செலுத்தவேண்டுமென வேண்டுகிறேன்.

"கல்வி விஷயமாக விருத்தி செய்வதற்கு ஜனங்கள் யாவரும் விரும்புகிறார்கள். இலவச கட்டாய ஆரம்பப் படிப்பு (Free Compulsory Elementary Education) விருத்தி செய்வதென்று சில ஜில்லா போர்டுகளில் தீர்மானித்திருக்கிறார்களே யன்றி அவற்றை அனுசரித்து சரிவர நடத்திவருகிறார்களென்று தெரியவில்லை. அவர்கள் உபந்நியாசத்தில் ஆரம்பக் கல்வியை நன்றாய் விருத்திசெய்யவேண்டுமென்று எடுத்துக்காட்டினார்கள். ஆதலால் இம்மாகாணமெங்கும் ஆரம்பக் கல்வியைப் பரவச்செய்வதற்கு மந்திரிகள் முயற்சிக்கவேண்டுமென்று கேட்டுக் கொள்கிறேன். ஆதிதிராவிடப் பிள்ளைகளுக்குப் பாடசாலைகள் ஏற்படுத்துவதோடு கூட பகல் போஜனத்திற்கும் உதவி செய்ய சிறிது தொகை ஒதுக்கிவைக்கவேண்டுமென்றும் கேட்கின்றேன். அப்படியே மற்ற வகுப்பினர்களிலும் அனேகம் ஏழைகளிருக்கிறார்கள். அவர்கள் மக்களுக்கும் பகல் சாப்பாடு கொடுக்க ஏற்பாடு செய்வது அவசியமென்பதை அறிவித்துக்கொள்ளுகிறேன். பொதுவாய் ஆரம்பக் கல்வியை விரித்தி செய்வது மாத் திரமேயன்றி பலவிதமான கைத்தொழில்களும்

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கற்பிக்கப் பல தொழிற்பாடசாலைகளை எங்கும் ஏற்படுத்தவேண்டும். விவசாயம் செய்வோர் பிள்ளைகளுக்கு விவசாயம் கற்றுக் கொடுப்பின் அவர்கள் தீவிரமாய்க் கற்றுக்கொள்ளுவார்கள். தொழிலாளர்கள் மக்கள் அவரவர்கள் தொழில்களிலும் விரித்தியடைவதற்குத் தக்க பாடசாலைகளை எங்கும் ஏற்படுத்தி அதன் மூலமாய் அவர்கள் ஜீவனத்திற்கு மார்க்கஞ் செய்யவேண்டும். அப்படிச் செய்தால் ஏழை மக்களின் கஷ்டம் சிறிது குறைவுபடும். ஒவ்வொரு ஜில்லாவில் முக்கியமான தொழில் எதுவாகவிருக்கிறதோ அதைக் கற்பிப்பதற்கு ஓர் தகுதியான பாடசாலை ஏற்படுத்த இடம் ஒரிடத்தில் ஏற்பாடு செய்யவேண்டுமென அறிவித்துக் கொள்ளுகின்றேன். அந்தந்த ஜாதக்குறித்தான வேலைகளென்று தற்காலத்திலொன்றுமில்லை. சகலரும் பற்பல தொழில்களில் பிரவேசித்திருக்கிறார்கள். சென்னை (School of Arts) சித்திர வித்தியாசாலையில் பலரும் படித்துவர விரும்புகிறார்களில்லை. அதை ஏற்படுத்திப் பலவருஷங்களாயின. அதில் எத்தனை பேர் இதுவரை தேர்ச்சி பெற்றிருக்கிறார்கள்? அவர்களுக்கு எத்தனைபேர்கள் தொழிற் பாடசாலைகளில் போதகாசிரியர்களாயிருக்கிறார்கள்? அதனால் தொழிலபிவிர்ந்தி இவ்விராஜதானியில் எவ்வளவுதூரம் ஏற்பட்டிருக்கிறது என்பது தெரியவில்லை. அதை விரித்தி செய்ய கவர்ன்மென்டார் கவனஞ்செலுத்தக் கோருகிறேன்.

"முகம்மதிய சகோதரர்கள் தங்கள் இனத்தில் பாடசாலைக்குப்போகும் சிறுமிகள் பலிருப்பதால் அவர்களுக்குப் பாடசாலை வேண்டுமென்று அறிவித்துக்கொண்டதில் கவர்ன்மென்டார் அதில் கவனம் செலுத்தவில்லை யென்றார்கள். தற்காலத்தில் ஆரம்பக்கல்வியானது பெண்களுக்குள் எங்கும் பரவவேண்டுமென்று யாவரும் விரும்பும்போது முகம்மதிய பெண்கள் கல்வி கற்காமலிருக்கமுடியாது. அவர்களுக்குப் படிக்கத்தக்கவர்களிருக்குமிடத்தில் பாடசாலைகள் அவசியம் ஏற்படுத்தவேண்டியதென்று நானும் கவர்ன்மென்டாடாரைக் கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன்.

"முகம்மதிய ஸ்திரீகள் தேக சுகத்தின் நிமித்தம் கடற்கரைக்குப்போய் சற்று தங்குவதற்கு இடவசதி ஏற்படுத்திக்கொடுக்கவேண்டுமென்று சென்ற வருஷ சட்டசபையில் பிரஸ்தாபித்திருந்தார்கள். அதற்கு இதுவரை ஒன்றும் ஏற்படுத்தியதாகத் தெரியவில்லை. ஆதலால் அவ்விஷயத்திலும் கவனஞ்செலுத்த கோருகிறேன்.

"ஆஸ்பத்திரிகள் பெண்களுக்கெனவிருப்பது மிகக்கொஞ்சம். அதில் ஏழைப் பெண்களை நன்றாய் கவனிப்பதில்லையென்று குறை கூறுகின்றார்கள். ஏழைப் பெண்களை நன்கு கவனிக்க ஏற்பாடு செய்வது மிக தர்மம் என்று சொல்லுகின்றேன்.

"சிசுமரட்சணசாலைகள் ஜில்லா போர்டு, தாலுகா போர்டு, யூனியன் முதலியவைகளில் ஏற்படுத்துவதிலும், வேறுசிலவிடங்களில் ஏற்படுத்துவதிலும், கவர்ன்மென்டாரை காட்டவேண்டுமெனக் கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகின்றேன்.

"பைகாரா ஸ்கீம்களில் நடத்துவதில் ஓர் கம்பெனியாருக்குக்கொடுக்காமல் கவர்ன்மென்டாரே வைத்து நடத்துவது நன்மையாகும். இன்றேல் ஜில்லா போர்டிற்கும், முனிஸிபாலிட்டிக்கும் நடத்துவதற்கு அனுமதிப்பது பொது கேஷமமாகும்."

* AHMED MEERAN SAHIB Bahadur:—"Mr. President, Sir, it is indeed difficult to finish within the short space of ten minutes what all I wish to say in connexion with this budget. The aspects from which one would like to examine and criticize the Budget are many but I wish to confine myself only to a few of them.

"The Finance Member deserves our congratulations on keeping the deficit at such a low figure as nine lakhs and odd, but all the same the expenditure for the next year is more or less the same as it was during the previous years. He admits in the course of his statement that in

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several parts of the Presidency, agriculture has been affected considerably and that there is world-wide trade depression which has affected our country rather seriously. But one would search in vain to find any measure suggested by the Finance Member to give relief to the affected ryots or merchants. Every year the tax-payer has been hoping in vain to get some portion of his burden in respect of taxation reduced. But time and again it has only been a fond hope. Mention is made repeatedly in the Budget Memorandum of the districts of Tanjore, Trichinopoly and South Arcot as having been badly affected by the floods and cyclone. But it is indeed surprising that the condition in certain parts of the district of Tinnevely has completely escaped the attention of the Finance Member. I need hardly emphasize on the present plight in which the ryots and poor cultivators in Tinnevely are now placed, partly on account of the failure of crops by reason of the failure of monsoon when it was most needed and partly on account of the rigorous enforcement of the Revenue Recovery Procedure. The low price of agricultural produce and the financial stringency in the market have further aggravated the situation in many parts of the district. It is but just and fair that the Government should be pleased to extend the same privileges to the affected ryots of Tinnevely as have been afforded to the ryots in the other districts and I hope the Revenue Member will issue early orders to the District Collector who has hitherto not taken any steps in this direction, to afford facilities to the ryots in the matter of collection of kists, without being unnecessarily hard and unrelenting. I also appeal to the hon. the Revenue Member to issue directions to the district officials to be very liberal in the grant of loans and aids to the suffering ryots in my district.

"With regard to the ever-increasing expenditure of the Government, I only wish to say that the Finance Member would have endeared himself to the tax-payer of this Presidency in a great measure if he had taken some tangible steps to keep down the expenditure of public revenues. Every one was glad to hear that the Finance Member was seriously considering the question of retrenchment, but, alas, it only proved to be a mere rumour. It cannot be denied for a moment that there is no scope for retrenchment in public expenditure at the present moment. It is needless for me to say that in a country where the average earning of a man is much less than Rs. 30 a year all salaries above Rs. 1,000 are wholly unjustified and cannot but be reckoned as a gross misuse and misappropriation of public revenues. I hope that at least the Indian Executive Councillors and the Ministers would come forward and set an example in this direction worthy of emulation by all the rest in the service.

"With reference to the grievances of the tax-payer and particularly of the minority section of the people, there is hardly time before me even to make a mere mention of them. In spite of the fact that there are Muslim lawyers who would any day prove equal to any of the judges now adorning the High Court Benches, the Muslim community with all its endeavours and attempts has been systematically kept out of

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its legitimate share in the highest cadre of the judicial service in the Province. To whom thanks of the Muslim community are due for this deplorable position I cannot say. But the fact remains that in spite of the communal Government order and the appointment of the Public Services Commission and in spite of repeated requests and prayers to Government, the Muslim community among whose ranks the number of qualified candidates is fast increasing stands stationary, if not retarding in the sphere of public service.

"Further the facilities afforded to this community in the matter of Education, Health, Sanitation and Co-operation are most inadequate and niggardly. The condition of education among the Muslim population needs a most urgent enquiry and I hope the Education Minister will see his way to institute an enquiry with a view to improve their conditions. Health conditions in my district are most deplorable especially so far as they affect the Muslim community. The death-rate among the children and women population of this community is most appalling and I earnestly hope that the Health Minister will lose no time in ameliorating their condition by affording medical facilities on a liberal scale.

"The question of a protected water-supply in the town of Tenkasi and Kuttalam has been pending before the Government for long and on some pretext or other either technical or theoretical the Government have not come forward to relieve the poor tax-payer from this urgent want. Now that the Panchayat of Tenkasi has doubled the existing rate of taxes, I earnestly request that the Health Minister will kindly and sympathetically consider the question of water-supply to a sanatorium like Kuttalam which is visited by thousands of people from various parts of the Presidency in a more favourable light and make a liberal grant for this purpose."

* Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"Mr. President, Sir, more than one speaker who have preceded me, have referred to the critical situation—both political and economic—which the country is passing through. You and I have recognized the fact that the days of the mailed fist and steel frame are over. But the recent speech of the Head of the Province makes me doubt whether he has realized that sufficiently well. If he has not, I think it is up to his advisers both on the Reserved and Transferred Half to see that such remarks are not repeated. May I assure the hon. Ministers that, in any measures they make take in following the advice they may tender to him, they will have the entire support of the whole of this House without regard to the group or the party label they may come under?"

"As regards the economic situation, I take it the Government have recognized the fact that the situation needs close examination. I say so, because of the fact that they have appointed the Economic Enquiry Committee. But when one considers the terms of reference and the limitations that have been imposed on the conduct of this investigation, one feels somewhat doubtful whether this attempt is made with all the

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earnestness with which it should have been made. I would suggest to the Government, therefore, that they should, if possible, extend the terms of reference and afford facilities for taking evidence so that some useful conclusions might be arrived at by the committee.

"I do not want to traverse the ground so ably and eloquently covered by my hon. Friend, Mr. Gopalaswami Mudaliyar. But I think he was not quite accurate when he said that the hon. the Finance Member was entirely responsible for the scheme that is to be started in the Kurnool district, or when he said that with regard to one of the two sites selected for the Tungabhadra project, no Indian State has any concern, or when he said that the two sites are not alternative but that they are more or less exclusive and that the work might be proceeded with on both the sites without prejudice to one another, etc. But these discrepancies do not detract, in any way, the value of his speech and I heartily associate myself with what he said. It is a recognized fact that most of our revenues are derived from the comparatively poor people and not from the rich, and yet our budget does not show any signs of serious endeavour made to help the poor people. The cultivator is the principal person that has been affected by the pressing economic distress and yet the kist is going to be collected from him in the usual way and on the usual dates. It is a recognized canon in all civilized countries that land revenue should be recovered at a time when such collection would not compel the ryots to sell or pledge their food crops to money-lenders. I ask whether the Government will not postpone their collections to a time when the ryots will have gathered their food and industrial crops, and the prices are likely to have reached their highest level in the year? Then the ryots will sell a minimum quantity to obtain maximum value and pay the revenue. Again, Sir, these assessments have been fixed with reference to prices which no longer prevail. This fall in prices has undoubtedly hit the ryot much more than the wage-earner or official. Is it not the right policy for the Government to reduce the assessment at least in those districts where the assessments were settled with reference to higher prices which no longer prevail? Is it not wise statesmanship to tackle this question? Again, would not the Government do well to help the ryots to make themselves independent, as far as possible, of the precarious rainfall in several districts? There are some natural sources, for example, rivers from which the ryots have been, from time immemorial, taking water through channels to their fields. Where there are first class sources of irrigation, the highest rate the Government collect from the cultivator for water he takes is Rs. 10 or 11 an acre. In these cases, the water from the source goes straight to his field. But in the case of spring channels where people have to work for months together and where the cost of labour comes to Rs. 30 or 40 an acre, it seems to be preposterous to ask the ryots to pay additional tax for water. I think, Sir, that, in such cases, the rates should be merely nominal.

"The administration of the forest laws is proving to be more and more irksome. I take it that the civil population have a right to the

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natural resources in their respective areas. Speaking of the Bellary district, there are large poramboke areas in and around Toragal. The civil population round these areas are not allowed to take grass from them. These areas are considered to be military grass farms. At a time when there was a military regiment in Bellary and when they had camels and other animals which required special grass available in these areas, these areas were treated as military areas. Now, when there is no regiment there and when there are no camels or horses will Government still refuse to part with possession of these areas so that the poor people may be benefited?

"The drink evil is a pernicious one as all recognize. I wish that the Government would be so good as to institute an enquiry and find out what the drink trade costs the consumer and what revenue the Government actually derive from it. Will the Government find out how much is paid as tree tax, how much is paid as shop rental, how much is paid as mamuls to those who point out the trees, who mark the trees, how much is paid as mamul for some service rendered or harm not done by certain officials, how much is paid for the transport of liquor and how much as salary to the salesman and how much as rent for the buildings, etc.? Then the Government will find that, on a comparison between the actual sum spent by the poor man on drink and the revenue derived from it by the Government, the revenue derived by the Government is very small. If a man drinks one rupee worth of toddy, and the Government gets in the end only four annas out of it, as its revenue, I would rather suggest that the Government straight-away taxed the man four annas and left 12 annas for the man to have a better meal than he is having now. I do admit that these things will mean shortage of revenue. As I have already said, we have no objection for any fresh taxation provided it is reasonable and that all attempts to retrench expenditure have been made. One such way has been adverted to by my hon. Friend who preceded me and that is that people who are drawing high salaries should receive less pay than what they are drawing now. When the poor cultivator is immeasurably worse off than the person who gets a monthly wage and when the cultivator is asked to pay the same amount of land revenue as before, does it not stand to reason that those who are getting the same pay they were getting before—in many cases the pay has been enhanced—should receive a lesser pay especially when there is fall in prices of commodities? I suggest this not even so much because of the saving that the Government will have but because of the precedent that will be established and the moral credit which the Government will command thereby. I would ask the hon. the Finance Member if the pay of officers has not been enhanced very much during the last fifteen years. We abolish subordinate posts here and there or reduce still further the pay of the ill-paid servants by a few rupees and the savings thus effected go to enrich those already drawing high salaries. It does not matter how much you will be able to save in this way. I am ready to recognize that what you are going to save by such retrenchment may not be

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appreciable; but as I said, it will show the earnestness on the part of the Government to tackle this question seriously and prove that contrary to the old practice, they are prepared to apply the principle of retrenchment to themselves first before applying it to others. I therefore say that this question deserves the earnest consideration of the Government."

* Mr. M. A. MUTHIAH CHETTIYAR:—"Sir, I congratulate the hon. the Finance Member for the lucid and clear exposition of the financial and economic position of this Presidency and the straight-forward way in which he has pointed out the various factors contributing to the fall in revenue and the increase in expenditure. It is needless on my part to say that this province is at present confronted with a serious trade depression and economic stagnation; not only the whole of India, but the whole world is passing through a period of great depression. We businessmen feel this every day and it is our hope that this period will be over ere long.

4 p.m. "Without further dilating on the causes and results of the economic depression, I may say that it is very unjust on our part to expect a surplus budget. The recent disastrous floods, resulting in the remission of kists in certain districts, and the civil disobedience movement leading to a fall in Excise revenue and to extra expenditure on police are enough to baffle even the best financier or the most tactful statesman; and I should say the hon. the Finance Member has certainly done his best.

"I wish now to say just a few words regarding the schemes which the Government of Madras are now on, especially the hydro-electric scheme. In regard to the Pykara scheme, the hon. Member from Ganjam said yesterday that he was not quite sure whether it will after all be a success. I have also got grave doubts, Sir, as to whether it will prove a success. Of course, it will be able to produce the quantity of energy which the engineer now counts on paper. But I do not think that the current produced will be taken full advantage of by all the districts concerned; because the industries of this country have not so much developed as to be in a position to use the current that will be produced by the Pykara scheme. Yet, we see the Government taking up such schemes earnestly; but before they take them up, I would ask them to examine whether they will be productive schemes. Otherwise, good money should not be thrown on such schemes. I would say that the Pykara scheme is now a great strain on the slender resources of this province.

"While I disapprove of the Government's action with regard to the Pykara scheme, I want them to give more money to the already existing nation-building departments of Government, especially departments like Co-operation, Industries and Agriculture. I wish some more money is provided for these departments than what is already provided for in the budget.

"With regard to the Economic Depression Committee, to which my friend from Bellary referred, it is very gratifying to note that the Government have appointed such a committee. I am myself one of the members of the committee. I doubt whether the committee, as it is, will

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be able to say all about the economic depression in the country. The terms of reference are very limited; and we are asked, I think, to report about co-operative marketing. I want to tell the hon. the Revenue Member and the hon. the Minister for Development that in spite of Government help for the past 25 years, the co-operative credit societies are not to-day in a good position and co-operative sale societies are very few. In such a state of things, how can you expect to solve problems like co-operative marketing? I may assure this House that even if Government are able to provide some Rs. 50 lakhs for the purpose, co-operative marketing will not take any definite shape for at least ten years to come. The terms of reference of the committee should be revised; as it is, the committee cannot consider all the aspects of the economic condition of the province. A committee of 20 members is not needed to report on groundnut trade and marketing. I would therefore suggest to the hon. the Revenue Member and to the hon. the Minister for Development that they should revise the terms of reference and see that the committee is in a position to do some good work. I think the committee have been prohibited from saying anything about kists—that is what I remember. I would leave it to the hon. the Revenue Member to see whether that also cannot be revised.

"Sir, so far as the budget is concerned, it is essential that we should secure financial credit and stability to ensure good financial conditions in the future, especially in view of the new constitution that is to come. I hope, Sir, that with retrenchment and close scrutiny the hon. the Finance Member will be able to pass through a good year of finance, and I wish him all success."

* B. POCKER SAHIB Bahadur:—"Mr. President, Sir, it has been the practice, I find, every year when making reference to the budget, to give one's impression about the budget itself, either at the beginning or at the end, whichever way it might be. But I do not think it is wise on my part to venture to make any kind of rambling remarks on the budget and I propose to confine myself to matters nearer home which affect my own constituency. So far as the budget as a whole is concerned, I cannot help remarking that there is one feature about it and that is, that there is an honest confession on the part of the hon. the Finance Member that the system of budgeting followed by the Government up till now was nothing but hoodwinking the Council, hoodwinking the people and hoodwinking all others concerned. That frank confession on the part of the Finance Member is certainly very much to be appreciated even by the opposition, and I certainly congratulate him particularly in view of the change in the angle of vision of which we find some signs on the horizon. I do not want to say anything further, Sir, about the budget.

"As regards matters nearer home, so far as my community is concerned, I first of all want to refer to the question of Mappilla State prisoners which was the subject-matter of interpellations this morning. Many of the Members of this House who have not read the Act, might not know the entire implications of that Act, the way in which it is being

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enforced and the way in which the Government are treating these Mappillas confined under the Act. The Act under which these Mappillas are confined both in jail and outside the jail is called the Mappilla Outrages Act, and I have no hesitation in characterizing it as the most barbarous Act that has ever been on the Statute Book of any civilized nation. As many of the Members here may not know what the contents and provisions of that Act are, I shall give one instance to substantiate my remark that this is the most barbarous piece of legislation. Even at the time when the Act was enacted—a Government of India Act—the Government thought that it was too barbarous to be allowed to remain permanently on the Statute Book, and therefore when in 1853 it was first enacted, it was enacted to be in force only for five years. But after that five years' period, the Government passed it again for a period of ten years, and that was the Act of 1859 referred to in the answer of the hon. the Law Member this morning. In 1869 again, the Government passed an Act to the effect that the Act of 1859 should remain in force until the Local Government issued a notification to the effect that it shall not be in force. Sir, all these cautious steps that were taken even three-quarters of a century ago by the Government of India that is responsible for the Act will show with what hesitation the Government enacted that Act. But now, the circumstances under which that Act was passed have completely changed. That Act was then passed with a view to solve the question of Mappilla outrages which were now and then occurring then. Later investigation as to the causes of those Mappilla outrages by commissions appointed by the Government however proved that it was not merely the fanaticism on the part of the Mappillas that was the cause of these outrages, but it was more the agrarian question that was at the bottom of the whole trouble. It was in that view that the Government passed the Act called the Compensation for Malabar Tenants' Improvements Act in the year 1887. After that year, the only outrage that occurred was in 1896, and it was found that that was due to the defects in the Act itself. Because, even though the value of improvements was secured to the tenant, as the Act stood then, the janmi had the right to contract himself out of the provisions of the Act. That was remedied by the Act of 1900; which is the Act in force now and after 1900 you will find that there has been no outrage at all. Perhaps in 1915 or so, there was some attempt on the part of some misguided persons on the Collector; but apart from that, there has been no outrage at all since 1900. As to the culminating outrage, viz., the rebellion of 1921, opinions differ as to its causes. There is no doubt that the Government has also recognized the fact that it is the agrarian question that has been more or less at the bottom of it all along, and it is because the Government realized it that they agreed with the people of Malabar and brought in the Tenancy Bill which has now become law. Even after these measures have been taken and even after all these lessons have been learnt by the Government, that this Act should have been allowed to remain on the Statute Book is certainly not very creditable to the Government. What it shows is that the Government taken as a whole—however good its individual members may be—are wooden, or as has been

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pronounced by higher authorities, are made of a steel frame and are not pliable. Now, what I would ask is this; is it not time for the Government just to consider whether this most outrageous piece of legislation should not be removed from the Statute Book? I was just saying that I could refer to one aspect of it in order to show how barbarous it is. One provision in the Act is that when a Mappilla who has been put in jail on account of some act which he committed in the course of an outrage is killed or dies either in the jail or outside, his body can be burnt at the discretion of the Magistrate. I know, Sir, that the burning of the body is not in any way repugnant to the feelings of the non-Muslim members here. As a matter of fact, burning is resorted to in these days as the best method of disposing of a dead body. But all the non-Muslim members here know full well, Sir, how repugnant it is to the Law of Islam to burn dead bodies. Fully realizing that fact and with the deliberate purpose of injuring the religious feelings of the community, a Government which calls itself civilized allows such a provision to remain on the Statute Book. I say it is sheer shame to retain an Act containing such provisions any more on the Statute Book. Under that Act and another Act called the State Prisoners' Regulation, so many Mappillas were imprisoned in jail, and now their fate has been made worse as they are taken out of the jails and thrown in the streets of Madras, Trichinopoly and other cities with a pittance of Rs. 5 each per month. No Government that has any human feelings can be expected to do such an act. If they have any intelligence about them, if they have any inhumane feelings about them, they ought not to do any such act. Respectable gentlemen who have not been convicted of any offence, who have not been proved to have had anything to do with any outrage and who have been confined in jails without any trial, and without any charge, have been released from jail—and that is the act of kindness the Government has done—and thrown into the streets of Madras and other cities of this Presidency. They have been asked to live on a pittance of Rs. 5 a month. I ask the hon. the Law Member and the other Members of Government who are also responsible for these orders whether it is humanly possible for anyone to live on Rs. 5 in any of these cities. Does the Government expect all these men whom they have in the past without any justification put into the jails and afterwards released, to go about begging in the cities in which they are confined? The only reply is that all these people can work and earn.

"I ask, Sir, how many thousands of graduates, law graduates⁴⁻¹⁵ and other qualified men are there who are not able to earn their living? p.m. While this is the case with educated men, does the Government expect these Mappillas who have been thrown away in strange lands, amid strange people, to earn their livelihood by finding out occupations for themselves? When we waited on the hon. the Law Member on deputation last year to consider the matter—I must express that I am thankful to him—he was kind enough to increase the amount by Rs. 3 so far as the city of Madras was concerned. This morning during question time I asked the hon. the Law Member whether the amount given to

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them in jails, namely, Rs. 8-8-0, will be sufficient in the city of Madras and I pointed out to him one item of expenditure, which is obvious to anyone, just to draw his attention to the disparity and that is, whereas no rent is necessary to be paid within the precincts of the jail, rent has to be paid outside the jail. For this question, the kind reply of the hon. the Law Member was that it is a matter of opinion whether rent has to be paid outside the jail or not. Certainly, I take the answer to mean that he expects these persons to live in the public streets to be trampled upon by passers-by. I may also mention in this connexion that many applications were sent by these persons to the Government to allow them free quarters somewhere, but all of them have been refused so far as my knowledge goes.

"Now, Sir, I have made all these remarks against the Government and also against the hon. the Law Member. I know that the hon. Sir Krishnan Nayar, when he was sitting on this side of the House, expressed himself strongly against the measures of the Government in this matter and was very sympathetic towards the Mappillas and I would therefore now request him to press on the Government the opinions he held as plain Mr. Krishnan Nayar and to see that justice is done. In fact the main reason why we have been fighting to get Indians into responsible places like that of a member of the Government is that the Indian point of view may be pressed on the attention of the Government and the people's point of view may be brought to bear on the European Members of Government who are strangers to this country and perhaps may not realize their needs. I hope the hon. the Law Member will impress his views which he held as an ordinary member of this House on other Members of the Government and see that these prisoners who are confined under these two Acts are released and sent back to their homes respectively. The answer given this morning by the hon. the Law Member was that if they are permitted to return to their homes, they would be dangerous to public peace. This answer cannot hold water for a moment in view of the perfect tranquillity and harmony that prevails in the land at present. I wish to refer only to one other matter and that is the release of the Mappilla prisoners who have been convicted of offences in connexion with the rebellion. These Mappillas were convicted at a time when abnormal conditions prevailed in Malabar. But now complete tranquillity prevails in the land and there is no necessity to keep them any further in the jails. Further, so far many such convicts have been released and sent back to their homes and there has been no instance in which it has been found that their presence in Malabar was in any way dangerous to the tranquillity of the country."

* Mr. H. B. ARI GOWDER:—"Mr. President, Sir, agreeing with my hon. Friend Mr. Schamnad, I am profoundly thankful to the hon. the Finance Member for presenting so clear an exposition of the budget and the principle of budgeting, that there is hardly anyone in this House who has failed to see any disappointing features in it. I do not offer any criticism because I know that the hon. the Finance Member is profoundly indifferent to any amount of criticism that may be levelled against his budget. May I humbly offer some suggestions? In the first place, I

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suggest that a list of allotments or rather grants for communications, water-supplies, education, etc., to be made for local bodies may be shown in the budget. Secondly, I suggest that orders may issue from the Secretariat early to the local bodies concerned regarding grants that are made to the local bodies for expenditure in the coming year. It is unkind on the part of the hon. the Finance Member to pass remarks on the local bodies for not being able to spend the allotments placed at their disposal, because orders regarding these grants generally issue from the Secretariat very late and I know of cases of many local bodies not being able to spend their allotments owing to these orders being issued very late in the year.

"Thirdly, I pray that the amount by which the allotment under '37. Miscellaneous Departments—Labour' has been reduced may be restored from the savings that can be effected from the revised estimate for the current year. I may also venture to say that more money may be found and granted towards the reimbursement of the grants that are allotted under the same head for the next year.

"Lastly, I wish to say a word in regard to the allotment for next year under '26. Police.' I suggest that the allotment for the next year under this head may be considerably reduced for the position has reached a critical stage as it were. I am sure that the Government are not always responsible, but the way in which the police behave indicates that they are not doing their duty properly. A challenge has been thrown out to the picketers to play up a game at which they are experts. I am not one of those who suspect that the Government are in league with the picketers. I hope they are not, but it seems to me that the way in which the picketers are dealt with by the police is not the one that we see or hear of in other countries. Those who have an eye to the future Government of India are anxious that the Government should do nothing that will make our youngfolk regard the sanctity of law with indifference.

"One word, Sir, with regard to the district which I represent. That district is variously described as the 'Jewel of India', the 'Sportsman's Paradise', the 'Queen of Hill-stations' and so on. One might therefore have thought that the Government is bestowing some attention on her requirements. May I submit that nothing is farther from the truth. I may go further and say that the reverse is the truth. I do not say that the present Finance Member is wholly responsible for this, but from the fact that he has turned down some of the proposals emanating from that district, I may say that he is no better than his predecessors. That district is a very small one and is a place which is resorted to by people from all over the country and also by sojourners from other parts of the world. It welcomes everybody. Therefore make it a place worthy of a visit by everybody. Five lakhs is only a fraction of what is derived from that district by way of excise revenue. Then there are all kinds of taxes which together amount to a very large sum. I do not for one moment plead for exemption from taxation. But when the Government does not give back to that district

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a portion of what it gets from that district, the people of that district have a right to say that it is palpably unjust and unfair. I hope that the hon. the Finance Member will do his best to see that that district is given sufficient attention by the Government, so that its possibilities may be explored and it may become a health resort worthy of its name for people of every part of the country."

4-30
p.m.

* Mr. T. M. NARAYANASWAMI PILLAI:—"Mr. President, Sir, of course, I am not going to indulge in congratulating or condemning the hon. the Finance Member. One dominant fact arrests us, namely, the need for retrenchment in expenditure. I was wondering as to how the hon. the Finance Member did not set himself to achieve this object. It cannot be that he was not impressed with the need for effecting retrenchment; for his budget speech itself is a most powerful plea for effecting that retrenchment. He tells us how we are now in a time of acute economic depression, and how we cannot depend upon our revenues for our expenditure. And he also further says that the two sources of revenue, the land revenue and the excise revenue have reached their topmost level. With regard to one he says it is in a point of stagnation and as to the other it is in the process of attrition. Sir, with these inelastic revenues having reached their topmost level, I think a clear case has been made out for retrenchment. And this position is further heightened by the fact that we are now in an era of low prices. By no means can it be said that these low prices are a temporary factor. People who have bestowed thought and time think that it is not a temporary phase but it is going to prove a permanent factor. If that is to be so, I doubt whether we are at all doing the right thing if we do not set ourselves to effect retrenchment. I may say it is a crying need. I may say it is the most urgent need. And Sir, I was wondering, as I said, as to why this could not have been undertaken by the hon. the Finance Member. Sir, can it be that he realized the difficulty and wanted the future autonomous Government to face it? I refuse to believe it. Sir, it is much better that it is tackled even at present. May be, Sir, the problem is attended with difficulties; may be it is likely to create dissatisfaction; may be it is likely to create dislocation. Whatever it may be, at a time like this, when we have an expenditure exceeding our normal income it is our utmost duty to see that the expenditure and income balance. The hon. the Finance Member instead of putting forward any scheme has in a way asked us 'what will be your idea about reduction of expenditure?' Of course, we are in an unhappy position. But I may ask 'can he at least not try to effect retrenchment to the extent of twelve lakhs?', the amount which he wants to get from the balances. May I ask him, Sir, 'can you not effect retrenchment at least to that extent?' I think he can effect retrenchment to half a crore in the course of this year. Sir, there are many fields in which retrenchment can be easily effected. One such field is the Re-Survey and Re-Settlement department, costing about 40 lakhs. Sir, again the work in the courts has fallen considerably and that is another sphere in which retrenchment can be

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effected. Here I am not unmindful of the fact that the Survey department is doing real service and is providing us with records of rights. But still when there is this persistent fall in prices necessitating a reduction of land revenue, I fail to see the need for resettlement at present. Therefore, I think, we have here a wide field for retrenchment; and the earlier it is done the better. After all, if I may say so, the one temporary factor which has clouded our vision and which has obscured our real position is the existence of these surplus balances. We hope to begin with 280 lakhs and close with 200 lakhs at the end of the year. I say the existence of this surplus, if I may say so, is of a demoralizing character. (Mr. V. T. Arasu: 'Hear, hear.') This surplus has occupied a central factor in our finance and it has coloured every aspect of administration. It is out of this that the revenue deficit is made up; it is out of this that the debt is paid and it is out of this that money is provided for capital expenditure. Sir, it was alleged that it was unwise to meet expenditure on capital accounts from surpluses. But I feel that granted that we have a balance, it is much better to utilize them on capital works rather than utilize them to make up our revenue deficits. I am sorry this manner of utilizing the balance has not been pushed further. (Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. Patro: 'Kattalai scheme.') (Laughter.) People may take a pleasure in laughing. If the hon. Member had only known the dire need of that scheme he would not have said in a joking mood about Kattalai. I am thankful to the hon. Member for having reminded me of this; my point is that Government have provided as little as four lakhs for this scheme. Sir, this scheme has had a chequered career. It has not received the sympathetic consideration of the Government; for though it was inaugurated as early as 1924, it has not yet been finished; and yet we have been paying taxes.

"Sir, to resume what I was saying when Sir Patro interrupted me, very little provision has been made for remunerative works like the Kattalai scheme. I am thankful to the Government for what they have done, and I want only to emphasize the need for furthering the project. Sir, you have provided four lakhs for the Bed Regulator, and I would request that the Government may be pleased to sanction the high level scheme also, both of which would be remunerative works. And here I should not omit to mention the neglect shown by Government to the North Bank Canal. One lakh alone has been provided. Nothing has been done till now to carry it out. I hope it will be carried through and more than one lakh will be provided for the execution of the North Bank Canal scheme. For the longer the delay, the less profitable it will be to the Government, and therefore it will be economical to spend money on the whole scheme and get as much profit as possible.

"One other matter which arrests our attention is the economic depression. The Government should do something to relieve the present economic depression. It is now generally recognized that their order regarding the constitution of the new Economic Enquiry Committee is unsatisfactory. My point now is that Government should do something to relieve economic depression. There is a difference between the budgets of individuals and the budgets of nations. With

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regard to a individual's budget when a man has very little income he should spend as little as possible. But in the case of a nation when it is suffering from depression, it is said it should spend as much money as possible on works of public utility and try to enrich the producing capacity as well as the buying capacity of the nation. I fail to see anything of that character in the Budget. Of course, economic depression is a factor which cannot be dealt with by a single Government like that of Madras. It is a world-wide one. But still there are certain directions like those just mentioned where something could be done. Though the hon. the Finance Member has portrayed that we are in a condition of depression, he has done nothing to remove or relieve it.

"Again, I have also to complain that enough money has not been provided for things like Rural Water-Supply, Sanitation, Public Health and Education. Here I have to request the hon. the Chief Minister to allow me to remind him of one thing. Last year I remember he had been telling us of how he had been trying to create a Rural Development Fund. If I remember aright, he was asking for a fund of 50 lakhs. Now can he not try to have a fund of at least half that amount? Can it be pleaded that we are in a time of financial stringency and hence nothing could be done in the matter? I dare say such a line of argument could not be used at all. For, if surpluses are to be used for revenue deficits, I think it is much better to spend them on funds like the Rural Development Fund. I find a paltry four lakhs has been provided for rural water-supply. Somebody said that the public life of the hon. the Chief Minister is bound up with the fight he has put up on behalf of the village and villager. If so, I request him to see that he gets 25 lakhs for this fund, into which amounts will be gathered and out of which unspent amounts will not lapse."

Mr. K. KOTI REDDI:—"Mr. President, Sir, I do not think there is really much for us, who represent the rural population, to congratulate the hon. the Finance Member on his Budget. No doubt there are in it a few excellent sentiments, very pious hopes for the future and one or two financial maxims. But when we consider to what extent the Finance Member has succeeded in giving effect to them in his Budget, we are bound to meet with disappointment.

4-45 p.m. "Now, Sir, there is one feature in the revenue expenditure that is budgeted for the next year, and that is that so far as the administrative expenditure goes, there has not been the slightest attempt to decrease it. On the other hand, wherever there is a slight possibility there is an attempt at increasing it in many ways. So far as the expenditure for those departments which are connected with the development of the country like Education, Public Health, Agriculture, Veterinary, Medical, Irrigation and Forests and other departments are concerned which are intended to serve the interests of this country for the future and develop the resources of the country, there is every attempt possible to decrease the expenditure.

"Now, Sir, let us take a survey of the financial position of this Presidency. The excellent summary remarks made by the Finance Member

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no doubt give us a very interesting idea as to the future. The Finance Member has admitted—he is bound to admit I believe—that so far as land revenue is concerned, the possibility of its increase is very much limited. On the other hand, if the present economic situation continues, there is, as he admits, the possibility of a large reduction in the receipts under Land Revenue.

"Then again, with regard to Excise, Sir, there is a reduction of nearly a crore of rupees, from the accounts for 1929-30. No doubt the Finance Member expects a better future for the revenue under Excise when the political atmosphere becomes clearer. I may tell him, Sir, whether the political atmosphere is clear or not, there is every possibility—and a determined attempt will be made by the people of this Presidency in spite of what the Civil Service may think—of reducing the revenue from that source. And I am sure in the course of ten years not a pie from that source can be got for this Presidency. So, in regard to the three important sources of revenue, namely, Land Revenue, Excise and Stamps, no attempt has been made by the hon. the Finance Member to gauge the possibilities of decrease or increase. Under Stamps, Sir, two sources of revenue which ordinarily ought not to be included together—in no proper system of finance they ought to be included—namely, non-judicial stamps and judicial stamps have been included. It is no doubt a sound financial maxim, namely, that the Government ought not to make any attempt to make any profit out of the civil courts administration of this country. More than once in this House we have been requesting the hon. the Law Member to give us the figures to work out how far the Government is being benefited at the cost of the civil litigant, and no attempt was made by Government to give us these figures. I may, for the benefit of this House, cite statistics and attempt as far as possible to calculate the amount of profit that the Government is making out of the civil administration of this Presidency. I may just refer to these figures which I have taken from the civil budget estimate memorandum which clearly show that the Government is making out of the unfortunate civil litigant a sum which is not less than 60 lakhs per year, and any Government which has any sense of sound financial maxims of administration and of taxation ought to try as early as possible to reduce its expenditure on these judicial stamps. With regard to the expenditure, Sir, out of 98 and odd lakhs we have to deduct 11,38,000 for criminal courts and Presidency Magistrates who are not included in the civil administration of justice, because it is understood that so far as criminal administration is concerned, the whole country should bear the cost and not litigants alone. So, deducting these officers and establishments, we arrive at about 87 lakhs for civil administration. If you deduct some other items, the net amount would come to 81 lakhs and odd. I have made allowance for rents, for depreciation and also for pensions and so on. Deducting all this the expenditure from the Stamp revenue is about 81 lakhs. Now let us take the Stamp revenue. About 143 lakhs is the revenue which the Government derive from judicial stamps. Court-fees and other fees come to about 2 lakhs. So, the total under this head comes to 145 lakhs,

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Out of this I have deducted expenditure for the collection of stamps, and supervision charges for judicial stamps which I put at about 3 lakhs; and the balance comes to about 140 lakhs. Now, whereas the revenue that is derived by the Government from judicial stamps is 140 lakhs and odd, the amount of money that they spend on the civil administration comes to 81 lakhs. Even if you put it at about 20 lakhs more, the total expenditure would not go beyond a crore of rupees, whereas you have got in the shape of income a sum of 140 lakhs. Is it fair, Sir, is it just, is it proper that you should make this profit from the unfortunate litigant whose already pitiable position is becoming more pitiable owing to the economic depression? This is not trying to prevent litigation. On the other hand we are trying the possibility of avoiding resort to courts of law. I have mentioned this matter just to show that out of the three sources of revenue, the hon. the Finance Member has already admitted that Land Revenue is more or less stationary, Excise is being reduced year by year and in the course of probably a decade it will come to nothing. With regard to Stamps, if the Government is going to follow just and fair methods, they should not gain anything from this item. With our diminishing revenues this sort of profit from Stamps is bound to go down. If no attempt is made by the Government to reduce expenditure, it is bound to come to a crash, as the revenues are not increasing in the proportion in which they ought to. On the other hand, there should be every effort made and every possibility explored to see that the three main sources of revenue are considerably reduced. If they do not do so, the Government is going to come to a financial crash in a few years.

"What attempt has been made by this Government to benefit those departments which are intended for the development of this country? Take irrigation. I would certainly consider the development of this department would add to the resources of the country more than any other department. Now, what has been the amount of money provided for Minor Irrigation? We have been very often pleading in this House that the Government ought to see that more money ought to be spent on the construction of minor irrigation works. Government ought not to be satisfied merely with the maintenance and repair of these works which are already existing, but an attempt ought to be made to see that any water that can possibly be conserved, any little there is available, ought to be collected by means of small tanks, so that the ryots may be directly benefited. Now, what is the amount that is budgeted for this year under this head? It is the grand sum of Rs. 40,000 that is budgeted for minor irrigation works—new works—whereas you find Rs. 14 lakhs budgeted for the maintenance and repair of works already existing.

"Then, Sir, with regard to major works, my friends, I believe, have already spoken with regard to the provision made for the Tungabhadra project for which I see no provision practically has been made. I do not blame the hon. the Finance Member either, for not having made any provision to any great extent because he said that negotiations are still going on with the neighbouring Indian State Rulers and the

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Bombay Presidency. But according to the recommendations of the Ceded Districts Irrigation Committee, a number of subsidiary schemes have been investigated and a number of schemes in connexion with the Tungabhadra project have also been recommended, and if the bigger project is to be taken up, all these matters have to be taken into account. For instance, we have proposed in that committee to investigate the possibility of taking water to Dharmavaram and Anantapur in the Anantapur district. How far it is possible to do this has not been investigated. We have made only a suggestion to see how far these two taluks can be irrigated from the proposed Tungabhadra scheme. Efforts ought to be made to make a survey in this direction as early as possible. Then again, there is the possibility of taking Tungabhadra water to the most famine-stricken taluks of Sidhout and Badvel in the Cuddapah district. I know it may be said that this scheme has been given up, but I would urge that investigations should be made to see whether it is possible to take water to these two taluks. It is absolutely necessary that an investigation should be made in regard to this matter. There are also a number of subsidiary schemes in connexion with the Tungabhadra project which must be investigated before the bigger scheme.

"Now, Sir, with regard to Education, the little sum that has been devoted to public libraries has been removed this year. Can the Government not secure Rs. 2,000 for public libraries, as they did last year? And in regard to expenditure on new schemes, on the whole about 4 lakhs are going to be spent.

"In regard to Public Health, I see only a provision of 4 lakhs for rural water-supply. In the whole country in a number of areas people are suffering from epidemics like cholera, malaria and other diseases, and no attempt seems to have been made to devote more attention to these matters, at least to pay more attention to the problem of malaria and see that it is prevented.

"With regard to Agriculture, a department which ought to be immensely expanded, in regard to which every attempt should be made by the Government to improve, so that the resources and the agricultural productions of the country may increase enormously, we see that very little provision is made. I am told that there is provision for one more demonstrator and one maistri. I do not find this new provision in the Budget, and I do not know where it is. I simply find that there are ten maistries; and that is the only provision made for Agriculture.

"With regard to the Veterinary department also, no provision is made, and it seems to me that very little attempt is made by the Finance Member to devote anything for these development departments. Here we find this Government making no attempt to improve the lot of the poor people who are paying a large amount of money in the shape of taxation; and no attempts are made to retrench the huge expenditure wherever possible. I believe there is a possibility of immense retrenchment in the administration of this country. For instance, it is possible to reduce the salaries of officers, as the prices of foodstuffs have gone down now. They were given high salaries at a time when the prices

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rose high, and this House never complained. Now the time has come, as the prices have gone down—they have come to the level of 1914—when the salaries can be reduced without loss to the officers. Their economic position will not in any way be disturbed if their salaries are now reduced. With regard to allowances also, a number of these allowances can be reduced. This reduction would not be unfair at all. Most of these salaries have a relation to the prices of food stuffs, which have now come down very much. There is also a possibility of removing a number of unnecessary and supernumerary officers. I can give a number of instances of such offices, but I do not think this is the time for me to suggest what offices can be easily dispensed with. All I can say is: Here is the ryot whose economic position is very low, he is very much affected by the economic depression now prevalent, and it was with very much difficulty that Government could collect the last kist. I know how many of these ryots pledged their all with a view to pay the kist and how many cattle and other assets were sold. We wanted a committee of enquiry with a view to get relief in regard to these payments and other matters. There is no use of a committee if it gives its report after eight or ten years. If the collection of kists is to go on as usual, there is no use of this economic committee. The one gentleman who took all the trouble to organize this and on account of whose efforts this committee has been brought into being, I mean Mr. V. T. Ramaswami Ayyar is not in it. I do not know why his name is not found in the committee. So, this is absolutely of no use, so far as the ryot is concerned, because the kist is already collected. However, all that I want to impress on the Finance Member is that no serious attempt has been made to tackle the financial position of this Presidency. They are collecting the largest possible amount from the poor ryot who is not able to bear it any longer. And I would seriously say that, if you continue to do so, you will be killing the goose that lays the golden eggs."

The House then adjourned to meet again at 11 a.m. on Monday the 2nd March 1931.

R. V. KRISHNA AYYAR,
Secretary to the Legislative Council.

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APPENDIX I.

[Vide answer to question No. 470 asked by B. Pocker Sahib Bahadur at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 28th February 1931, page 162 supra.]

Statement showing the places in which Mapilla State Prisoners are detained outside jail and the number detained in each place.

District.	Number of persons detained under the	
	Madras State Prisoners Regulation II of 1819.	Moplah Outrages Act, 1859.
Arcot, North...	22	3
Arcot, South...	9	1
Chingleput...	2	...
Chittoor...	3	...
Coimbatore...	1	...
Cuddapah...	4	...
East Godavari...	3	...
South Kanara...	1	...
Kistna...	1	...
Kurnool...	4	...
Madras...	12	1
Madura...	19	...
Nellore...	3	...
Salem...	9	2
Tanjore...	31	1
Tinnevely...	23	...
Trichinopoly...	39	7
Vizagapatam...	2	1
Total...	188	16

APPENDIX II.

[Vide answer to question No. 474 asked by Mr. M. A. Manikkavelu Nayakar at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 28th February 1931, page 168 supra.]

G.O. No. P. 345 I., dated 9th February 1931.

At the meeting of the Legislative Council held on 30th September 1929, the following resolution was moved by Rao Bahadur S. Ellappa Chettiyar:—

That this Council recommends to the Government the immediate appointment of a committee consisting of elected members of the Council representing the North Arcot and Chingleput districts and experienced officials and an engineer to investigate the causes of the failure of freshes in the river Palar during the last two decades and to suggest remedies.

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The hon. the Revenue Member explained that the appointment of a committee was premature as the Government had not had time to collect the information to place before the committee. The resolution was however carried.

2. The statement of the action taken by Government on this resolution which was placed before the Council on 6th November 1930 explained that the matter was under investigation and that the question whether the constitution of a committee would facilitate that investigation would be considered in due course.

3. The Government have now completed the collection of statistics and have decided to appoint a committee. It will consist of the following :—

Mr. L. H. Greg, Chief Engineer for Irrigation	...	Chairman.
The Collector of North Arcot	...	
M.R.Ry. Rao Bahadur S. Ellappa Chettiyar	...	
M.L.C.	...	
V. M. Ramaswami Mudaliyar	...	
M. Vedaohala Mudaliyar	...	
Mr. A. G. Leach, I.C.S., Secretary to Government,	...	Members.
Public Works and Labour Department	...	
Mr. H. G. Jackson, Executive Engineer, Public Works	...	
Department	...	
Mr. Leach will act as Secretary to the committee.	...	

4. The committee will be requested to examine and report on the following points :—

- (i) to examine the information collected;
- (ii) to report whether any further information should be collected, and if so, what information, and by what agency; and
- (iii) if the information already collected is sufficient, to report what conclusions are to be drawn from it as to the alleged diminution in the supply of water in the Palar river and its causes and what action should be taken to improve the supply of water and to prevent any further diminution.

(By order of the Governor in Council)

A. G. LEACH,
Secretary to Government.

To L. H. Greg, Esq., Chief Engineer (Irrigation).
 „ the Collector of North Arcot.
 „ M.R.Ry. Rao Bahadur S. Ellappa Chettiyar Avargal, M.L.C.
 „ V. M. Ramaswami Mudaliyar Avargal, M.L.C.
 „ M. Vedaohala Mudaliyar Avargal, M.L.C.
 „ A. G. Leach, Esq., I.C.S., Secretary to Government, Public Works and Labour Department.
 „ H. G. Jackson, Esq., Executive Engineer, Public Works Department.

Copy to Chief Engineer (Irrigation).

„ Chief Engineer (General).

„ Board of Revenue.

„ Revenue Department.

„ Secretary, Legislative Council.

Press (order only).

[28th February 1931]

APPENDIX III.

[Vide answer to question No. 487 by Mr. A. P. N. V. Nadimutha Pillai at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 28th February 1931, page 177 supra.]

Board's Proceedings Ms. No. 3780, dated 23rd
December 1930.

[Resolution.—Assessment—Tanjore—Kist—Postponement—
Sanctioned.]

The Board sanctions the postponement to February and March 1931 of the January kist in the villages mentioned in the statement submitted by the Collector. It also approves the Collector's proposal to collect the postponed kist in equal instalments in February and March.

List of villages—(Abstract).

	Villages.
Mannargudi taluk	68
Tanjore taluk	57
Kumbakonam taluk	12
Mayavaram taluk	93
Papanasam taluk	108
Negapatam taluk	12
Nannilam taluk	61
Tirutturaippundi taluk	37

APPENDIX IV.

[Vide answer to question No. 489 asked by Pandit Ganala Ramamurti at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 28th February 1931, page 178 supra.]

G.O. No. 855, Law (Education), dated 19th May 1925.

Under rule 92 of the Madras Educational Rules a pupil belonging to one of the backward classes shall be allowed to pay half the standard rates of fees in a secondary school or a college if his parents are so poor that the grant of the half-fee concession is necessary to enable him to continue his studies. It has been brought to the notice of Government that converts to Christianity from backward classes are denied on their conversion to Christianity the half-fee concession to which they were eligible prior to their conversion and that this practice entails hardship on such of the converts as originally belonged to the depressed classes.

The Government are pleased to direct that the half-fee concessions to which poor pupils of the depressed classes are otherwise eligible should not be denied to them because of their conversion to Christianity.

(By order of the Government, Ministry of Education)

V. T. KRISHNAMA ACHARIYAR,
Secretary to Government.

THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OF THE GOVERNOR OF MADRAS

Monday, the 2nd March 1931.

The House met at eleven of the clock, Mr. President (the hon. Mr. B. RAMACHANDRA REDDI) in the Chair.

PRESENT:

- | | |
|--|--|
| Usman Sahib Bahadur, Kt., The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir Mahomed. | Muniswami Pillai, Rao Sahib V. I. |
| Krishnan Nayar, Kt., The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. | Murugappa Chettiyar, Diwan Bahadur A. M. M. |
| Campbell, C.S.I., C.I.E., C.B.E., V.D., I.C.S.. | Muthiah Chettiyar, Mr. M. A. |
| The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. | Nachiyappa Gounder, Mr. K. A. |
| Stokes, C.S.I., C.I.E., I.C.S., The hon. Mr. H. G. | Nallatambi Sarkarai Manrاديyer, Bai Bahadur N. |
| Muniswami Nayudu, The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. | Nanjappa Bahadur, Subadar-Major S. A. |
| Bajan, The hon. Mr. P. T. | Narasimbaswami, Mr. D. V. |
| Kumaraswami Reddiyar, The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. | Narayanan Nambiyar, Mr. V. P. |
| Abdul Hameed Khan Sahib Bahadur. | Narayanaswami Pillai, Mr. T. M. |
| Ahmed Meeran Sahib Bahadur. | Nateesa Mudaliyar, Rao Bahadur C. |
| Alamekumanga Thayarammal, Mrs. K. | Palat, Mr. R. M. |
| Annamalai Chettiyar, Mr. S. A. A. | Parthasarathi Ayyangar, Mr. C. R. |
| Arasa, Mr. V. T. | Pate, I.C.S., Mr. H. B. |
| Ari Gowder, Mr. H. B. | Patnaik Mahasayo, Sriman M. G. |
| Arogyaswami Mudaliyar, Diwan Bahadur R.N. | Patro, Kt., Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. |
| Basheer Ahmed Sayeed Sahib Bahadur. | Pooker Sahib Bahadur, B. |
| Basu Dev, Mr. C. | Fremayya, Mr. G. R. |
| Bayabani Sahib Bahadur, S. M. K. | Raja of Bobbili. |
| Bayappa Reddi, Mr. P. | Rajagopala Pillai, Mr. P. V. |
| Bhenoji Rao, Mr. A. V. | Ramalinga Chettiyar, Rao Bahadur T. A. |
| Birley, Mr. Frank. | Ramamurti, Pandit Ganala |
| Browning, Mr. W. M. | Ramamurti, I.C.S., Mr. S. V. |
| Davis, C.S.I., Mr. J. A. | Ramaswami Ayyar, Mr. T. S. |
| Devadasan, Mr. M. | Ramaswami Mudaliyar, Mr. V. M. |
| Dharmalingam Pillai Rao Sahib V. | Ranganatha Mudaliyar, Mr. A. |
| Doral Raja, Mr. S. N. | Ranganatha Mudaliyar, Mr. G. |
| Ellappa Chettiyar, Rao Bahadur S. | Ranganatha Mudaliyar, Mr. M. D. T. |
| Gopalaswarai Mudaliyar, Diwan Bahadur M. | Rangaswami Reddi, Mr. M. B. |
| Harisohandrudu Nayudu, Mr. A. | Sahajanandam, Swami A. S. |
| Hilton Brown, I.C.S., Mr. | Sami Venkatachalam Chetti, Mr. |
| Indriah, Mr. C. | Sesha Reddi, Mr. B. P. |
| Jagannadha Raja, Rao Bahadur G. | Shetty, Mr. A. B. |
| Jagannatham, Mr. H. M. | Siva Raj, Mr. N. |
| Jayaram Nayudu, Rao Sahib C. | Sivasubrahmanya Ayyar, Mr. K. S. |
| Kesava Ramamurti Nayudu, Mr. K. | Sreshta, Mr. M. S. |
| Kolanda Reddi, Bai Sahib C. | Srinivasa Ayyangar, Mr. T. C. |
| Krishnamurti, Rao Sahib D. | Srinivasan, Rao Bahadur R. |
| Kumara Raja of Venkatagiri. | Sriramulu, Mr. G. |
| Madanagopal Nayudu, Mr. B. | Subbarayan, Mr. P. |
| Madhusoodhanan Thangal, Mr. | Subrahmanya Bhatt, Mr. U. C. |
| Maharaja of Venkatagiri. | Subrahmanyam Chetti, Rao Sahib P. |
| Mahbub Ali Baig Sahib Bahadur. | Sundara Rao Nayudu, Mr. T. |
| Mahmud Schamnad Sahib Bahadur, Khan Bahadur. | Syed Tajudin Sahib Bahadur, Khan Sahib. |
| Manikkavelu Nayakar, Mr. M. A. | Vasudeva Pillai, Mr. V. G. |
| Moses, Mr. P. C. | Venkatarama Ayyar, Mr. K. R. |
| Muhammad Meera Ravuttar Bahadur, K. P. V. S. | Venkataramayya, Rao Sahib Badeti. |
| | Venugopal Nayudu, Rao Bahadur R. K. |
| | Watson, I.C.S., Mr. H. A. |
| | Yakub Hasan Sahib Bahadur. |
| | Zamindar of Minapallli. |
| | Zamindar of Mirzapuram. |

[2nd March 1931]

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS

Education

Grants to Muhammadan schools in Coimbatore district.

* 490 Q.—MR. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Excise be pleased to state—

(a) the amount that has been allotted to the District Educational Council, Coimbatore, for disbursement as grant-in-aid during the last five years;

(b) what is the total number of aided schools under the jurisdiction of the District Educational Council of Coimbatore;

(c) what is the total number of aided schools meant for the Muslim boys and girls and receiving grant-in-aid from the District Educational Council and where they are located; and

(d) what is the amount of grant-in-aid paid to each one of the Muhammadan schools, Coimbatore district, (1) for boys and (2) for girls in each of the last five years?

A.—(a)—

Year.	Teaching grants.	Building grants.	Equipment grants.
	RS.	RS.	RS.
1925-26	87,835	...	268
1926-27	1,01,079	3,306	3,966
1927-28	1,22,346	...	431
1928-29	1,27,572	1,000	...
1929-30	1,48,342	2,054	333

(b) Nine hundred and thirteen.

(c) There are no aided elementary schools for Muhammadan girls. There are ten aided schools for Muhammadan boys: four in Coimbatore town, one at Podanur, one at Mettupalaiyam, one at Kaniyur, one at Vadasittore, one at Ayyapuram and one at Satyamangalam.

(d)

Name of the school.	Teaching grants.					Furniture grants.
	1925-26.	1926-27.	1927-28.	1928-29.	1929-30.	1926-27.
Madrasa Showkatul Islamia, Coimbatore	RS. 163	RS. 159	RS. 168	RS. 168	RS. 185	RS. ..
Madras Hashimia Night, Coimbatore	..	..	..	..	89	..
Do. do.	..	..	..	..	50	..
Madrasa Mambal Kairath, Coimbatore	..	..	132	132	132	..
Umania Elementary, Podanur	62	60	89	120	132	24
Muhammadan Night, Mettupalaiyam	..	..	..	..	109	..
Muhammadan Elementary, Kaniyur	..	..	..	..	138	..
Madrasa Salihat Hindustani, Vadasittore.	65	60	63	72	72	..
Kurubar Doddi Muhammadan, Ajjapuram	..	..	..	..	81	..
Muhammadan Free Night, Satyamangalam	..	..	..	..	119	..

[2nd March 1931]

MR. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—"May I know, Sir, what steps the hon. the Minister for Excise intends to take with regard to the spread of education among the Muslim community in the Coimbatore district?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR:—"The facts mentioned in the answer do not seem to disclose the need for any special action. Muslim education has been supported to the extent to which it is possible."

MR. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—"May I know if the Minister is satisfied that out of the several lakhs of rupees given for the Educational Council only a couple of hundreds are given to the Muslim aided schools in the district of Coimbatore?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR:—"I am afraid my hon. Friend is making a mistake."

MR. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—"I want to know if the hon. Minister is satisfied that the promotion of education is adequate in the light of the very small grants given to the aided Muslim schools in the Coimbatore district?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR:—"I am not satisfied with any provision so far made for the development of elementary education. All that has been possible has been made when compared to the needs of other communities; I am not sure that the provision made for Muslim education can be said to be inadequate. Muhammadan boys are studying in other schools also."

MR. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—"May I know whether the hon. the Minister for Excise will be pleased to consider the question of making liberal grants to aided schools through the Municipal Council of Coimbatore?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR:—"It is for the Municipal Council to consider."

MR. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"The answer to (c) says that there are no aided elementary schools for Muhammadan girls. Does it not show the position of Muslim education in Coimbatore?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR:—"The difficulty is that very few Muhammadan girls come forward to be educated."

MR. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—"May I know whether there are Government schools for Muhammadan girls and boys in Coimbatore?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR:—"Notice."

Excise

Illicit distillation of liquor in South Kanara and Malabar districts.

* 491 Q.—MR. U. C. SUBRAHMANYA BHATT: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Excise be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a large number of cases of illicit distillation of arrack in the districts of South Kanara and Malabar;

(b) if so, what is the number of such cases in those districts within the last three years;

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(c) whether it is a fact that the sole monopoly of supplying arrack to the said two districts only is now given to Messrs. Parry & Co. and whether they supply arrack called molasses arrack prepared out of a waste by-product;

(d) whether it is a fact that the said molasses arrack is inferior in quality and unworthy of human consumption and whether the said large percentage of cases of illicit distillation is due to the same; and

(e) what action the Government propose to take in the matter?

A.—(a) & (b) The number of cases of illicit distillation and of possession and sale of illicitly distilled spirits in the South Kanara and Malabar districts during the three years ending 1929-30 is as follows:—

					South Kanara.	Malabar.
1927-28	...	...	...	...	250	234
1928-29	...	...	...	...	331	249
1929-30	...	...	...	...	348	255

No separate figures are available to show the number of cases of illicit distillation alone.

(c) Messrs. Parry & Co. supply molasses arrack to the two districts and to certain other parts of the Presidency.

(d) The Government have no reason to think that the facts are as suggested.

(e) None.

Mr. U. C. SUBRAHMANYA BHATT:—"May I know if the arrack supplied is not prepared out of the by-product?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR:—"Molasses is a by-product, I think."

Mr. U. C. SUBRAHMANYA BHATT:—"May I know whether the Government gets anything for the monopoly given to Messrs. Parry & Co.?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR:—"I can't say off-hand. I should like to have notice."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"May I know how arrack was made available to the two districts before the entry of Messrs. Parry & Co.?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR:—"It is a matter of ancient history. I must look into the records."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"How many years before, Sir?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR:—"Several years, I can't tell you the exact date."

Mr. U. C. SUBRAHMANYA BHATT:—"May I know if the Government propose to send it for chemical analysis?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR:—"It was analysed and it was found to be better than other kinds of arrack."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"When was the analysis made?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR:—"Quite recently, about two years ago."

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Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"May I know whether competitive tenders were called for in regard to the right of distilling arrack?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR:—"I believe not in the cases of molasses; I am not sure."

Mr. V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"With reference to clause (c), may I know what are the other parts of the Presidency referred to?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR:—"Very nearly three-fourths of the Presidency."

Mr. V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"May I know whether monopoly fee is derived by Government in respect of the three-fourths of the Presidency?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR:—"I do not know if it is correct to call it monopoly; no fees are being levied, as far as I know."

Mr. V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"May I know, Sir, whether other firms are allowed to supply arrack?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR:—"When the question of arrack supply is taken up, if other people tender, certainly their cases will be considered."

Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"I can say, Sir, that no competitive tenders are called for at present. On the assumption may I ask the hon. the Minister if competitive tenders will be called for hereafter?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR:—"If the hon. Member's assumption is correct, when the present term of contract is over the matter will be considered."

Fisheries

Piscicultural operations in South Kanara district.

* 492 Q.—Mr. A. B. SHETTY: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Excise be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Fisheries department has taken over some tanks in the district of South Kanara for piscicultural operations;

(b) what the names of the tanks are;

(c) how long they have been in charge of the Fisheries department;

(d) what expenditure has been incurred on their maintenance;

(e) what revenue was being derived before they were transferred to the Fisheries department and what revenue is being realized now; and

(f) what is the nature of the piscicultural operations that are being conducted and who the officer in charge of the operations is?

A.—(a) & (b) Yes. Kodi and Kotakere tanks.

(c) Since 1917.

(d) Rs. 705.

(e) The Government have no information as regards the revenue realized prior to their transfer to the Fisheries department. No revenues have accrued after their transfer.

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- (f) The tanks were taken over with a view to conserve the valuable species of edible fish known as milk fish. Technical operations are controlled by the Director of Fisheries. There is no special officer in charge of the tanks.

Mr. A. B. SHETTY :—"With reference to (f) may I know what exactly are the operations that are controlled by the Director of Fisheries and how often he goes to South Kanara for this purpose?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR :—"The information is not available at present; I will call for it if the hon. Member wants it."

Qualifications of Inspectors of Fisheries.

* 493 Q.—Mr. A. B. SHETTY : Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Excise be pleased to state—

(a) the number of Inspectors of Fisheries appointed since the promulgation of the Fisheries Subordinate Service Rules;

(b) whether all the persons appointed possess the necessary qualifications prescribed by the rules; and

(c) whether any of them have been exempted; and, if so, the circumstances under which such exemptions have been granted?

A.—(a) Three temporary appointments have been made.

(b) No. Two of the men do not possess the qualifications prescribed in the rules.

(c) No.

Mr. A. B. SHETTY :—"May I know why, out of the three appointments made, two have been given to persons who are not qualified?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR :—"Because they are temporary appointments and it was thought proper to put in people who had already had experience in the work rather than putting raw men."

Civil Justice

Number of appeals on questions relating to Hindu Law.

* 494 Q.—Mr. C. R. PARTHASARATHI AYYANGAR : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state the number of appeals to the High Court and the Privy Council on questions relating to Hindu Law in matters of Adoption, Succession, and Woman's Estate in General and Women's streedhana in 1925—30?

A.—The Government have called for the information.

Summer holidays for District Munsifs' Courts.

* 495 Q.—Mr. U. C. SUBRAHMANYA BHATT : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state the reason why Munsifs' Courts are given only six weeks of summer holidays while the District and Subordinate Courts are given eight weeks?

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A.—Under section 30 of the Madras Civil Courts Act, 1873, the power to fix the period of recess of District Courts, Sub-Courts and District Munsifs' Courts vests in the High Court. The Government are not aware of the reasons for allowing only six weeks' recess for District Munsifs.

Mr. U. C. SUBRAHMANYA BHATT :—"May I know, Sir, whether the work of the District Munsif is inferior in quality or quantity to that of the subordinate judge?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"Sir, if that question arises out of the answer, I will answer it."

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN :—"You may make your submission to the President; let him rule. Hereafter the answer will be 'No information.'"

Jails

Alleged lathi charge on C class prisoners in Bellary jail.

* 496 Q.—Mr. K. KOTI REDDI : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that on or about the 4th of February 1931 a number of C class political prisoners in the Central Jail, Bellary, refused to go into the lock-up as a protest against the non-supply of writing material and lights;

(b) whether it is a fact that the police who were requisitioned used lathis to force them into the lock-up and whether some of the prisoners received injuries in the lathi charge;

(c) whether it is a fact that some time after the prisoners entered the cells and the police left, some of the warders brought back some of those prisoners from the cells into the outer enclosure of the jail and beat them severely;

(d) what was the nature of the injuries inflicted on the prisoners (1) by the police and (2) by the warders; and

(e) what was the occasion and necessity for the use of so much force (1) by the police and (2) by the warders?

A.—(a) Yes.

(b) to (e) The information has been called for.

Government Press

Alleged suspension and dismissal of certain employees in the Government Press.

* 497 Q.—Mr. C. BASU DEV : Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether one T. Natesan, a machine-minder, Government Press, Mount Road, one Krishnaswami, binder at Mint Buildings, and one A. R. Govindarajulu, binder at Mount Road Branch, were dismissed, suspended and reduced respectively by the Superintendent of the Government Press without framing any charges against them or calling for any explanations from them; if so, why;

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(b) whether the increment of Re. 1 due to the said Govindarajulu was refused continuously for the past five years; if so, why; and

(c) whether the said Govindarajulu was petitioning to the Superintendent for these years for the grant of the increment and whether he was reduced from Rs. 19 to Rs. 18?

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

Mr. BASHKEER AHMED SAYEED :—“ May I know why the Government have not called for the information when a definite allegation is made that the suspension, dismissal and reduction have been made without framing any charges against them or without even calling for any explanations ? ”

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—“ These matters relate to the routine administration of the department. If any Government servant feels aggrieved, he has got the right of appeal. This course is rather better than the Government themselves enquiring into the matter.”

Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—“ May I know, Sir, whether it is not a standing rule that in the case of the Government servants before a punishment is awarded charges should be framed and explanation called for ? ”

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—“ That ought to be done. That is why I say a Government servant has got the right of appeal.”

Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—“ I am talking of the present standing order. I wish to know whether these orders are not now being observed and, if so, why they are not being observed ? ”

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—“ Then let the Government servants appeal.”

Mr. BASHKEER AHMED SAYEED :—“ Whether the Government servants appeal or not, when the impropriety of procedure has been brought to the notice of the Government, viz., that charges have not been framed apart from the question of their appealing, may I know why the Government should not enquire whether those allegations are true or not ? ”

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—“ As I have said, the procedure is prescribed and whenever there is an irregularity the Government servants can appeal to Government and it is in the interests of the Government servants themselves that their appeals should come before the Government.”

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN :—“ May I know, Sir, if he does not recognize that there are Legislative Council Members here, that their duty is to bring such matters to the notice of the Government and whether it is not the duty of the hon. the Home Member to recognize that and take action ? ”

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—“ In the interests of the Government servants, it is better that they should prefer appeals.”

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Mr. V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—“ If the Government had not called for information, may I know whether the Government do not care for calling for the information ? ”

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—“ I have already answered that.”

Alleged suspension of Mr. Balasubrahmanyam, reader in the Government Press.

* 498 Q—Mr. C. BASU DEV : Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state whether one N. A. Balasubrahmanyam, reader, Government Press, was suspended for one month and reduced from Rs. 36 to Rs. 30 by the Superintendent of the Government Press, Madras; if so, why?

A.—The Government have no information.

Mr. YAKUB HASAN :—“ When the Council asks for information, what is there to prevent the Government from calling for information, Sir? The question of taking action on that is a different thing. Only information is wanted and why not Government procure it ? ”

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—“ When the party has not exercised the right of appeal, it is better that he should have an opportunity of doing so.”

Mr. BASHKEER AHMED SAYEED :—“ The hon. the Home Member is making a confusion, Sir. It is not with reference to the party aggrieved; it is with reference to the procedure adopted by the responsible officers of the department.”

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—“ I have nothing to add to what I have already said.”

Police

Suspension and dismissal of subordinates in the Police Department in Chittoor district.

* 499 Q—Mr. C. R. PARTHASARATHI AYYANGAR : Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) the number of suspensions and dismissals of—

(1) clerks and other subordinates of the District Superintendent of Police's office, Chittoor;

(2) police constables, Sub-Inspectors and Inspectors in Chittoor district; and

(b) the reasons for any excess over the normal?

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

Mr. C. R. PARTHASARATHI AYYANGAR :—“ In view of the importance of the matter may I know if the information will be called for ? ”

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—“ It is not necessary to call for the information with regard to details of procedure.”

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Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED :—" May I know why there has been such a large number of suspensions and dismissals in the Chittoor district ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" I have already said that Government have no information. "

Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED :—" Is it because that some of these District Superintendents have been unduly harsh against some of the sub-inspectors and inspectors in connexion with the civil disobedience movement ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" No information. "

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN :—" Will the hon. the Home Member tell the Members of the House what is the nature of the business on which Members can ask questions ? "

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Land Revenue

Circular by the Tahsildar of Tirutturaippundi regarding encroachments of poramboke lands.

500 Q.—Mr. A. PI. N. V. NADIMUTHU PILLAI: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government are aware of the circular D. Dis. No. 93 of 1930/B-3, issued by the Tahsildar of Tirutturaippundi, Tanjore district, with regard to B. Memorandum encroachments of small bits of poramboke lands with nanja plots;

(b) whether the Government have issued any circular in such matters; and

(c) if not, why this circular quoted above has been issued in contravention of Board's Standing Order that the encroachments of less than half a cent of land should be ignored?

A.—(a) to (c) The Government have not the information but have called for a report.

Jails

Remission of the sentence on Mr. A. Kameswara Rao.

501 Q.—Rai Sahib C. KOLANDA REDDI: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state, with reference to the answer to question No. 318 answered on 30th January 1931—

(a) whether the information called for has since been received; and

(b) whether the conviction and sentence of Mr. Annapragada Kameswara Rao of Guntur, B-class prisoner in Vellore jail, for refusing to give finger-prints, has been remitted?

A.—(a) & (b) Yes.

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Remission of the sentence on Mr. A. Kameswara Rao.

502 Q.—Mr. C. SATYANARAYANA CHODARI: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have remitted the sentence on Mr. A. Kameswara Rao, a political prisoner now at Vellore, who was convicted for his refusal to give his finger-prints to the Police; and

(b) if not, why not?

A.—(a) The hon. Member is referred to the answer to question No. 501

(b) Does not arise.

Police

Enquiry into the murder in Velaurti near Kurnool.

503 Q.—S. M. K. BAYABANI SAHIB Bahadur: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that about four months ago two Muslims of the same family, uncle and nephew, were murdered in Veldurti near Kurnool and that the murders are still undetected; and

(b) why they have not yet been detected?

A.—(a) & (b) The Government have no information; but have called for it.

[Note.—An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.]

II.—GENERAL DISCUSSION OF THE BUDGET FOR 1931-32.

* Mr. J. A. DAVIS :—" Sir, I have to make the best of the ten minutes 11-15
allotted to me. Firstly let me tender my sincere thanks to the Home a.m.
Member for having allotted almost the full sum of Rs. 44,000 for the education of poor Anglo-Indian girls. I may assure the Member and the House that this allotment in the past two years has been of inestimable service to the community and that we are grateful for the continuance of this policy. It is with regret that I have noticed the statement of Mr. Ranga Ayyar in the Legislative Assembly to the effect that Anglo-Indians were monopolising the Railway Service. I would remind Mr. Ayyar that persons in glass-houses ought not to throw stones and that his community is now monopolising all the appointments in the recently established Pykara Hydro-Electric Scheme. In that department his community is excluding every other community (Mr. Abdul-Hameed Khan: Which is that community?). I would be the last to make comparisons, but Mr. Ranga Ayyar has forced this attitude upon me. Then again, Sir, may I refer to the Local Fund Audit Department where, out of three Assistant Examiners, all are Brahmans and that out of 30 District Inspectors, 26 are Brahmans? I trust that the recently sanctioned new posts of Inspectors at least will be given to some other community."

[Mr. J. A. Davis]

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“ With regard to the post of Director of Public Health which is now held by a member of my community in an acting capacity, since he is fully qualified for the post, I appeal to the hon. the Minister and to His Excellency the Governor to see that he is confirmed in the post (Dr. C. Natesa Mudaliyar: Hear, hear). This is the only opportunity that the Anglo-Indian has had of filling this greatly coveted position, and I trust the Government will see that the community is not adversely treated in this matter, as he holds every one of the qualifications necessary for the post.

“ In regard to the Registration Department, I must once again appeal to the hon. the Minister in charge to see that those officers trained in the department to whom promises have been held out in regard to the future are given a chance of becoming Inspector-General. I trust that Government in the interests of the department will see that those trained in the department are elevated to the highest post and the only plum in the department.

“ Sir, to the hon. Chief Minister in charge of the Municipal portfolio, I would appeal that he should see that the Municipal Account Code which is now obsolete is revised and brought up to date. This Account Code is leading to very great trouble between municipal councils and the auditors. For instance, Sir, we are required to purchase our surgical instruments and medicines from the Government Medical Stores. For the very identical surgical instrument which we can purchase outside, we have to pay to the Medical Stores 300 per cent more. Seeing that municipal bodies are themselves completely financing their dispensaries, I trust the hon. Chief Minister will see that public funds are not wasted in this manner and that he will have the Municipal Account Code brought up to date and so remedy matters.

“ Sir, last year, I had to find fault with the Veterinary department for the delay in sending out serum when rinderpest broke out. This year, I have nothing but congratulation for this department. They have not only supplied serum in time but have stopped many an attack of rinderpest. I particularly congratulate the Coimbatore section in this matter, for which Mr. Wilson is responsible for much good work that has been done.

“ I would bring to the notice of the hon. the Minister in charge of the Public Works Department the unsatisfactory manner in which the flood damages on the Mettupalaiyam-Ootacamund road have been carried out. At some points cars have to wade through water, other portions of the road are actually dangerous, while the flooring of many of the bridges is loose and considering the time that has passed since the floods, the restoration work would not do credit to a third-rate municipality.

“ Then Sir, in respect of the Agricultural Department, I would appeal to the Minister to see that the department co-operates with agriculturists, particularly such societies as the Nilgiri Agri-Horticultural Society of Ootacamund. For the past two years this long-established society has

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been deprived of those benefits it ought to have at the hands of such a department. I trust in the future there will be created a better feeling between the Agricultural Department and Societies working in the interests of agriculture and horticulture.

“ Coming to excise, year after year I have been dealing with partial prohibition on the hills. I would ask the hon. the Minister to look at the position that the Nilgiris present as a result of the partial prohibition that has been given to the Badagas at their own request. The economic position of the people was deplorable ten years ago. Now they are able to discard the single cotton cloth in which they were dressing for suits of the best English tweed and English foot-wear. This is how partial prohibition has helped these people economically. Under these circumstances there is the fullest justification for a further move and I await with interest the answer of the Excise Minister as to the further steps he means to take on the Nilgiris.”

* Mr. T. S. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—“ Mr. President, Sir, this Budget has been presented to the Legislative Council by the members of the happy family after the reunion that took place in October last. We therefore expected, Sir, that the views of the various Members that constituted the Cabinet would have been impressed and made itself felt in the Budget. But when I go through the Budget, I find that the pet schemes for which the Ministers were supposed to stand are conspicuous by their absence. It is not for me to say what the reasons are that made the Ministers not to translate into action the promises they held out during the elections. I wish to know, Sir, why the hon. the Chief Minister has not given effect to the scheme which he has been talking of for a long time, namely, the formation of a Rural Reconstruction Fund. Is it pleaded in excuse, Sir, that even a few lakhs are not available during this year for the formation of that Fund? After all, the need for a Rural Reconstruction Fund is all the greater now when the agriculturists are feeling their condition miserable. That fact has been recognized, and in the course of the speech of the hon. the Finance Member attention has been drawn to the fact that prices of agricultural products have gone down very much. The plight of the agricultural classes is not really a happy one. In those circumstances, the formation of a Rural Reconstruction Fund becomes all the more necessary. Is it that funds are not available, or is it that the scheme is not ready? Of course, it has been said, Sir, by the hon. the Finance Member that the motto which he would choose for the present Budget is *festina lente*. I take it it means ‘hasten slowly.’ In a year like this, it is but right that the brake should be applied to schemes which have been tried during the past few years and the results of which have not been fully appreciated. But I cannot understand that maximum being applied to schemes which on the face of them are really of a beneficial nature, and which are absolutely necessary with regard to the nation-building departments. That is why I refer to the absolute necessity for the formation of a Rural Reconstruction Fund.

[Mr. T. S. Ramaswami Ayyar] [2nd March 1931]

"We see, Sir, in the Budget that provision has been made for the formation of roads. But what are the roads that are provided for? It is not only in the present Budget that large provision is made for roads but also in the supplementary demands. But we find that trunk roads and A class roads are to be benefited much more than village roads. Does it mean that the idea is to make it possible for the motorist to glide along in comfort while the poor agriculturist is to be left to his cart-tracks and bullock-carts?"

"Then again, Sir, there is the other question which vitally affects the people, especially the rural population, namely, the question of the excise policy of the Government. I wish to know what the policy of the present Government is. This Ministry when it was in the Opposition condemned what is called the anti-drink propaganda, which was a scheme started by the late Ministry and they condemned it in no unhesitating manner. They wanted prohibition but soon after the Ministers took office, when a measure was brought forward by the Opposition that prohibition should be introduced at least in one or two districts of the Presidency, the hon. Minister for Excise stood up in his seat and pleaded the old, old excuse of limitations of diarchy. The plea of limitations of diarchy has been an excuse put forward by most of the Ministers that have been working under the regime which we have been having during the last decade. But I cannot understand how that could be pleaded by a Ministry which has been welcomed by the Reserved Half when they came into office and to whom all facilities have been given for the conduct of the machinery under their control. The hon. the Excise Minister, Sir, not only referred to the limitations of diarchy but also pleaded want of funds. But in the Opposition it was easy for the hon. the Chief Minister as the leader of the party, to say that the Excise policy of the last Government was not one calculated to inspire confidence. He himself suggested that if only there was the will it was possible to find a way. Now that he is in office and in a position to translate his views when the Budget is framed he seems to have been guided by different considerations altogether. Not only that, we find that Excise and Education have been put together under one Minister. That is a departure of course from the arrangement adopted by the last Ministry. I do not think the change is for the better. It passes currency in the streets that the educational policy of the Government is to go hand in hand along with the excise policy of the Government and if the poor man wants to have his children educated by the State he should contribute to the exchequer by paying excise revenue, i.e., by himself taking to drink! Then alone can we have a balancing of the Budget. Is that, Sir, the policy of the Excise Minister with regard to excise?"

"Then with regard to the policy of elementary education itself, what do we find? It is not that funds are not available. Funds were provided for in the last year's budget, and I know many grants have lapsed. The reason, Sir, is that there has not been a clear policy to work out the development of elementary education in this Presidency.

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Formerly, many elementary schools were opened in rural areas. Later on, a Government Order was passed that central schools alone should be established and that single-teacher schools should be abolished. Either adequate provision was not made for establishing central schools or the policy was not fully pursued so that many central schools were not established in rural areas during the last year; and starting of single-teacher schools also was stopped. The people who were greatly affected by this want of policy were the depressed classes. Many of the village schools are in the quarters occupied by the caste-Hindus. With a view to avoid communal friction, the Labour department wanted to open other schools for the depressed classes in the villages where schools already existed for caste-Hindus, but the Education Department turned round and said that the new schools could not be opened as they are within a mile of schools already existing. These impediments should not be allowed to stand in the way if the hon. Minister wants to have elementary education expanded. As regards higher education, certain block grants were given during the last one or two years to the various Universities. But the Universities have been told that for three years more they must be satisfied with those block grants. The block grants are just sufficient for running the machinery of the Universities and the Universities cannot expand their spheres of activity. Last year, the University of Madras applied for a grant for opening Chairs for Statistics, Geography and Physics, but the Government said that they had no funds, and the University had to be satisfied with the block grant. Now, this year, it will be pleaded that the financial situation of the province is not bright, but, if the Ministers really desire it, they can find money for these purposes. But the fact is that they really want to mark time. With no forward policy, they want to get on in office allowing the old state of affairs to continue perhaps with a little change here and a little amendment there. Is that going to be the policy of the present Ministry? When they were in the Opposition, Sir, they were saying that big things could be expected as soon as they came into office. I think they do not use their influence on the Reserved Half. Not having known the secrets of Cabinet responsibility, I cannot say in what manner the Ministers could have got the necessary funds, but I know that if there was a will, they could certainly have influenced the Reserved Half to help them in their schemes. I think that the present difficulty is due not to lack of funds but to want of policy on the part of the spending departments."

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"The hon. the Member's time is up."

Mr. T. S. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"Only one minute more, Sir. I was referring to the influence which the Ministry could bring to bear on the Reserved Half. Could it not have been possible for the Ministry to influence the Government to bring forward a Land Revenue Bill for which the legislature has been asking in vain all these years?"

"Sir, some money was sanctioned last year for the betterment of the depressed classes. There was the Bogipalaiyam scheme for housing the

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poor. This year we find in the budget provision of a sum just enough to complete that scheme and no more. Why should we say that we are trying to help the poor when we are not making any provision in the budget for the purpose? Have you made any provision this year for any new schemes for housing the poor? What have you provided for the benefit of the poor agriculturists this year? If only the Ministry had some imagination they could have started a broadcasting station in Madras. With a little expenditure the broadcasting station could be made to send out world news, information regarding the state of the market, when the floods could be expected and so on, information which would be beneficial to the agriculturists. Even the Madras Corporation with its limited resources has been able to open a broadcasting station in the city for the convenience of its citizens. Is it too much for this Government to open a powerful broadcasting station in Madras to help the poor agriculturists?

"Before I conclude, Sir, I desire to thank the hon. the Finance Member for the able manner in which the finances of the province have been proposed to be dealt and for the clear presentation of the budget. I also desire to thank Mr. Watson who has been working indefatigably as Secretary in the Finance Department and whose genial presence we will miss hereafter."

* Mr. V. G. Vasudeva Pillai:—"Mr. President, I heartily endorse the remarks which have been made by my hon. Friend, Mr. T. S. Ramaswami Ayyar. Sir, it is a regret to me to find very few hon. Members coming forward to say anything for the amelioration of the depressed classes. I am, however, glad that among the Brahmans at least, I find Mr. T. S. Ramaswami Ayyar, a gentleman advocating the cause of the poor and the depressed classes. Sir, as Sir Patro remarked, one need not travel from China to Peru to acquaint oneself with the condition of the depressed classes. Let us take the case of the depressed classes nearer home, in the City of Madras. What do we find? We find that they are in a hopeless condition. There are 140 slums in the City of Madras with a population of one lakh. What has the Madras Government done during all these years? The Madras Corporation has been in existence for the last so many years and yet it has not moved its little finger to improve the condition of the cheris in Madras. Madras has now grown into a very important city. It consisted only of some huts, but now it has been converted into a city of palaces. Wherever you turn your eyes, you find parks opened for the recreation of the public, schools for imparting free and compulsory education, hospitals for rendering medical relief to the suffering patients and last but not least beggars' homes for rendering comforts to the destitute and the maimed. All these are there, but has anything been done to ameliorate the condition of the population in the cheris? Ten years ago, I moved a resolution in the Madras Corporation to convert the cheris into model ones. In moving that resolution, I was urged on by Mr. Burkitt, the then Commissioner of the Madras Corporation. He was distinctly of opinion that Madras could not and would not be improved unless the cheris

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were improved. That was his deliberate opinion and he said on that occasion that some of the worst diseases in Madras such as smallpox, malaria, etc., broke out in the cheris and gradually spread to the whole city. Therefore, it is the duty of the Madras Corporation to undertake in all seriousness, the improvement of the cheris with the help of the Madras Government and if such help is not forthcoming, to get such help from the Government of India. But, Sir, has any attempt been made in this direction since 1920? None. I know, Sir, that large sums of money are being spent on schemes, which have proved to be useless subsequently. An instance in point is the underground drainage scheme. This scheme has resulted in the financial breakdown of the Madras Corporation. It has proved to be a huge white elephant. This scheme was launched with a view to prevent the flooding of the streets in Madras, to get rid of the mosquito nuisance and also malaria. Has it brought about any of these results? Now our streets are more flooded than before, the mosquito nuisance has not abated and the malarial fever continues to play havoc. Such are the results. And yet, the Madras Government which has never spent a pie to improve the slums in the city, has been liberal enough to contribute its own share for carrying out the drainage scheme. When nothing has been done to improve sanitation, etc., in the cheris, in Madras you can imagine for yourself the condition of the slums in the mufassal. Sir, I appeal to hon. Members to do their best to ameliorate the condition of the depressed classes. I appeal to my hon. Friend, Sir Patro, who was a classmate of mine in the Madras Christian College, and who is an ex-Minister to do his bit for the depressed classes.

"Sir, no attention has been paid to rural development in this Presidency. This year the revenues of the province have been adversely affected and so I am only appealing to the hon. the Finance Member to make some grants for the betterment of the depressed classes by reappropriation or by supplementary demands. I request him to make an honest attempt to find money for more schemes like the one at Bhogipalaiyam, for which there is a provision of 2½ lakhs. I think the Government ought to adopt a more liberal policy in this direction. If they begin improvement of the slums in Madras, they can gradually extend the policy to the mufassal by making grants to the district municipalities for the purpose. As Mr. T. S. Ramaswami Ayyar has dwelt on this question, I do not propose to go over the same ground.

"I have to say a word about the recruitment to the constabulary. Sir, we find from an answer elicited from the hon. the Home Member, that only 5 per cent of the police force consists of depressed classes. Sir, is this percentage in proportion to the numerical strength of the depressed classes? We constitute one-sixth of the population. Why not we be given at least one-sixth representation? Sir, what has happened in Ramnad and what is happening in Singanallur and Valluvakudi, Shiyali taluk—as my hon. Friend Mr. Sahajanandam will tell you—will not be repeated, I say emphatically, if the police consisted

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of a larger number of men from the depressed classes. If there have been series of attacks upon the innocent depressed classes men by the high caste people—all these things have been done by the connivance of the police, which mostly belong to the high caste people—would not the Madras Government change its view so far as this recruitment is concerned? May I not appeal to my hon. Friend, the hon. the Home Member, who was my colleague in the Madras Corporation to do something in this direction? It is likely that he is going to be a responsible Minister very soon. (Laughter.)

“As regards elementary education, I wish to say that the Madras Corporation is paying its utmost attention to it. But even then, there are some difficulties to be overcome. I have informed the Madras Corporation that there is no use in simply compelling children of the depressed classes to attend schools, unless you make other necessary provisions. The other day I moved a resolution in the Madras Corporation—an account of this appeared in the papers—for the provision of midday meal to the children of the depressed classes and also to compensate the parents of those school-going children who are wage-earners. But my Friend, Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti, who is espousing the cause of the poor and the depressed classes, stood in my way. He objected to such a resolution being moved on account of its financial implications. I told the members of the Corporation that my object in moving that resolution was to focus attention on the needs of the depressed classes and to bring home to the members the necessity for improving the condition of the depressed classes although they may not have the money for it. But in spite of it all, Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti successfully persuaded the members of the Corporation to refer the resolution back to the committee. In the Madras Corporation sending back to the committee means good-bye, for ever. (Laughter.) That is how questions relating to depressed classes are dealt with.

11-45 a.m. “Then Sir, with regard to elementary education, municipalities and local boards are not allowed to spend their money on compulsory education. Compulsory education is being imparted only in the city, and not in the mufassal. I submit that this must be undertaken in all seriousness.

“Coming to high school and collegiate education, I say that this must be imparted to us free till a fairly large number of us become highly educated and till a large number of us become graduates and double-graduates. Once we become graduates and double-graduates, I am sure that the treatment that will be accorded to us will not be the same as it is now. Now there are a number of school-final men who are without employment. Most of them are subjected to severe scrutiny of the Public Service Commission and are declared ineligible. Is this the special treatment that is accorded to us?”

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—“The hon. Member has exceeded his time-limit.”

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* MR. V. G. VASUDEVA PILLAI:—“I wish to say one word more about the present political situation in this country with reference to the depressed classes. The attitude of the depressed classes has been one of a hostile nature for a very long time. They have been like that deliberately, because they have been under an age-long tyranny and oppression of the higher caste people, and it is no wonder that they have protested against the grant of Swaraj. But now, Sir, they have changed their attitude and at the Round Table Conference held in London only two representatives of the depressed classes were invited for a population of 60 millions in the whole of India. That is a feature, which I want to bring to the notice of this House. But I may say this: that we have been at least fortunate to have one of our representatives in the person of Dr. Ambedkar, an eminent scholar, who is more than a match to any higher class casteman. The other representative is Rao Sahib R. Srinivasan, a veteran, who has devoted all his life for the amelioration of the depressed classes. I remember the time when I had an interview with the present Prime Minister when he came out to India on a political mission in 1918 along with the Secretary of State and His Excellency the Viceroy. Then, I was granted a special interview, at which I placed before him all the grievances of the depressed classes. Immediately after his return to England, he said there that the grievances of the depressed classes were superficial and that the representations were brought to say many things which were not in existence. It took 14 years for Mr. MacDonald and far off England to understand that the grievances of the depressed classes are real; and that is the very reason, although they form part of the Hindu population, they are granted separate electorates and special safeguards. But I may say this, Sir, that we are not going to hold ourselves fast to this electorate, nor are we going to stick to these special safeguards, provided there is a change in the angle of vision on the part of our Hindu brethren. If we are going to be treated equally with our caste Hindu brethren. If we are going to be admitted into temples freely, if we are going to be allowed in all the public schools, if we are going to be allowed to draw water from village wells, and last but not least, if we are going to be allowed to walk on the King's roads freely, I do hope that time will certainly come, and it will not be far off, when the depressed classes will join hands with other caste people in demanding purna Swaraj under the aegis of the British Empire.”

* S. M. K. BAYABANI SAHIB Bahadur:—“I have just a few words to say, Mr. President, on the Budget that has been placed before us. Coming from a district which is known to be backward, I take this opportunity of presenting to this House a few of the grievances from which my district suffers. Before doing so, I should like to say a word to this House, viz., that we are the representatives of the common people and as such have got one important duty to perform and that is this: First we have to consider their grievances. If we forget that, then we shall not be discharging the duties entrusted to us faithfully and we shall not be true to our electorates. I would like to invite the

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attention of this House to this important point, viz., that we should try to introduce such measures as will really prove useful to the people of our province.

"Sir, coming from a district which is backward, I may say that if you go into the interior you will find that the ryots are suffering very badly. Owing to trade depression the ryots are finding it very difficult to pay their taxes. The Collectors and the district authorities are trying to collect them from the people very harshly. Therefore, the first thing which I would like to do is to invite the attention of the hon. Member in charge to suspend the collection of taxes for some time so that the ryots may feel it easy to pay them afterwards.

"Mr. President, many of my Friends who have spoken before me have invited the attention of the Treasury Bench to this thing or that, and I do not think it necessary to imitate them. It is no use requesting them unless they agree to take up our suggestions on this important point, viz., retrenchment. That is to say, the Government should try their best to save as much money as they can at this juncture. If you go into the interior, and see the sufferings of the people you will simply pity their condition. While people are suffering like this in the province, Government are trying to spend large sums of money on things which are not quite essential. I should like to say that things which are not quite essential may be postponed at least for some time, so that the money saved thereby may be utilized for better purposes. In this connexion I would like to make one suggestion and that is this: that the salaries of all officers who are getting Rs. 150 and above, even including that of His Excellency the Governor, may be reduced.

"Coming to things that pertain to my district, and the Ceded districts in general, I may say that these districts are suffering very badly on account of failure of rains resulting in insufferable famines every four or five years. Government are aware that while people in other parts of the Presidency are suffering owing to excess of rains, our lot is to cry out for want of sufficient rains. In this connexion I would like to invite the attention of the hon. the Revenue Member to one place in my district, viz., Cumbum, which has also one of the greatest tanks in the whole of the Presidency. Owing to successive failure of rains over this area for the past 30 years, this Cumbum tank has not got sufficient quantity of water, and many people who are living in that area have been compelled to abandon their homes and have gone to new places to earn their livelihood. Recently, when I sent a question to the Government, I got a reply that they had got figures only from the year 1919, i.e., only for the past ten years. Out of these ten years, I find that in only one year the tank had water. I would suggest, if it is found impossible to find funds to think of big projects, that at least a minor project may be taken up so that the people suffering in that area may be saved from famine.

"As regards my own community, I have got to say a few words. I think my Hindu brethren also would sympathize with me when I say

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that the rights of my community regarding education and their representation in the services and in the local bodies should be protected. I have no doubt that the Hindu brethren would give their helping hand to us in this direction so that Muslims may advance side by side with other communities. I find some of our men who recently got the benefit of education and who are now in search of employments have been complaining that most of them are not allowed to enjoy the benefit of Government service simply because they are barred by age. I would like to point out to the Government that the average age of a Muhammadan when he first enters the school is eight as he is not allowed to attend secular schools before he finishes his course of religious instructions in the Muktab. For this reason, their age when they complete their studies is rather high. So, I would request the Government to see that, in the case of Mussalmans, the age limit is not strictly enforced.

"The Mussalmans of this province have been complaining in season and out of season about the absence of a Mussalman on the High Court Bench ever since Sir Abdur Rahim retired; yet no Mussalman has been given an opportunity of occupying that high post in the High Court. 12 noon.

"A word about one section of my community in particular, viz., the Mappillas, and their sufferings. Several questions have been put in this Council on this matter, but it is unfortunate that no satisfactory answers were given. These Mappilla prisoners should be released at an early date. Each and every Mussalman should consider other Mussalmans as members of one and the same family. I hope that the hon. the Home Member will agree with me when I say that the Holy Prophet has enjoined on every Mussalman to regard the other Mussalmans as his brothers. That is the tradition of the Holy Prophet that has been handed down to us. I therefore request that the Mappilla prisoners may be released at an early date and be allowed to join their wives and children and parents who are in a very very deplorable condition."

* Mr. C. INDRAIYA:—"Mr. President, Sir, I take this opportunity of thanking the Government for one thing. In the Budget of this year, credit has not been taken for any increased revenue from the introduction of re-settlement rates in the districts of Kistna, West Godavari and East Godavari, pending the final decision of the Government and I hope that the Government would go further and give effect to the resolution passed by this House.

"At the same time I must say, Sir, that the Budget is very disappointing and unsatisfactory in more than one way. There is always a tendency on the part of the Government to multiply its expenditure. Firstly, this is due to the top heavy system of administration. Secondly, large sums of money are spent every year on brick and mortar.

"Coming to the question of court-fees, I appeal to the hon. the Law Member to see that they are reduced. When the court-fees were enhanced in the year 1923, we were told that they would be reduced as

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early as the financial condition permitted. Yet, nothing has been done so far, by way of reduction. I therefore appeal to the hon. Law Member to see that the court-fees are reduced at an early date.

"Coming to Excise, I am very sorry to see that, though this House has fixed the goal of total prohibition, no action has been taken in that direction. This source of revenue is a demoralizing one. The Government must soon put an end to this source of revenue. Every year large sums of money are spent on District Temperance Committees. They have not been doing any substantial work. My only request to the hon. the Minister who is in charge of this portfolio is to abolish these committees and to introduce total prohibition in the near future.

"Coming to the Hindu Religious Endowments Act, it is defective in more than one way. In our district a large number of suits have been pending in the District Court; under the present Act, jurisdiction is vested in the District Court with regard to the cases arising under this Act. I would appeal to the hon. the Chief Minister to come forward with an amending Bill to remedy the existing defect and to give jurisdiction to the Subordinate Courts so as to facilitate speedy disposal of these cases.

"Every year, Sir, huge sums are spent on District Temple Committees. They have not been doing any substantial work and the amount spent on them is sheer waste. I appeal to the hon. the Chief Minister to put an end to these committees also.

"From the standpoint of the ryot also, this Budget is very disappointing. In spite of the present economic depression and in spite of appeals to the hon. the Revenue Member, nothing has been done in the matter of granting remissions to the ryots in the districts of West Godavari and East Godavari.

"One more point I wish to refer to, is the need for the separation of the judicial from executive functions. This matter has been engaging the attention of this House for a number of years and yet nothing has been done in that direction so far. I therefore appeal to the hon. the Law Member to look into this matter very soon."

* Rao Sahib BADETI VENKATARAMAYYA:—"Mr. President, Sir, on an occasion like this, it is but right that the grievances of the ryot should be placed before the Council. I am glad that most of the hon. Members who have preceded me have referred to the acute grievances of the ryots and have pleaded for redressing them. It is not merely in this year, but year after year these grievances have been brought to the notice of the Government and they have been as callous as ever. I may give one instance. Time and again, promises have been made that a Land Revenue Bill will be introduced in the Council; but the Government have not done so. A Bill was introduced in the Council; but it was vetoed by the Council. The Government did not thereafter bring forward any Bill. Though that has not been done, settlements have been going on in district after district and the rates have been enhanced. Then the Government took up the question of resettlement in

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Godavari and Kistna districts. This House expressed its emphatic opinion that conditions were such that the resettlement rates should not be given effect to. My hon. Friend who preceded me pointed out that the Government have realized the force of the contention put forward in this House and of the resolution that has been carried here and the Government suspended the enhancement of the kists for this particular year. I think the Government should be alive to the wishes of the people and to the wishes of this House and that they should give effect to the resolution passed in this House completely.

"Of course there are other measures taken which are intended to ameliorate the condition of the ryots. Co-operative societies have been started to help the ryots. In the year 1926 Mr. Adinarayana Chettiyar, a Member of this Council, pointed out that the agricultural indebtedness of the ryots amounted to about 4,000 lakhs of rupees, and the amount of debts given to the ryots was about 45 lakhs. With regard to cultivation expenses, he gave the figure at Rs. 3,800 lakhs and the ryots have to cultivate 380 lakhs of acres; it works out at Rs. 10 an acre. But the amount advanced to the ryots was only about Rs. 26 lakhs. From this, the hon. Members will be able to see whether the amount advanced to the ryots will materially help them.

"Another attempt was made to help the ryots and that is the starting of land mortgage banks. Very little has been done so far in this direction and there are only a very few banks started. A land mortgage bank was opened in my own place, Ellore, but it did not begin its operations as it is said there was no money available. I think, Sir, that some effective steps should be taken to improve the condition of the ryots.

"As we all know, the ryots contribute nearly 40 to 50 per cent of the income to the State Exchequer, i.e., 8 crores of rupees out of 18 crores of revenue to the Government. The ryots are, in justice, entitled to expect that a major portion of the revenue should be spent for their needs. But the Government always say 'no funds are available'. That is the reply given again and again. The amount collected from them is utilized for diverse other purposes extravagantly; sometimes money is also wasted. There is no proper check over expenditure. While the revenue during the last ten years has exceeded by Rs. 260 lakhs, the expenditure increased by 600 lakhs. The hon. the Finance Member in his Budget speech sees clearly the necessity for retrenchment. He has perhaps forgotten the question of constant rise in salaries in the ranks of the services. It is obviously necessary that retrenchment should be carried out in proper directions, and money must be made available for the needs of the ryots.

"So far as temporary relief is concerned, the deplorable condition of the ryot is recognized in paragraph 3. Owing to heavy fall in prices ryots are not getting the proper income which they expected to realize. Under these circumstances it is the obvious duty of the Government to relieve them. A resolution was tabled by me for the postponement

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of the kist collection, but it was not reached. District after district made representations to the hon. the Revenue Member to postpone the collection of kist. This does not involve any financial loss to the Government. An Economic Enquiry Committee was recently appointed; but this matter is not one of the terms of the reference to that Committee. The Government say that this question is being separately examined by them. One-fourth of the kist is payable in January, one-fourth in February and the other half of the kist is payable in March. Nothing has been done so far. Here again, the Government are entirely responsible for this delay. They only show professions of sympathy but they do not translate it into action.

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p.m.

"The example of the Bombay Government may be taken. There, the hon. Revenue Member, Mr. Hudson, has granted several concessions to the ryots and has also said that he would relieve their sufferings by granting a postponement of kist collection wherever necessary. That is a reasonable way of dealing with the question. I do not see why speedy steps should not be taken to relieve the ryots. If the Government say that they will carefully examine the matter after the collection season is over, I say, Sir, that will be like sending for the doctor when the patient is dead. It seems as though the Government is not only irresponsible but is also lacking in imagination.

"Then, Sir, as regards the question of the reduction of stamp fees, referred to by several hon. Members, the hon. the Law Member has himself been an incessant critic of his predecessor in office; but after he got into his place, he has been stating that it is impossible to reduce the rates as the Government could not afford to lose the revenue from that source that they are getting now. I may say, Sir, that it is quite possible to effect retrenchment in other directions and reduce the rates; I hope he will comply with the wishes of this House in that respect.

"As regards the question of the separation of judicial and executive functions, there was not a single year in which the hon. the Law Member when he was a non-official Member, did not criticize his predecessor for not effecting this separation. I say that question has now become more prominent, especially having regard to the vindictive sentences against satyagrahis, in view of the political bias in the minds of the executive against them and when the confidence of the people in the administration of justice is impaired—having regard to all these considerations, a question like this ought to receive better attention than before. As a non-official Member the present Law Member was asking his predecessor as to what was being done by the then Member. I now ask him, Sir, as to what he has done in the matter?

"Then again, as regards the political situation in the country, no doubt it is very difficult to run the administration owing to the difficult situation created by recent events. The various excesses committed by the Police have received the condemnation of the public. No doubt extraordinary situations have to be met by extraordinary remedies, but

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all the same, the methods followed must conform to law. If you want the people to obey your laws, you must yourself set an example; if you yourself violate your laws, you cannot ask the people not to violate them. I think I need not pursue that subject any further, as the feelings of the House have been emphatically expressed by a recent vote on the question. We have heard of lathi charges, of caning and of biting. The methods of the Government are certainly not legal and I should think that they are themselves to a great extent responsible for the spreading of the movement."

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"The hon. Member is exceeding the time-limit."

Rao Sahib BADETI VENKATARAMAYYA:—"Just a few minutes more, Sir. As regards the question of affording partial relief to the ryots affected by the recent floods and cyclone, I want the case of the lanka ryots in the East and West Godavari districts should also be considered. Owing to untimely rains and floods, crops have failed in the lankas and if the ryots are asked to pay the usual kists amounting to several thousands of rupees, I am afraid they will be practically ruined. Prices have fallen three times below those in normal times and ryots are in a wretched plight. Something must be done to afford relief, and I hope the Government will consider this matter favourably.

"There are several other questions which I wish to refer to, but the time at my disposal is short, and I shall therefore refer to them in the course of the voting of grants, through cut motions. But I shall deal with one matter now, and that relates to the administration of departments under the Chief Minister. Most of the grants made to local bodies lapse year after year. The chief difficulty is that the money has to be spent through the dual agency of the Engineering department and the Sanitary Engineering department; and both are controlled by the Chief Engineer. Sometimes conflicts arise between them and delays occur. I think it is necessary that the two departments should be separated, so that the grants may be wisely utilized.

"With regard to the transfer of clerks working in the District Medical Officer's office, it should not be done from district to district. I refer to the instances of transfers of head clerks from Ootacamund to Coimbatore, from Coimbatore to Ellore and again from Ellore to Chittoor. Apart from the question of travelling allowance that is involved, it is very hard on these clerks to be subjected to such unjust transfers; especially in these days when people are keenly feeling the want of money and when Government themselves want money for various schemes, what is the necessity for spending even a pie on these transfers when there are no bad reports against the clerks concerned? I hope the hon. the Chief Minister will look into the matter and redress their grievances."

* Mr. A. HARISCHANDRUDU NAYUDU:—"Mr. President, Sir, I do not find anything in the Budget to congratulate the hon. the Finance Member upon, so far as it relates to the amelioration of the condition of the poor ryots. It is a matter of common knowledge that there has been

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an abnormal slump in prices. Especially the agricultural produce has gone down in prices by 76 per cent, if not more. Ryots borrow money at a high rate of interest and the money they realize by selling their goods will not even suffice to pay off the debts. They have now to pay the Government their kists. Representations were made to the Government to remit them where necessary and to extend their collection over five instalments. On account of the very heavy floods in the Godavari, the lankas were submerged and suffered great damage. Sowings were belated and the poor crop which was the result of that delay was almost destroyed either by pest or by disease. The ryots are now on the brink of bankruptcy. It is up to the Government to come to their rescue by giving them remission and postponing the collection of kists. Otherwise, many families will be reduced to a state of starvation. It is my devout wish that the Economic Enquiry Committee newly constituted will redress the grievances of the ryots by going into the question of their present distress in a sympathetic manner and will not prove to be a mere eye-wash.

“With regard to the Thorrigedda project in the East Godavari district, though the matter has been discussed from time to time by the representatives of the East Godavari district in the previous Councils, nothing has been provided for it in this Budget. The chief remedy for the present impoverished nature of the country seems to us to lie in applying the axe freely and making the necessary retrenchment. If Government is generous enough to give up a part of their luxuries, much reduction in expenditure can be effected.”

Mr. M. B. RANGASWAMI REDDI addressed the House in Tamil as follows:—

சபைத் தலைவரவர்களே !

“இப்போது சபைமுன் கனம் பொக்கிஷ மெம்பரால் ஆஜர் செய்யப்பட்டிருக்கும் வருகிற வருஷத்திய வரவு செலவு திட்டத்தை நாட்டு மக்கள் வெகு ஆவலோடு படிப்பார்கள் என்பதில் ஐயமில்லை. ஏனெனில் காலநிலை கடுமையாகவிருக்கிறது. வியாபாரம் படுகிறிருக்கிறது. வாங்குவோர் விற்போர் இருவரும் சேர்ந்திருக்கின்றனர். வாங்குவோர்க்குப் பணம் முட்டு. விற்போர்க்கு விலை கட்டை. முதலாளிகள் தொழிலாளிகள் இருவர் கையும் சேர்வடைந்திருக்கிறது. விவசாயிகள் வெள்ளக்கொள்ளையால் இடப்பட்டுத் தவிக்கின்றனர். தானியமும் விலை வுமுள்ளவர்கள் சரக்குக்கு விலையற்று தானியங்களை சேமித்து வரிப்பணமும் கட்ட வகையற்று விழிக்கின்றனர். அரசியல் கிளர்ச்சியால் ஆங்காங்கு நேர்ந்துள்ள ஸ்தம்பிதமும் ஒரு சிறிது இந்நாட்டிலுண்டு. இன்னிலையில் வெவ்விடப்பட்டுள்ள அரசாங்க வரவு செலவு திட்டத்தில் தங்களுக்கு எதேனும் ஆறுதல் உண்டா வென்று நாட்டு மக்கள் கவனிக்கப் புகுவது இயற்கையேயன்றோ? மற்றும் ஜனங்களுள்ளாம் நாட்டின் வன்மையை வளர்க்கவல்ல இலாக்காக்களாகிய கல்வி, சுகாதாரம், கைத்தொழில், நீர்ப்பாசனம், கூட்டுறவுபோன்ற இலாக்காக்களில் ஏற்கனவே செய்யப்பட்டுள்ள அபிவிருத்திகள், இவ்வருஷ வரவு செலவு திட்டத்திலும் பிற்போக்கடையாமலிருக்கின்றனவா என்று பார்ப்பதுடன், முற்போக்குக்கான அம்சங்கள் எதேனும் அடைந்திருக்கின்றனவாவென்றும் கவனிக்கப் புகுவது இயல்பேயன்றோ? பொதுவாக நம் பணமெல்லாம், நாட்டிற்கு இன்றியமையாததாகிய அமைதினையும், ஒழுங்கையும் தருவது மாதிரிமன்றி, மக்களின் பொருள்நிலை, வாழ்க்கைநிலை, இரண்டையும் உயர்வாக்கும் நோக்கத்தோடு செலவிடப்படுகின்றதா என்னும் கேள்வியையே எழுப்புகிறது. எழை

[Mr. M. B. Rangaswami Reddi]

2nd March 1931]

குடியானவர்களே பெரும்பாலும் நிறைந்துள்ள ஒரு ஜில்லாவின் பிரதிநிதி என்ற ஒரு பொருப்புடனேயே நான் இவ்விஷயத்தை ஆராயப்புகிறேன்.

“வரவு செலவு திட்டத்தை கையிலெடுத்த உடனேயே, முதல் முதல் நம் மனத்தில் உறுத்துவது யாதெனின், இது ஒரு கேடிமகால திட்டமல்ல என்பதுதான். முக்கிய காரணம் என்னவென்றால், இதில் வரவு முன்னிலும் குறைவு. அதன் காரணமாக செலவும் நல்லகாலமாய் குறைவாக்கப்பட்டிருக்கிறது. சென்ற வருஷத்திய எதிர்பார்த்த வரவு 18.61 கோடி. ஆனால் திட்டமாய்க் கிடைத்தது 17.76 கோடி, சுமார் 72 லட்சம் குறைவுப்பட்டிருக்கிறது. செலவினத்தில் இதே காரணத்தால் குறைவு ஏற்பட்டிருக்கிறது. இது ஒரு விதத்தில் திருப்திகரமான அம்சந்தான். ஆயினும் நமது சர்க்காரில் ஒரு கெட்ட பழக்கம் என்னவென்றால், வருமானத்தை அதிகமாக எதிர்பார்த்து செலவை குறைவாய் வகித்து இதனால் வரும் குழப்பத்துக்கு ஆளாவதேயாம். நல்ல வேளையாய் இந்த வருஷத்தில் வரும் குழப்பத்துக்கு ஆளாவதேயாம். உத்தேசித்ததைவிட 60 லட்சம் குறை சர்க்கார் மொத்தச் செலவை முதலில் உத்தேசித்ததைவிட 60 லட்சம் குறைவாகவே செலவு செய்துள்ளார்கள், என்று சந்தோஷப்பட்டுக் கொள்ளலாமா யினும் எந்த இலாக்காவில் இவர்கள் இவ்வாறு சிக்கனம் செய்து விட்டார்கள் என்று பார்க்கும்போது கல்வியில் 37 லட்சம், சுகாதாரத்தில் 7.5 லட்சம் என அனுகூலம் என்னும் இலாக்காக்களில் தான் செலவினம் குறைக்கப்பட்டது. இதை நோக்கும்போது சர்க்கார் வரவு செலவு விஷயமாய் எதாவது ஒரு திட்டமானதை நோக்கும்போது சர்க்கார் வரவு செலவு விஷயமாய் எதாவது ஒரு திட்டமானதை நோக்கியிருக்காதுவென்று சந்தேகிக் வேண்டியிருக்கிறது. ஆதலால் நாளது வருஷத்தில் நிகர இருப்புப் பெரிதும் குறைந்துவிடும், என்று கூறப்பட்டிருப்பதில் ஆச்சரியமில்லை.

“இனி வருமான அம்சங்களை சோதிக்கும்போது நிலத்தீர்வையில் 20 லட்சம் அதிகமாக வந்திருப்பதாக காண்கிறது. நிலத்தீர்வையில் பெருக்கு ஏற்படுவதைக்காண மனம் கஷ்டப்படாமலிருக்கமுடியாது. இது விவசாயிகள் கேடிமகால இருப்பதற்கு அறிகுறியாமாயின் எல்லாநம் சந்தோஷப்படலாம். நம் நாட்டிலும் அப்படியோ என்று நினைத்துப் பார்த்தால் சிறிது கஷ்டமாகவே இருக்கும். கலாவில் 29 லட்சம் குறைந்திருப்பதை சர்க்கார் சந்தேகித்துப் பார்க்கட்டும். நாட்டில் இவ்விஷயத்தைப்பற்றி எவ்வித உணர்ச்சி இருக்கிறதென்பதற்கு இது அறிகுறியாகும். ஸ்டாம்பு இலாகாவில் 1929-30-ஐ விட கடந்த வருஷத்தில் வரவு 9 லட்சம் குறைந்திருக்கிறது, ஒரு விஷயத்தில் திருப்தியே. இந்த இனத்தில் குறைவு ஏற்பட்டிருக்கிற அளவுக்கு ஜனங்களிடம் விவகாரச் சச்சரவும் குறைந்திருக்கிறதென்பதற்கு இது சூசனையாயின் நன்றே. ஆனால் பணமுடையாலும், ஸ்டாம்பு பில்களின் உயர்வாலும், நியாயம் தேடமுடியாமல் ஜனங்கள் சோர்வடைந்து நியாயம் தேடாமலிருந்துவிட்டார்கள் என்பதாயின் இதைப்பற்றி என்ன நினைப்பது? காட்டிலாக்காவில் 6 லட்சம் வருமானம் குறைவு, பத்திரப்பதிப்பில் 27 ஆயிரம் குறைவு, இவையெல்லாம் ஜனங்கள் பொருளாதார நிலையை, அயர்வை நன்கு வெளிப்படுத்துகிறது.

“கடந்த வருஷ செலவினங்களை உற்றுநோக்கினால் பொது பரிபாலனம், 12-30 பொலீஸ் பரிபாலனம், நியாய பரிபாலனம், ஆகிய பரிபாலன இலாக்காக 822 லட்சம் விழுங்கிவிட்டிருக்கின்றன. இவை ஆராயப்பட்டால் நாட்டின் அமைதியும், ஆட்சியும் நடப்பதற்கென்றே செலவிடப்படுவதாய் கூறப்படும். ஆம், நாட்டில் ஆட்சி உண்டு, அமைதியுண்டு, அதனாறது அபிவிருத்தியுண்டோ? அதற்கு ஆயத்தமாவதுண்டோ? என்று கவனித்தால் அது மாதிரிம் குறைவு, கல்வி, சுகாதாரம், பாசனம், தொழில் முதலிய பல இலாக்கையிலுங்கூட, பரிபாலன சிப்பந்திகள் மேல் செலவு செய்யப்படும் தொகைக்கும், வாஸ்தவமாய் குடிசைகளுக்குப் பயனாகும் தொகைக்கும், வீதம் போட்டுப்பார்த்தால் அப்போது தெரியும் உண்மையில் நம் வரிப்பணத்தில் என்ன சதவிதம் நம்மக்களுக்குப் பயனாகிறதென்பது.

“இவற்றையெல்லாம் உற்று நோக்கும்போது, கவர்ன்மெண்டு நடந்துவரவேண்டியது முக்கியம், அது எப்படி நடப்பதென்பது இரண்டாம்படி என்பதே வெளிப்படையாய் விளங்குகிறது. இதற்குக் காரணம் என்னவென்று தெரிந்துகொள்வது சுலபமான காரியம். பிரசுரிக்கப்பட்டுள்ள திட்டத்தில் பி. ஸ்டேட்மெண்டில் ஒதுக்

2nd March 1931

கப்பட்ட இலாக்காக்கள் என்னும் தலைப்பின்கீழ் செலவினம் 1,033 லட்சம், மாற்றப்பட்ட இலாக்காக்களின் தலைப்பின் கீழ் 738 லட்சம், இது 100-க்கு 58 வீதம் ஜனப்பிரதிநிதிகளின் கையிலிருந்து பொக்கிஷ அபிகாரத்தை கொள்ளை கொண்டு விட்டிருக்கின்றது. மற்றொரு விதமாய் இதை கவனிப்போம். ஜனப்பிரதிநிதிகள் வோட்டுக்கு உட்படாத இனம் என்று ஏற்படுத்தி அந்த அம்சங்களின்கீழ் 279 லட்சம் காட்டப்பட்டிருக்கிறது. இவைகளெல்லாம், எதைக்குறிக்கின்றன? ஏனெனில், பூர்ண மாகாண சுதந்தரம் ஏற்படாதிருக்கும் வரையில் நாட்டின் நடப்பு இப்படித்தான் இருந்து திரும் என்பதேயன்றோ? ஆயினும் இன்று இப்படிப்பட்ட சுதந்தர ஆட்சி சம்பந்தத்தில் ஏற்படக்கூடுமென்ற நம்பிக்கை ஏற்பட்டிருப்பது பற்றி எதிர் காலம் ஆறுதல் தரக்கூடியதாய் இருக்கிறது. ஆயினும் நடந்த வருஷத்திய ஆட்சிமுறையை எந்த விதத்தில் பாராட்டமுடியுமென்பது மாதிரி தெரியவில்லை. வாக்குச் சுதந்தர எழுத்துச் சுதந்தர பரிமுதலுக்காகவா? நியாயத்தை சட்டத்தையும் அசட்டை செய்து அமுல் நடத்தினதற்காகவா? கூட்டங்கூடும் உரிமையை உபயோகிக்கும்போது குதிரைகளைச் செலுத்தி கூட்டங்களை கலைத்ததற்காகவா? தடியும் கொம்புங்கொண்டு தேசத் தொண்டர்களை தாக்கியதற்காகவா? ஒன்றும் புரியவில்லை. ஆயினும் மாற்றப்பட்ட இலாக்காக்களில் செய்யப்பட்டுவரும் சிறு சிறு நல்ல வேலைகள் நம்பிக்கைக்கு இடமளிக்கின்றன என்று சொல்லலாமாயினும் கடப்பாறை விழுங்கிய நோய்க்கு சுக்குக் கியாழம் சாப்பிட்ட வைத்தியம் போலிருக்கின்றன இவைகள். அஞ்சா நெஞ்சங் கொண்டு பல்லாயிரம் கிராமங்களுக்கும் நாகரிக வாழ்க்கைக்கு இடமாக்க, குடிமக்களையெல்லாம் வறுமை, பிணி, அறிவினமை இவைகளிலிருந்து நீக்க கட்டுப்பாடான திட்டமமைத்து அத்திட்டத்தைச் சிறிதும் பிசகாமல் நடத்திவரும் ஒரு கொள்கை எப்போது ஏற்படுமோ அப்போதுதான் நாடு கேடிமமடையும்.

“நிற்க, இவ்வருஷத்திய வரவு செலவு திட்டத்தில் இப்படிப்பட்ட அம்சங்கள் எதேனும்புண்டோவென்று கவனித்தால் வழக்கமான பதில்தான் கிடைக்கிறது. காட்டிலாக்காவில் ஒரு லட்சம் குறைச்சல் செலவு, பாசனவடிகாவில் 2.5 லட்சம் குறைச்சல் செலவு, பொது நிர்வாகத்தில் 1.42 லட்சம் குறைச்சல் செலவு, கல்வியில் 37 லட்சம் குறைச்சல் செலவு, சுகாதாரத்தில் 7.5 லட்சம் குறைச்சல் செலவு, தொழிலிலிருந்தி இலாக்காவில் 2.4 லட்சம் குறைச்சல் செலவு, இப்படிப்பட்ட சிக்கனங்களெல்லாம் காணப்படுகின்றன. இந்த சிக்கனங்களில் ஆறுதல் தருவது போலீஸ் இலாக்காவில் 4 லட்சம் குறைத்துப் போட்டிருப்பதுதான். ஆனால் நீர்ப்பாசன இலாக்காவில் 3.7 லட்சமும், முதல் கணக்கு வைக்கப்பட்ட பாசன இனத்தில் 1.7 லட்சமும் உபகாரச் சம்பளமும் முதலிய இனங்களில் 2.3 லட்சமும் அதிகம் போட்டிருப்பது குறிப்பிடத் தகுந்தவைகள்.

“பொதுவாக இவ்வருஷத்திய வரவு செலவு திட்டங்களைக் கண்டு திருப்தியடையக்கூடியது ஒன்றுமில்லையாயினும் கனம் பொக்கிஷ மெம்பர் தம் திட்டத்தை ஆஜர் செய்தபொழுது பேசினவைகளில் காணப்பட்ட பற்பல நல்ல அம்சங்களுக்காக, நாம் அவரை பாராட்டவேண்டியிருக்கிறது. வரவு செலவு கணக்கிடும் முறையிலும் வரவு செலவு சரிசெய்யும் விஷயத்திலும் அவர் கூறிய அபிப்பிராயங்கள் எல்லாராலும் அங்கீகரிக்கப்படக்கூடியவை. சர்க்கார் ரிசர்விலிருந்து செலவழிக்கப்பட்டவைபோக மீதி இரண்டு கோடி சில்லரையை வீணாக்காமல் பார்த்துக்கொள்ளுவது நம் பண நிலைக்கு என்றும் கேடிமமே. முக்கியமாய் நம் நாடு பயிரிடுவோர் நாடு என்பதையும் பயிரிடுவோரின் வரி செலுத்தும் சக்திக்கு அதிகமாகவே அவர்கள் வரி கட்டுகிறார்கள் என்பதையும் நினைவு வைத்துக் கொண்டு சர்க்காரார் தம் திட்டங்களை தயார் செய்து கொள்ளுவது அவர்களுக்கு மேன்மை தரும். கவரன்மெண்டு உத்தியோகஸ்தர்களின் சம்பளத்தை சிக்கனக் கமிட்டியில் கவனித்து ஷே மிச்ச பணத்தை ஜனங்களுக்கு முக்கிய உபயோகமான கல்வி முதலிய இலாக்காக்களை விருத்தி செய்ய வேண்டும். மேல் நாடுகள் இந்தியாவை விட பணக்கார தேசமாயிருந்தும் கவரன்மெண்டு உத்தியோகஸ்தர்களுக்கு 100-க்கு 40 வீதம் சம்பளம் குறைவென்பதும் கவனிக்கவேண்டும், நம் எழ்மை தேசத்தில் உத்தியோக வர்க்கத்தாருக்கு அதிக சம்பளம் என்பதையும் குறிப்பிடுகிறோம்.”

2nd March 1931]

Rao Sahib P. SUBRAHMANYA CHETTI addressed the House in Telugu as follows:—

సభాస్యకు !

“అసరబ్ ఫయసాస్సు మొబరుగారిచే నొసంగబడిన ‘బడ్జెట్టు’ యొక్క మంచి చెడ్డలను గురించి మూడు దినములుగ విమర్శనలు జరుగుచున్నవి. కాలపరిస్థితులు గమనించుచు వారి కందరికిని ఈ బడ్జెట్టు ఇంతకన్న బాగుగనుడుటకు వీలులేదని యిదివరకే తెలియును. ప్రపంచమందంతటను ఇట్టి పరిస్థితులే ప్రబలియున్నవి. యుద్ధ సందర్భమున కలిగిన యొడి దుడుకు ధరలను బట్టియు ఎక్స్‌ప్రోజి మార్పులను బట్టియు ఇంత కాలము యేదో యొక విధముగ వ్యవహారము గడచిపోవుచున్నది, యెప్పుడైన నొకప్పుడు ఇట్టి దురవస్థ కలుగకమానదని యార్థిక వ్యవహారము గమనించుచున్నారు. ఒక్కసారి యెగుమతులను దిగుమతులను తగ్గిపోవుటచే వేతలు గ్రహించియే యున్నారు. ఒక్కసారి యెగుమతులను దిగుమతులను తగ్గిపోయినవి. ఆగ్నేకీ వాయువు ఒకస్థికిముగా అన్ని సామగ్రిల వెలుగు అధికముగా తగ్గిపోయినవి. ఆగ్నేకీ వాయువు తొడ్డినట్లు గున దేశములో అధిక కష్టములు కలుగుటకు బాయ్స్‌కు మూన్ మెంటుకూడ కొంతవరకు తొడ్డినదనుట అతిశయోక్తి కాదు. ధాన్యములకు 100 కి 40 మొదలు 50 వరకు ధరలు తగ్గినందున రైతులు మిక్కిలి సంకటపడుచున్నారు. ఇంతకాలమును మన గౌరవముండి ఇతర దేశములకు ఎగుమతి చేయబడుచుండిన ధాన్యములు ఇప్పుడు ఇతర దేశములనుండి మన దేశమునకే దిగుమతి చేయబడుచుండుటచేత ఇక్కడ గత సంవత్సరపు పంట ధాన్యములకూడ నిలువయున్నది. దినదినమును వెలుగు తగుమందుటచేత, రైతులయొద్ద ధాన్యముకొని నిలువచేసేడి వర్తకులు ధాన్యము కొనుటయే మానివైచిరి. దీనివలన రైతుల కష్టములు మితిమీరి, సిస్టులను కట్టుటకు నైతము ఆశక్తులగుచున్నారు. ఈ కారణములచే భూముల వెలుగుకూడ 100 కి 50 మొదలు 60 వరకు తగ్గినది. వ్యవసాయదారులయొక్కయు, వర్తకులయొక్కయు విశ్వరూపుమీద ఆధారపడియుండే కాక్కుజాతుల వారందరును పనిసాములేక వర్తనాలీతమైన వాఫలకు పాల్పడుచున్నారనుట స్పష్టము. ఎగుమతులు తగ్గి యెప్పుడును లేని దిగుమతులు యేర్పడుచుండుటచేత ఇప్పుడు వ్యవసాయము చేయబడుచున్న భూమి విస్తీర్ణములో కొంతకొంత దగ్గించుట యవసరమని తోషే రోజులు వచ్చుచున్నవి. కాబట్టి ఎక్కువ ధరలమీద పెచ్చింపబడిన భూమి సిస్టు తగ్గరింపి తగ్గించుటయొక్క పన్నులు చెల్లింపలేక వాఫలనుచున్న రైతులకు ఉచితమైన రెమిషను ఇవ్వటకూడ ధర్మమని నాయని ప్రాయము. రైతులు వడ్డీ వర్తకులచేతులలో చిక్కి యవస్థపడకుండ అందరికిని అందు బడి యగునట్లు అన్ని చోట్ల ఆగ్రెగేటర్స్ బ్యాంకులు స్థాపించి వారికి సహాయముచేయగోరు చున్నారు. ప్రతి గ్రామములలోనూ కాళి భూములండుటయొగ భూములు లేనివాడు అట్టి భూము చున్నారు. ప్రతి గ్రామములలోనూ వ్యవసాయము చేయుటయొగ సర్వసాధారణము. ఈ విధమైన సేలవు లా పట్టాలు వాడకయే వ్యవసాయము చేయుటయొగ పట్టా భూములతోపాటు సిస్టుకట్టక పెక్కు లేకయే సాగుచేయుచున్న భూములకు చుట్టుపట్టుల పట్టా భూములతోపాటు సిస్టుకట్టక పెక్కు రెట్లు సిస్టులు నిర్ణయించి ఆశేడ వ్యవసాయదారులను ఇబ్బందిపెట్టుచున్నారు. ఆశేడ సంవత్సరములుగా ఇట్టి సేలవు లేని సాగుచేయుచున్నవారు ఎన్ని విధముల పట్టాల కొరకు ప్రయత్నించినను గ్రామిణ్యోగ్యములు స్వలాభమునకై యుద్ధపడుచుండుట యందరకును తెలిసిన రహస్యమే. ఈ వ్యవసాయములన గవర్న మెంటువారికి లాభమే కాని నష్టములేమి గనుక పట్టా భూములతోపాటు సిస్టు వసూలుచేయుచు, ఓలైన సందర్భములలో పట్టా ఇప్పించవలసిన అసరబిలు రెవిన్యూ మొబరుగారిని కోరుచున్నాను.

“అనుబంధములు వాకమైనవిగాన ప్రభుత్వోన్యోగములకు 100 కి మించిన శీతము గలవారందరికిని అధమపక్షము ఒక సంవత్సరపు ప్రమాదములు నిలిపివేసియు మ్యూజింగు శీత

[Mr. P. Subrahmanya Chetti] [2nd March 1931]

ములు తీసేడి యద్యోగల బేతములనుండి ఒక సంవత్సరపు ప్రమాదము మొత్తము మినహాయించియు ఈ రెండు విధముల వచ్చేడి ధనముతో నైతులకు సహాయము చేయవచ్చునని నా యాశయము.

“పంపరెన్న బోర్టులమీద వ్యయపరచిన 4 లక్షల రూపాయలను నిరుపయోగముగ వ్యయపరచబడినవి యింతవరకును జరిగినవినిబట్టి యందరకును తెలియను. ఈ బోర్టు వారిచే యిప్పించబడుచున్న యపవ్యాసములవల్లను చేయబడుచున్న యితర ప్రయత్నముల వల్లను ఒక్కరైనను త్రాగుదుమానిరిని ప్రేలుమడచి చెప్పగలవారీసభలోనున్నారా? కల్లు సారాయిల దొరకడుపుంతకాలము త్రాగుదుమానుట యర్హము. కాబట్టి యీ వృథా వ్యయమును నిలిపి ఆ మొత్తమునకు సరిబోయేడి ఆహ్లాద ఆదాయమువచ్చేడి ప్రదేశములలో సంపూర్ణనిక్షేప మవలించినయెడల తగు ఫలిత మేర్పడగలదని మంత్రులగారికి మనవిచేయుచున్నాము.

“సీనియరు ఇంటర్మీడియేటు బి.ఏ. తరగతులలోను ఎఫ్. ఎఫ్. ఎల్. సి. తరగతిలోను చదువు విద్యార్థులను పబ్లిక్ ఎగ్జామినేషనులకు సరాసరి పంపవలయునేగాని వారిని పరీక్షించి కొంతమందిని మాత్రమే పబ్లిక్ పరీక్షలకు పంపేడి యధికారము కళాశాలాధికారులకుగాని, పాఠశాలాధికారులకుగాని లేదనువిషయము నిర్దిష్టాదము అయినను రిజిస్ట్రలలో యెక్కువ మంది ప్యాసైనట్టు చూపవలెనెడి యుద్దేశముతో ఆదికారులు సెల్లెక్షను ఎగ్జామినేషనులను బెట్టి అక్రమముగా కాలమంది విద్యార్థులను పరీక్షకు పంపకుండ నిలిపివేయుట యాచారముగ నున్నది. వారు పంపేడి విద్యార్థులందరును ప్యాసగుచురనిగాని నిలిపి పెట్టబడిన విద్యార్థులు పరీక్షకు కడపబడునెడల వారిలో కొందరైనను ప్యాసుకారునిగాని, యెవరును చెప్పజాలరు. మంచి రిజిస్ట్రలు చూపవలెనెడి కోరిక యున్నయెడల క్లాసు ప్రమాదనులలోను అడ్మిషనులలోను స్ట్రీక్టుగానుండుట ధర్మమేకాని ఆదాయముకొరకును స్ట్రీక్టు కొరకును అన్నిరకముల విద్యార్థులను చేర్చుకొని రిజిస్ట్రలకొరకు హఠాత్తుగ వారి నల్లాడపెట్టుట కేసల మధర్మము. ఇట్టి తప్పుడు రిజిస్ట్రలు చూపేడియచారము విశేషముగా ప్రైవేటు పాఠశాలలలోను కళాశాలలోను నుండేదే కాని ఈ యంటువ్యాధి యిటీవల గవర్నమెంటు ఇన్స్టిట్యూషనులకుకూడ వ్యాపించినది. ఈ సంవత్సరముతో ప్రాత ఎఫ్. ఎఫ్. ఎల్. సి. పరీక్ష యంతమగును. ఆ కారణముచేత ప్రైవేటు పాఠశాలల యధికారులుకూడ వేద విద్యార్థులపై కరుణించి మామూలుకంటె మిక్కిలి యెక్కువ మందిని పరీక్షకు పంపినట్టు తెలియవచ్చుచున్నది. పరీక్షకు లిటులుండగా నైదావేట తీచర్లు కాలేజీ అక్వింగు ప్రిన్సిపాలుగారు తమ హయాములో నెక్కువ మంచి రిజిస్ట్రలు చూపవలెనెడి యాశ్రమముతో కాబోలు పూర్వ మెన్నడును నిలవబడనంతమంది విద్యార్థులను ఎఫ్. ఎఫ్. ఎల్. సి. పరీక్షకు పంపకుండ నిలిపివేసినారని తెలియుచున్నది. విద్యార్థులను వారి తలిదండ్రులను పోషకులను పెట్టుచున్న మొరలు జాలిపుట్టించుచున్నవి. ఎఫ్. ఎఫ్. ఎల్. సి. విద్యార్థులను సెల్లెక్షనులో నిలిపివేసిన అక్వింగు ప్రిన్సిపాలుగారు, అసూత్రమునే అనుసరించి ఎల్. టీ. విద్యార్థుల నేల నిలువలేదో యూహింపరాకున్నది. వారి కొక ధర్మమును వీరికొక ధర్మమునా? విద్యాశాఖాధికారులు యీ రెక్కలను సరిగా గ్రహింపక యీ యశ్రమమును కొనసాగించుచున్నారు. సెల్లెక్షను ఎగ్జామినేషను నాటి విద్యార్థుల సంఖ్యనుబట్టి విద్యాశాఖాధికారులు ప్యాసుల పెర్సంటేజిని నిర్ణయించునెడల పాఠశాలాధికారుల వీరురావారమును తమంత తామే వదలివేయదురు. కాబట్టి విద్యాశాఖామంత్రిగారి విషయమును విచారించి కడుపు రెక్కల పడ్డతిని నిలిపివేసి విద్యార్థులకు వారి తలిదండ్రులకును పోషకులకును న్యాయము చేయుదురని కోరుచున్నాను.”

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* Mr. C. BASU DEV:—“Mr. President, Sir, this year's Budget is characterized by a message of courteous frankness, for which I am sure the whole House is grateful to the hon. the Finance Member. While I gladly welcome its frankness, I cannot but characterize the Budget as an upper-class and bourgeois Budget, evincing little or no interest for the welfare of the large mass of the agricultural and industrial workers of this province. I am sorry that in spite of the changing times and in spite of the rising consciousness of the people, the Government has not found it possible to translate the professions of sympathy to active practice. The dominating anxiety of the Government seems to be the welfare and the prosperity of the banker, the merchant and the landholder, while the agonizing cry of the mass of workers, the sweat of whose brow makes the cushioned couch of the rich, falls flat both in the ears of the Government and of the rich. The heart-rending appeal of the thousand dismissed men from the Madras Government Press has been brushed aside without a second thought by the Government of Madras and what is worse, the representatives of the people in this House—some of them vociferous watch-dogs of high-sounding phrases like national honour and national prosperity—smiled over it as a trivial matter of no concern. Again, on the Economic Enquiry Committee which was recently appointed, every possible interest is represented, the interests of the banker, of the commercial man and of the landholder, but not the interests of the labourer. I ask, how long can and will the Government and the classes ignore the cry of the masses? If the civil disobedience movement has achieved anything it has taught the masses the dangerous habit of contempt for law and a spirit of emotional recklessness, which I am sure is bound, at no distant date, to recoil on the classes, if matters are allowed to drift at this rate which neither this House nor I desire.

“My hon. Friend representing North Arcot expressed a regret which I do not share, at the reduced allotment for the nation-building departments like Industries and Education. It is true that co-operation, industries, education and agriculture are the chief instruments of mass emancipation, but the way in which they are managed and administered is so inefficient and so bad that I do not feel any regret over the reduced allotment to these departments. Co-operation, the best and the most potent of all, cannot thrive well and satisfactorily unless the soil is prepared by a generous and liberal system of education, not the type of education which is turning out clerks, professors, students and public officials. If every one were to be an official or a gentleman of leisure, the entire people would die of hunger. We therefore want a type of education which would make the entire people fit for their work and happy in their situation. Therefore it is that I do not share the regret with the hon. Member for North Arcot that the allotment for education has been reduced; nor do I shed any tear over the reduced allotment for agriculture, industries and co-operation. The sooner the slate is wiped clean and a fresh start is made with men of enthusiasm and working knowledge of the principles and methods of these movements to

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12-45 p.m. guide them, it is better for the country and for the people. Sir, the Labour department, under the inspiring guidance of its head, Mr. Gray, is the only department which is doing good work to the masses. I only regret that sufficient encouragement is not given to it. There are still several districts which are not touched by this department, and Vizagapatam district is one, where there are thousands of depressed classes men who have not come under the beneficial activities of this department.

"Sir, the whole world is now reverberating with the cry of the masses. The 'Voices of humanity,' as President Wilson called them, are incessant and day by day they are growing louder and louder and more insistent and only two countries in the West have caught these 'voices,' and are seriously and sincerely trying to help humanity. Through co-operative effort and by an effective system of mass education, that wonderful little country of Denmark has and is demonstrating to the world how a nation can be called back to life and how the hopelessness and poverty of a people can be corrected by orderly political action. In another land, a people driven to desperation, starving and in rags, revolted; and with the reigns of the Government in their hands are now spectacularly experimenting in Soviet Russia, the dangerous doctrine of communism; and the masses—the uninformed masses of the world—are anxiously watching the progress of this experiment. The question whether Denmark is to be the model and source of inspiration to the people of this country and of this province or whether Moscow is to be the centre of attraction and is to cloud and warp the imagination and intelligence lies entirely in the hands of the Government of this country.

"Fortunately for us, the nation-building departments are now in the hands of a set of men with a mission, sympathy and understanding and I am sure under the excellent lead of the hon. the Chief Minister, they will, ere long, initiate far-reaching schemes and usher in an era of peace, contentment and prosperity to the people of this Province and I pray that the hon. the Finance Member will extend to them a generous measure of support. Sir, I do not think I can usefully take up the time of this House by discussing the facts and figures of the Budget. I will only content myself with an appeal and a prayer for new orientation and for greater sympathy and understanding to be brought to bear upon the administration of this Province."

* Mr. V. T. ARASU:—"Mr. President, Sir, I am not going to congratulate the hon. the Finance Member, as many of the hon. Members who have preceded me have done. Within the last two days so much praise has been heaped on him, that I am afraid he must be feeling giddy, if not utterly inebriated. If he has been inebriated, let me point out to the hon. Member that they are mere empty expressions which carry no meaning at all. For, there is nothing in this Budget over which the hon. the Finance Member can gloat, or for which hon. Members of this House need congratulate him. On the other hand I must humbly submit that in the framing of this Budget he has acted more as a registrar than as a director of the financial resources of this

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Province. As to how he has merely registered the demands of the spending departments without applying the retrenchment axe, several hon. Members have adverted to; and I do not want to traverse that ground. I am therefore going to confine myself to the revenue side of the Budget that has been placed on the table of this House.

"You know, Sir, and the hon. the Finance Member also ought to know, that in the financial business of a State, foresight is a cardinal virtue, and that every well-administered State, in exercise of this quality, arrives at a correct estimate of income from the various sources of revenue. That estimate is possible only by an intelligent interpretation of the factors affecting the trade and industry of the nation. For, the State income being solely derived from social income, the magnitude of the latter and its fluctuations due to the working of the economic system or that of the world factors are matters of very great importance from the standpoint of the hon. the Finance Member, who is trying to look ahead and know the secrets of the future. But, Sir, I submit that our Finance Member is either devoid of that foresight, or has intentionally blinded himself to the facts and refused to look ahead. A Finance Member is expected to look ahead, much farther than laymen, or even students of economics like my humble self. By his failure to look ahead and correctly interpret the economic forces working in this Province, the hon. the Finance Member has considerably overestimated the revenue of this Province for the year 1931-32. By so doing he has misguided this House and this Province as a whole into thinking that, with the proposed expenditure, we will have a deficit of 9.45 lakhs only. As a student of economics I submit that the deficit at the end of the year is going to be not 9.45 lakhs as our Finance Member would have us believe, but 90 lakhs or very nearly a crore of rupees, if the present rate of expenditure is maintained. If the total estimated revenue for the coming year is compared with either the accounts for the year 1929-30 or the revised estimates for the current year it would appear as though there has been no overestimation, and that the budgeted revenue is actually lower than the figures of the two previous years. But I would ask hon. Members to turn to page 10 of the Budget Memorandum. Here they will find displayed in a graph the revenue derived from some of the important heads for the last ten years. From that graph they will find that the year 1929-30 was a boom year so far as this Province is concerned. The revenue derived from each head has reached its zenith. According to the Law of Nature and even according to the principles of economics the wave of prosperity is bound gradually to go down. But, hon. Members will find in the graph that, contrary to this law, the hon. the Finance Member has budgeted for a rise in the wave in most cases, and in some cases for a rise much higher than that attained in the boom year 1929-30. Let me examine some of the heads. First I shall take up land revenue.

"The hon. the Finance Member has budgeted for an increase of about 20.5 lakhs over and above the revised estimates of 1930-31, and about 14 lakhs over and above the accounts for the year 1929-30

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which as I said was a boom year. There are two ways in which land revenue can be increased ; and they are by increasing the acreage under cultivation and maintaining the existing rate, or by increasing the assessment rate on the existing land. Ostensibly neither procedure is proposed to be adopted. The only way in which the hon. the Finance Member has explained this increase is that the suspended kists in the flood-affected areas fall due in the coming year. The collection of these suspended kists is in itself a doubtful factor. Even making due allowance for that, I submit that the budgeted income from land revenue is an overestimate. For, the hon. the Finance Member will agree with me when I say that large tracts of land are bound to go out of cultivation in the coming year. In the flood-affected areas large tracts have been rendered unfit for cultivation for at least some time to come. I don't believe that from such lands Government are going to collect kists. For a second and more important reason I submit that considerably large areas of agricultural land are bound to lie fallow in the coming year on account of the economic depression and the fall in prices. More than one hon. Member, particularly those coming from the Andhradesa, have, in the course of their speeches, reiterated this fact, namely, that owing to the fall in prices it no longer pays to cultivate and that therefore their ryots are already giving up cultivation. I do not agree with them when they say that all lands would go out of cultivation. But this much is certain, and let the hon. Finance Member take it from me, that all marginal lands, not only in Andhradesa but throughout the Province, would not be cultivated in the coming year. The extent of marginal land in every country is variously estimated by economists. Some put it as low as one-tenth, while others put it at one-fourth. From my own experience of the conditions obtaining in this Province I can safely put it somewhere between one-fifth and one-sixth. If this one-fifth or one-sixth of the total area of agricultural land is going out of cultivation in the coming year, the revenue is also bound to go down to that extent. I am sorry the hon. the Finance Member has neglected this factor in estimating the income from this source, but has merely registered House by reproducing the figures of the previous year.

only content myself

and for greater sympathy up the estimated revenue from Stamps and Registration the administration of the judicial and non-judicial stamps he has budgeted

* Mr. V. T. ARASU:—Two lakhs as compared with the revised estimates. I congratulate the hon. the Finance Member as being due to his hope that trade conditions in the coming year. This again, Sir, is a most unwarranted much praise has been heaped on him, contrary to facts. In the case of Registration the hon. the Finance Member has budgeted for a revenue of 31.95 lakhs feeling giddy, if not utterly misled, by the revised estimates for 1930-31. As I said, me point out to the hon. Members that in the country in the coming year is going which carry no meaning at all, as in the year that we are now closing. It over which the hon. the Finance Member has budgeted for a revenue of 31.95 lakhs Members of this House need to be reminded in economics that in all periods of depression must humbly submit that in the transfer of property, but practically no more as a registrar than as a director in mind, Sir, that the bulk of our revenue is in the form of documents pertaining to mortgages.

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As I said, Sir, there is not going to be any mortgaging of property at all for the simple reason that in periods of trade depression people seldom lend money. They collect their outstandings and keep them tight. I therefore submit that there is over-estimation under this head as well. Even in the case of Excise. . . ."

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"The hon. Member must finish his speech soon as the time allotted is almost over."

* Mr. V. T. ARASU:—"Even in the case of Excise I should like to submit that the fall in revenue under this head is not going to be 29 lakhs only; it may go to the extent of one crore. With the propaganda carried on by the agents of Government and by public bodies, and with a growing public opinion definitely against drinking habit, the revenue under this head is bound to go down considerably."

"Thus, you will find, Sir, that the hon. the Finance Member has been rather over-optimistic in his estimate of the revenue. I have myself been an optimist, but I cannot persuade myself to be so optimistic as the hon. the Finance Member would ask us to be."

"In conclusion I should like to tender a piece of advice, Sir, to the hon. the Finance Member, if he would not mistake me, and that is: he may be optimistic, he can even be very optimistic, but not too optimistic. Finally, Sir, I would add one more sentence. Hon. Members of this House have congratulated the Finance Member for preparing this Budget, and some have even gone to the extent of congratulating Mr. Watson, the Finance Secretary and his assistant Mr. Srinivasaraghava Ayyangar. But unfortunately they have entirely forgotten the poor labourer of the Government Press who is responsible for bringing out this magnificent volume without which it would not have been possible for hon. Members of this House to understand the implications of the Budget. I have gone through the Budgets for the past so many years, and I can assure hon. Members that this is one of the finest productions for the past many years, and this is a production which would do credit to any printer in any part of the world. Therefore, I would, on behalf of this House, and on my own behalf, request the hon. the Finance Member to convey to the poor labourer of the Government Press the thanks of the hon. Members of this House for getting out these volumes. It may be of some consolation to the poor labourer to know that his work is being appreciated."

* Mr. M. D. T. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"Mr. President, Sir, the hon. the Finance Member deserves congratulations for the able and clear manner in which he has presented the financial position of our Presidency. But I regret I cannot congratulate him on the matter of his Budget. No endeavour has been made to cut down extravagant expenditure. Nation-building schemes about the development of which we are all naturally so anxious are being starved. The problem really lies in following a bold and statesmanlike policy of retrenchment all round. As was pointed out by an hon. Member of this House, it is highly necessary to have side by side with the Finance Committee a

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permanent Retrenchment Committee to sit throughout the year to exercise a salutary check on the growth of expenditure year to year. No temporary affluence ought to delude the Government in carrying on any further the present system of expenditure. An all-round reduction of a minimum 10 per cent in the salary of Government servants in the superior services would be a very desirable step in carrying out the desired changes. The practice in Australia, New Zealand and in England itself of high Officers of State, agreeing to receive reduced salaries should be an example for us to follow.

"While the need for electrifying the country has been accepted as the policy of the Government with a view to improve the material resources of the country, and while bold and enterprising schemes have been launched in the country in pursuance of the above policy, it behoves us also to examine the question a little more deeply, as it consumes a substantial portion of the tax-payers' money. The recent plea put forward by Major Howard for a National Electricity Scheme contains within it sufficient material for a careful examination of it by the Government. The cost of power was usually high in some places in this Presidency where electricity was supplied and very little attempt was made to distribute and send power in the proper way. The high cost of power which we have been paying hitherto is due to the fact that till very recently no attempt was made to develop natural resources for the generation of electric power. Now that a definite move has been made in this direction one would naturally expect a considerable reduction in the rates for supply of power. But while the Pykara scheme will be an accomplished fact by the end of 1932, we should not be satisfied with merely marking time till the scheme is completed. Investigations should be made from now onwards with a view to develop hydro-electric energy from every waterfall existing in the Presidency. Having adopted the policy of nationalization of electric supply, it seems anomalous that the Government should hand over the distribution of energy to private concerns, whether indigenous or foreign. A truly national scheme involves the active participation of Government right down to the supply of power and electrical apparatus to the consumers.

"The maintenance of law and order forms no doubt a most important part of the work of a civilized government. But the maintenance of a costly machinery for infringing the elementary rights of every citizen to meet in public places for non-violent purposes is certainly not a phenomenon which redounds to the credit of any civilized government. The excesses indulged in by the Police in this Presidency have rightly received the clearest and most unequivocal condemnation of this House on more than one occasion. The Government have at no time within the last one or two years made out a case for the establishment of special and additional Police forces. It is shortsightedness such as these that drive discontent underground and so long as the people of a country are discontent no scheme for the settlement of financial trouble can remain sound or stable.

"One other department of Government which is supposed to yield revenue which calls for severe condemnation at our hands

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is the Forest department. We all have had experience of this department which is supposed to be manned by a staff of costly experts indulging in a merry game of experiments in exploiting our timber resources. This exploitation scheme of the Forest department has cost the tax-payer a pretty penny all these years and we are glad to note that the commercial exploitation of our forests and the running of sawmills by Government agency have been definitely given up. Still from the Budget one is surprised to note that the Forest department in spite of its glaring reverses in the past proposes to launch into some more schemes of exploitation. I would warn the Government to be careful before they definitely launch into these schemes because so far as our experience goes, the nature and volume of species in our forests is practically a sealed book to the department and unless and until we are able to find an economic use for the 75 per cent of our miscellaneous species any venture in this direction would be wholly inadvisable.

"The need for relieving the widespread distress of the ryots in this Presidency calls for immediate action at our hands. It will be only in the interests of humanity to expect the Government to extend the time for payment of kists as has been brought to the notice of this House by more than one hon. Member.

"I am unable to conclude my humble contribution to this debate without touching on one of the most vital needs of this Presidency, namely, Education. The civilization of any country primarily depends on the percentage of literacy of its masses. While practically every country in the world is spending large sums on primary education, we in India are experiencing the sorry spectacle of a large percentage of illiterate population. I would earnestly draw the pointed attention of our Education Minister to set about remedying the blot on our civilization and I feel sure my appeal will not fall on deaf ears."

* Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"Mr. President, I think, Sir, I can join the other Members of this House who have preceded me in complimenting the hon. the Finance Member on his share in the preparation of this Budget. And so far as his share is concerned, I can say sincerely that I think it is one of the best Budgets that have been presented to the House during the last four or five years I have been here. May I, in passing, add also my tribute to the work done by the Finance Secretary, Mr. Watson, in connexion with the Budgets presented to this House, for I think they deserve the compliments that have been paid. But, Sir, I do not consider the Budget at all satisfactory from many standpoints. In my criticisms I would like the House to consider that I do not blame the Finance Member for its defects. As I said, so far as his share in the preparation and presentation of the Budget is concerned, I think he deserves to be thanked, because there is every evidence in the Budget not only of clear presentation of facts, but a sincere attempt to do away with the defects, if possible, in the coming year and make even a clearer presentation of facts and figures than has been the case hitherto. (Hear, hear.)

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"Now, the first point that I wish to deal with, Sir, is about the revenue side of the Budget. I consider, Sir, that the expected revenue has been over-estimated. At all events, if, as we expect, the Government is going to do certain things, and if, as I expect certain processes now at work are to operate continuously during the coming year, it is not likely that the revenue anticipated will at all be realized. Taking first the land revenue, the hon. the Finance Member has budgeted for an increase of about 20 lakhs over the figures of this year. I do not blame the hon. the Finance Member for that either. But I would like to ask the hon. the Revenue Member what the Government proposes to do with reference to many questions concerning land revenue. We have an assurance in the Budget itself that at least in the present year it is not proposed by the Government to give effect to the resettlement proposals so far as the Kistna, and East and West Godavari districts are concerned. I do not know if I am quite right because the Government have so far made no pronouncement, and from the pronouncements made by the hon. the Revenue Member the other day when there was a debate about Resettlement he held out absolutely no hope or indication as to what line the Government propose to take. But so far as the Budget is concerned, no credit is taken for any increase of revenue through resettlements.

"Then, Sir, Member after Member in this House has referred to the present depression in trade and the fall in the prices of food grains and other commodities as a consequence of the present conditions. Member after Member asked that at least the collection of kists should be postponed. But I go further, Sir, and say that as the value of the rupee has appreciated, it seems to be obvious that Government cannot continue to collect the same money rates to-day as they were collecting, for instance, about two or three years ago. They are practically recovering from the ryots about double the amounts that ought to be collected considering the grain aspect of the assessment. It is obviously reasonable, considering the fact that prices have fallen to half of the prices that were obtaining even one year ago, that some relief should be given to the agriculturist. Government have, no doubt, appointed an enquiry committee, but it seems to me, Sir,—I would not be exaggerating matters if I say so—that this seems to me a sort of a mere eye-wash considering the personnel of the Committee and considering the fact that from the terms of reference that have been settled, there is no hope held out that there will be any reduction in the revenue demand. I do not know what purpose this Committee is going to serve. Of course, these Committees are always a convenience to the Government. If they find themselves in a corner, they say they would appoint a Committee of enquiry and they will then be able to tell the House when questions are asked that the matter is being considered by the Committee. I see no reasonable hope that anything good to the ryots will come out of this Committee. For instance, I can say that the non-official personnel is certainly not strong enough to dominate the situation as it ought to be the case in

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a matter which affects so vitally the interests of the people. But, Sir, as I said, the point is that I see no hope of Government being able to realize the land revenue that has been budgeted for. And if as we have been hoping, Government give some relief to the ryots, then obviously the increase budgeted for cannot be realized.

"Then, Sir, I shall not refer to other items of revenue, but shall make a few remarks about Excise. Government, no doubt, is budgeting for the next year for a smaller sum than the year before. But even they do not know what is going to happen. They seem to think that the money to be realized will be less than the previous year's figures by a sum of about 29 lakhs, but it may be much less. We do not know what is going to happen. In fact, they seem to have no definite policy in this matter. Their policy ostensibly is to reduce the consumption of liquor, to introduce prohibition in the country and prepare the country for it by propaganda work. They want by means of this propaganda to reduce the consumption of liquor. Certainly, Sir, I cannot think that Government could expect a reduction merely of 29 lakhs. Now, Sir, we had a considerable amount of talk about prohibition and the Minister continues even to-day to talk of the goal of prohibition. The other day we had a small conference to consider the question of this propaganda. The point is what is it that this Government wants to achieve by this propaganda. I do not think any one stands in need of preaching. I do not think, Sir, that the people stand in need of any special ocular demonstrations. I think, for instance, Sir, that a visit to any of these cheris would afford convincing ocular demonstration of the effects of drink. The labourer and the poor man after having had his bout of drink in the toddy shop or liquor shops lies drunk in the street or when he goes home he beats his wife and children when he finds nothing to eat. I do not think any cinema pictures will be more effective than the actual demonstration which is found every day, if you only care to visit the cheris. If you care for propaganda work, then I should expect you to come to some decision as to what exactly is to happen to the recommendation of propaganda committees. Are these committees only to recommend or are their recommendations to be accepted? If it is felt that some shop should be closed and if the Committee were to recommend it, is it expected that that Committee should go on recommending from time to time, month after month continuously repeating their recommendations only to be unceremoniously flouted? Do you expect any non-official Committees to work under these conditions? If these Committees are to do any real work, then some plan ought to be laid down as to the method whereby Government is going to effect the removal of shops. Are they prepared to take a step forward in any locality on the recommendation of a Committee? I do not know what is going to be the method by which they are going to come to a decision about the removal of a shop from a particular locality. If they are not able to decide when

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a locality is fit to be dry, all this propaganda is going to be a thorough going waste and, in the words of Mr. Parthasarathi Ayyangar, a mere humbug.

“ Now, Sir, if the idea of the hon. Minister is to follow the oft-repeated maxim of maximum revenue and minimum consumption, I ask why he has not increased the duty on arrack and the tree-tax. Last time they were raised in 1927-28 and I was responsible for the raising and I expected that out of the increased duty on tree-tax and toddy, we would realize 40 lakhs in a couple of years. During the last three years, the revenue has gone up to about 70 lakhs. My point was that out of this increased revenue we would be able to easily find money necessary to act as a set-off against the loss met in two districts by the introduction of total prohibition. The Excise Minister has got the papers and he can refer to them if he likes. But of course, I was not in a position under the circumstances to carry out the proposal for prohibition. The matter was not decided when I was in office and I could not do anything in the matter of prohibition. But there are one or two things that I wish to say in this connexion. There is always the bogey of illicit distillation and illicit tapping that is held forth. I for one am not frightened by this bogey. I do not know, if I would be quite right on the present occasion to refer to these questions in detail. But apart from these questions if the Government mean what they say they must do something. What is it that we find? When the Excise Minister was questioned about this in this House he talked about limitations of diarchy and financial difficulties. With reference to the financial difficulties, I will put this to him. Your Government has already realized a sum of Rs. 70 lakhs over the revenue in 1926-27. Now, I would ask if it is not right and if it is not in keeping with your Excise policy to raise the duty on arrack and the tree-tax. If you look into the rates in Bombay and the United Provinces, you will find that the rates are much higher there, because the Government honestly tries to follow the maxim. If you want extra money to meet your losses caused by the introduction of total prohibition at least in one district—you can take a small excise producing district which will not be more than 8 lakhs—you can get considerable increase of revenue by a small increase in duty on toddy and tree-tax. At this particular time when your finances are low and when you can without infringing upon your own doctrines proceed to raise these taxes on pernicious luxuries, why don't you do it? I ask Government why don't you do this? If you want money there is a way of having it; and it is a harmless way.

“ Then, Sir, with reference to opium, the Government of India issue rate has considerably dropped. But I would like to know why you don't increase your duty on opium. What is the effect of issuing consumption of opium? An increase in duty will give you more money. The Finance Member will be the first to welcome it. This

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House will welcome it if you have recourse to a measure of this sort. It will enable you, if you are honest and sincere in your policy, to make a beginning with the question of total prohibition at least in one district. There is no question of finance at all. This House therefore will not accept any excuse on grounds of finance.

“ Now, Sir, several hon. Members referred to the question of retrenchment. If, as I anticipate, your revenues are not going to be realized, I see no escape for the Government from engaging seriously in this question of retrenchment. Hon. Members who have read the speech of the Finance Member of the Government of India will find that he has promised to appoint a Retrenchment Committee to go into this whole question. They have taken action already. Last year they appointed a special officer to collect details. He will help the Government to consider the question of retrenchment without loss of time. Now, I would like to ask the Government, Sir, have they any such intention? If their revenues are not going to be realized, what is it they are going to do? Will they begin to borrow? What proposals have they got? It seems to me that the time has arrived. I am not speaking of the coming Constitution at all. Even in the present constitution situated as we are face to face with financial difficulties in a year in which prices have gone down when the people of our Presidency are loudly asking for some remission in revenue, why don't you go into the question of retrenchment seriously? The point is this, Sir. I am not going to put forward any wild schemes of retrenchment of expenditure. One can think of many methods of retrenchment. Hon. Members have referred to the question of salaries. Well, that is a very difficult question. Hon. Members are aware that the Government of India is increasing the income-tax. I do know there will be constitutional difficulties in respect of All-India Services. They are not under our control. Supposing we started retrenching the salaries of Provincial Services, even then the question of vested interests can come in. The additional difficulty comes in because the Government of India are now going to take out of salaries an increased income-tax. Apart from that, there are other methods by which retrenchment can be achieved. I am talking of the question of services. There is, for instance, the possibility of retrenchment if the Committee examines the necessity for certain offices. The tendency of all Governments is to go on increasing their establishments. The process goes on gradually by dribblets, an appointment here and an appointment there, an allowance here and an allowance there; and this process of addition goes on until matters become intolerable, and we feel it necessary to examine the necessity for so many appointments and their cadres. To consider the latter question there is much promise for a Retrenchment Committee. I shall not refer to all departments, but I shall refer to only two departments namely, Medical and Public Works. Taking the Medical department first, there is a clamour in the House and there is a clamour outside that Government ought to bring medical relief within the reach of the village population. Here, Sir, in this Presidency possibly also in India as a whole we have started

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with a paid Medical service. It has been different in England. There they started with unpaid Medical establishments. Practically all the members in all the chief hospitals in England have continued till very recently as unpaid men. Recently, Sir, they found the necessity of creating a few paid appointments. We started at the other end. We started with a full blown Medical Service and we have been going on increasing the Medical Service. If we study the Budget we find the expenditure going up annually but this state of affairs cannot go on for ever if we are to solve the problem of providing medical relief to the villages. I can say that there is no other way of securing the object of providing medical relief to the villages except by the larger employment of honoraries in the hospitals of the Presidency and replacing existing paid men by honoraries. This is the only way in which we can achieve this very important object. I would repeat side by side with the movement of honorary physicians, assistant surgeons, etc., all over the Presidency we want to consider the question of the necessity of keeping up the present cadre, without reducing it considerably. As time goes on we must be able to get on with a minimum paid service and a very considerable number of honorary physicians and surgeons.

“ May I make a few remarks after lunch? ”

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—“ No.”

1-30
p.m.

Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—“ Coming to the Public Works Department, the same remarks can be applied. Here the Government have undertaken the responsibility for the execution of all works by its own paid establishment. It has become obviously impossible at present without going on increasing your establishment and adding to their pay from year to year with the result that, if you now calculate the establishment charges, possibly we are paying about 50 per cent of the total grants by way of salaries. Such a thing is obviously impossible for all time to come. The remedy is to employ private agencies for carrying out your public works, both irrigation and buildings and roads. May I also mention that I include in my remarks the operations of the local boards and municipalities? I think they ought to do the same. They are not at present able to entrust their works to private agencies because your statutes prevent them from doing so. At present, works whose estimates are over a certain figure have to go to the Public Works Department, and they are bound to employ the Government agency for such works, unless they happen to have their own efficient paid agency.

“ Concerning the Police grants, I find that this year the Government is trying to make permanent the temporary increase in the armed reserve that was sanctioned last year on the responsibility of His Excellency the Governor. Last year a recurring expenditure of Rs. 8 lakhs was sanctioned for the Police required for traffic regulation, and this year I find further sums are budgeted for providing for increase in the salaries of sergeants in the Police department. Now, Sir,

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in a country where the economic condition of the people is so unsatisfactory, it seems to me that going on increasing the Police establishment for maintaining what they call law and order is something like giving a stone to a starving person who is asking for bread. People want something to eat, and you are giving them too much of law and order. I hope Government will earnestly turn its attention now, not to maintaining this law and order, because you have plenty too much of it already, but rather to securing the blessings of improved economic conditions to the suffering population.

“ Sir, in the Police budget, I would like to refer to the amount provided for the Malabar Special Police. They have been maintaining at Malappuram and other places in Malabar a Special Police Force for the special benefit of our Mappilla brethren. I ask, how long are they going to carry on this harassment of these people? Having regard to the spirit and nature of these people, one would think that a sensible Government would try to prevent their fanatic spirit breaking out by providing other remedies. By education and by improving their economic condition if they wanted it, you can civilize these people. What is the object of continuing the rule of the rod by making this force to squat on these people and harass them? But, Sir, there is one other purpose in maintaining the Special Police, namely, for beating the picketers, and for this purpose they are able to indent on the Malabar Reserve to serve in the other parts of the Presidency where there is picketing trouble. However, Sir, I think the whole thing should be put a stop to.

“ I would conclude by referring to irrigation, especially the Tungabhadra project and the question of the diversion of upland drainage in Tanjore delta. Now, Sir, if you look into the history of this Tungabhadra project, I think it is a most discreditable record. The Government has been going on for the last one hundred years with what is called the investigation of the project, and up till to-day they have not come to a conclusion. Considering the difficult situation of the people of the Ceded districts in the matter of irrigation and the effect of the series of famines—for instance, in the famine of 1876-77 about a million people died in the Ceded districts alone—this sort of indifferent attitude of the Government will not be tolerated in any other civilized country in the world to-day. The remedy is obvious. Why are you delaying to put this project into execution? Even to-day, you are giving the same answer that the investigation is proceeding.”

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—“ The House will now adjourn for lunch and meet at 3 o'clock.”

(After Lunch 3 p.m.).

* The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—“ Mr. President, Sir, with reference to the criticisms that have been advanced with reference to the departments under my charge, I may say that only two departments came in for a great deal of criticism. One is the Labour department and the other is the Police.

“ Regarding the depressed classes, complaints have been made about their backward condition. Sir, I may say that the Government realize

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the backward condition of the depressed classes and on account of the realization of this fact, the Labour department has been brought into existence. The object of this department is to improve the educational, economic and social condition of the depressed classes. This department has been in existence and working for this purpose during the last several years. My hon. Friend, Mr. Raman Menon, said that the best way of improving the condition of the depressed classes is to infuse in them a sense of self-respect and put them in a position of parity with the other communities. Sir, I entirely agree with the view expressed by the hon. Member. It is with that view that we began the work of uplifting the depressed classes. As we think that education is a powerful factor in bringing about that happy condition, a great deal of attention is being paid to education and Government are providing very many facilities in that direction.

“Sir, we have extended the activities of the Labour department to 21 districts. We would have further extended the activities of this department but, on account of the financial stringency we are unable to do so. But the Government would do their best to introduce the activities of the department in the remaining districts as early as possible.

“Some hon. Members brought to my notice that large number of depressed classes men should be employed in the Police force. Sir, in the reply that I gave to a question on the floor of this House a few days ago I said that in 1929 the total number of constables recruited was 2,005 of which the number belonging to the depressed classes was 113. In 1930 the number of constables recruited was 2,467 of which the number belonging to the depressed classes was 151. I may say in this connexion, Sir, that the Government do realize that the depressed classes must be employed in larger numbers if qualified candidates are available. Sir, I may also say for the information of the House that in the communal rotation rule that we have introduced, a definite place has been given to the depressed classes.

“My Friend, Mr. Vasudeva Pillai, said that the Government should change their views. I may assure my hon. Friend that we have changed our views with regard to the depressed classes years ago. But the difficulty is that we are unable to change the facts and figures. If more qualified men from the depressed classes apply for the various posts, I am sure that they would be employed in larger numbers. Anyhow, Sir, I will draw the attention of the Inspector-General of Police to the feeling of a number of hon. Members of this House that a larger number of police constables should be employed from among the depressed classes.

“As for housing conditions, I may say that the Government have not been oblivious of their duty. In the city of Madras I find that in 1928-29 a sum of Rs. 2,308 was spent on providing baths and latrines, raising the level of land and removing prickly-pears in four cheris. and in 1929-30 a sum of Rs. 24,687 was spent on improving the sanitation of the cheris, namely, raising levels, providing latrines, water taps, lights, drains, etc. There is a whole-time district labour officer for

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Madras A great deal of work has been done in finding sites for houses for depressed class men. In this connexion I may say that the attitude of the Government in connexion with the housing problem is very generous. We would like to afford as much help as possible. But I must remind hon. Members that it is primarily the duty of the Madras Corporation to improve the condition of the cheris in Madras. (Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed: ‘Not the Government cheris.’) There are many hon. Members of this House who are members of the Corporation and I am sure they will assist the Government by taking necessary action in Corporation to improve the sanitary condition of some of the cheris.

“In the course of the criticisms regarding the Police department I find that some passing reference was made to lathi charges and the police biting. Sir, I may say that two cases were brought to the notice of the Commissioner in which it was stated that they were bitten by the police. And the Commissioner of Police after making enquiry has assured the Government that there is absolutely no truth in the statements made. (Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan: ‘Institute a public enquiry, Sir.’)

“As regards the lathi charges, Sir, as I said in connexion with a number of questions, these are made only when unlawful assemblies could not be otherwise dispersed. When picketing takes place, an unruly crowd gathers, and when ordered to disperse they refuse to do so. In the interests of law and order, these unlawful assemblies have to be dispersed by force after giving due warning. It has often been said that if the Police do not go there when picketing takes place there will be perfect peace and order. My hon. Friend, Diwan Bahadur C. S. Ratnasabhapati Mudaliyar, pithily said that while he recognized the importance of the maintenance of law and order, he thought that the picketers should be left alone. Sir, as I informed this House some time ago, on the 26th January—Independence Day—definite orders were given to the Police not to go and interfere with the various gatherings and meetings. The result was that tram cars were obstructed and some students of the Pachaiyappa's College (A voice: ‘Students?’)—students and some others—pelted stones at the Police and so they had to intervene and use force. (A voice: ‘Question.’) Then again on the 23rd February I had told the Commissioner of Police that he might try the experiment of not interfering with the picketers. I had called for report. I have got it here and I intend reading it. It says:

‘In accordance with the instructions given to me by the hon. the Home Member I told the Police not to interfere with the picketing of cloth shops yesterday evening.

‘The picketers—twelve in number—arrived at about 4 p.m. and posted themselves in front of various shops. They met with a warm reception from Gordham Brothers one of the proprietors of which had to be restrained by his friends from doing them bodily injury. The shop was eventually closed. A similar reception awaited them at 98 and 99, Godown street, owned by Muhammadan shopkeepers, whence they were driven away. They succeeded in closing about five shops but collected such a large crowd that business was impossible and traffic was blocked.

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'Complaints were received at the station from would-be passengers of the train were duly recorded.

'Godown street and China Bazaar Road up to Govindappa Naick street were blocked. Trams were unable to run and at one time about twenty motor cars were held up.

'It is not an experiment I should like to repeat. You will notice that two of the merchants who objected most strenuously to the picketers' activities were Muhammadans. The picketers are all Hindus. Communal trouble might well result from a clash. There is also the position of the ordinary man in the street to be considered, unable to shop or go about on his lawful occasions. Add to this the ever present possibility of a riot when the "toughs" of Georgetown congregate.

'So long as the Police are in control, there is seldom any stoppage of traffic, and that only very temporary and crowds are kept well in hand allowing law abiding citizens to go about their business. It is significant that as a result of the Police withdrawal yesterday, picketing began at 8 a.m. this morning. By 5 p.m. 32 have been arrested—all but two come from the mufassal—most of them from Madura. This is about four times the usual number of picketers.'

'I have given to the House, Sir, the picture of what happened on the 23rd February. What I should like to say is: Can any Government with any sense of responsibility for the maintenance of law and order allow this state of affairs to continue? As I have said, whenever there is picketing there is always the tendency to cause trouble and the Police have to be kept on the watch. On the whole, Sir, I must say that the Civil Disobedience Movement has placed the Police in very difficult situations. In fact, they had to bear the brunt of the whole situation and I must say that, in the opinion of the Government, they have discharged their duties most satisfactorily.'

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"Sir, many of the hon. Gentlemen in this House referred to the Pykara Scheme. The ball was set rolling by my hon. Friend Sir A. P. Patro. His observations and criticisms fall mainly under two heads. His first remark was that it is not advisable for the Government themselves to undertake such important schemes as the construction of the Pykara Hydro-Electric Scheme, but that it is desirable that such undertakings should be handed over to private individuals or companies. His second observation or criticism—he is usually very fair and just to others—was, I am compelled to say, rather unjust and unfair to the Government. He suggested, although not openly, that financially the scheme is not a sound one. In this connexion he made the allegation, definitely and specifically, that the Government have not taken this House into their confidence with reference to this scheme. (Sir A. P. Patro: 'No.')

3-15 p.m. "I am very glad that either I misunderstood my Friend or he withdraws his charge." (Laughter.)

Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO:—"He misunderstood me."

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"I am very sorry that I misunderstood my hon. Friend, Sir A. P. Patro. I am very glad to learn that he thinks that this Government took this House into their confidence.

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"With reference to the observation that such an important undertaking as the Pykara Hydro-Electric Scheme should not be undertaken by the Government but that it should be handed over to private individuals or private companies, I have pleasure to acknowledge with gratitude that almost all the members who spoke in this House on this question have differed from him. For instance, the first gentleman who spoke on this question was my hon. Friend Mr. M. S. Sreshta. With his very large experience of electric undertakings in Ceylon, he has asserted that undertakings like this should be worked by the Government for the benefit of the tax-payer and not entrusted to private individuals or private companies. My other friend from South Kanara Mr. A. B. Shetty referred to it in the same terms and went further. He said that not only such undertakings should be in the hands of Government but also that the Government should not be content with the working of the Pykara Hydro-Electric Scheme alone but that they should undertake other hydro-electric schemes in the Presidency. Government are at one with hon. Friend Mr. Shetty. As a matter of fact, Government have undertaken hydro-electric surveys in other parts of the Presidency, viz., the North, and the South of the Presidency. Hydro-electric survey has been undertaken in the Northern Circars at a place called Kolaba and in the extreme south, i.e., Tinnevely district, Government have undertaken the survey at Papanasam Falls. As I submitted some time ago in this House, it is the ambition of this Government to connect the different parts of this Presidency by a net work of electric stations. It is only a question of time and finance. It may take some years before that ambition is realized. In any case, important schemes that will cost several crores can only be undertaken and completed after the completion of the Pykara Hydro-Electric Scheme. Then my hon. Friend Mr. Ramalingam Chettiyar, who has studied this question with considerable attention, has gone into all the details and has contradicted the observations of my hon. Friend Sir Patro. My hon. Friend Mr. Ramalingam Chettiyar said that these undertakings should not be handed over to private companies or individuals and that if they are entrusted to them they will only look to their own benefit. He also said that it is very necessary that huge undertakings like this should be considered as public utility concerns and as such should be conducted by Government themselves. My hon. Friend Sir Patro said that this should not end like Russellkonda Saw-mill. I think this comparison was rather unfortunate, because with reference to the Russellkonda Saw-mill the fact was this: it was not in the hands of the Government but it was an undertaking managed by a private company and it ended in disaster. So a reference to it was against his own contention, and as my hon. Friend Mr. Ramalingam Chettiyar again correctly pointed out, Russellkonda Saw-mill was not a public utility concern like the Pykara Hydro-Electric Scheme. Then, again, the next gentleman who referred to this subject was Dr. Natesa Mudaliyar. He said that he had something to do with this scheme even at its initiation and that he was in favour of Government undertaking such important schemes. Then the next speaker was my Friend Mr. K. P. Raman Menon who said that ultimately the object of all Governments and all nations should be to nationalize all important and big schemes like this.

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He argued further and asked that if it was the ultimate goal, how could nationalisation be effected if undertakings like that were entrusted to private companies and private individuals. I thought his argument was particularly forcible.

“ Then passing to the next point referred to by my Friend, Sir Patro, viz., the financial possibilities with reference to this scheme, I submit that there was a supplementary demand moved in this House in the beginning of October 1919 and that on that occasion all the important papers connected with this scheme were printed and circulated to my hon. Friends. Those who were present on that occasion and those who have read those papers would have realized the financial effect of this proposal. This Government made their recommendations to the Government of India and requested them to recommend the scheme for the sanction of the Secretary of State and the Government of India in their letter to the Secretary of State, which was placed on the table of this House referred to the necessity for sanctioning this scheme. There is also this further fact; notoriously this Presidency has no coal and wood fuel is rather deficient. In such circumstances, it is necessary that in order that the industries of this Presidency may be developed, some inexhaustible fuel should be found out. Therefore the financial possibilities of the Pykara Hydro-Electric Scheme were fully worked out. Again, at the budget discussion last year a pamphlet dealing at length with this scheme was placed on the table of this House and copies of that pamphlet were distributed. It will be seen from that pamphlet that at the end of the tenth year after the completion of the scheme, Government will be able to realize a profit of 8.41 per cent, if the interest charges on the capital amount spent on the undertaking be not taken into consideration. If, on the other hand, the interest charges are taken into consideration, the profit will be 6.87 per cent. That I think is a very good outturn. In this connexion I may say that the experience of the public and the Government with reference to another minor and smaller scheme, namely, the Glen-Morgan scheme, is that the calculations were not wrong. Glen-Morgan scheme, as my hon. Friends are aware, is a smaller scheme costing only 13 lakhs of rupees and we find that the scheme has been completed and that the energy is being distributed to Ootacamund and Coonoor municipalities and some tea estates. As a matter of fact we find from experience that the expectations with reference to the Glen-Morgan scheme have been more than fulfilled.

“ Before I leave this question of electricity, I may just refer to the observations made with reference to another matter by my hon. Friend Mr. Ratnasabhapat Mudaliyar and also by my Friend Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti. They made some observations with reference to the grant of licence for distribution of energy. I may assure them that every effort will be made to see that the interests of the tax-payer are safeguarded.

“ Then again, my hon. Friend, Mr. Raman Menon, wanted to know what further progress has been made in the hydro-electric survey in the district of Malabar. I may tell my friend that load survey is now going on.

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“ Then I come to another subject referred to by many of my hon. Friends, Messrs. Kondappa from Anantapur, Narasa Reddi from Cuddapah, Ramakrishna Reddi from Kurnool, Ramaswami Mudaliyar from North Arcot and Ranganatha Mudaliyar from Tinnevely. Their contention is that the grazing fees should be reduced or should be abolished. With reference to this request I may assure them that I will certainly consider their suggestions. But I may tell them this: that the rates of grazing fees differ according to circumstances in different places. There is also this thing to be noted, viz., that in some forests under the management of Forest Panchayats, the rates of grazing fees are higher than the rates in reserved forests. There is also this further circumstance, viz., that the Agricultural Advisory Committee consisting of non-officials and officials, in their consideration of the recommendations made by the Royal Commission on Agriculture, recorded their various findings and one of their findings with reference to the rate of grazing fee was this, that it should not be enhanced. They did not make any reference to the lowering or the reduction of this fee.”

Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—“ What do you propose to do? ”

The hon. Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—“ Wait and see (Laughter).

“ My hon. Friend, Mr. Ratnasabhapat Mudaliyar, referred to courts. He said that at present there are more courts working in the country than are actually necessary. My answer to this is that the High Court is the constitutional adviser to the Government in matters like this and that the High Court goes into these questions carefully to find out whether there is any necessity for reduction of or addition to the existing number of courts. They recently considered this matter and their conclusion was that not only are existing courts necessary but also some more courts are necessary, and they recommended that twelve more courts as a temporary measure should be established in the coming year. I may also say for the information of hon. Members that the High Court in considering this question took into consideration the present financial stringency of the Government. The proposal of the High Court was very carefully considered by the Finance Department and the Finance Committee appointed by this Council. They took all aspects into consideration and, after weighing all the circumstances both for and against the recommendations of the High Court, came to the conclusion that having regard to the peculiar financial stringency in the next year, only four courts should be established. The recommendations of the Finance Committee and the Finance Department have been accepted.

“ One other matter that I wish to refer to, is this. One of my hon. Friends in this Council—I think, it was Mr. Simhachalam—referred to the imprisonment of young men. I am glad that he referred to this point for this reason, namely, that he has given me an opportunity of placing all the facts in connexion with this matter before this hon. House. The Magistrates in these cases, with the best of intentions, sent them not to the ordinary prisons but to

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Borstal schools. It was however brought to the notice of the Government that sentences to detain them—in some cases at least—were wrong and illegal. The Government naturally consulted their highest legal adviser and he advised the Government to this effect, namely, that, having regard to the provisions of section 8 of the Borstal Schools Act, only those young men who were associating themselves with criminals or who had showed in the past criminal tendencies should be detained in Borstal schools. By reasons of that opinion of the highest legal adviser, the Government immediately addressed all the District Magistrates and asked them to examine the judgments in accordance with which these young men were sentenced to be detained in Borstal schools and to see whether the provisions of section 8 of the Act had been complied with. The Government have been receiving their reports from time to time. I may say, Sir, that till this day about 104 of these young men have been released on the ground that the sentences of their detention in the Borstal schools did not comply with the requirements of that section. In the beginning of December, the total number of these young men was 149 and, out of these, 104 men have been released till now; 36 more men have been released on tendering apology; thus 140 men have been released. Probably there are about 9 more. Their cases also will be considered. In this connexion, I may also state that before the examination of these judgments began, before the District Magistrates were asked by the Government to examine these cases, the Government thought that it was necessary for the benefit and in the interests of these boys that they should not be allowed to mix themselves with ordinary criminals who were detained in Borstal schools. So, the Government established a special Borstal school. It so happened that at this time there was a vacant block in Rajahmundry Jail which was meant for female prisoners. Under a particular section of the Borstal Schools Act and under the power vested in the Government, they declared that block to be a Borstal school and transferred all these boys there, who were sentenced in connexion with the Civil Disobedience Movement. These young men were thus segregated from the other criminals.

“My hon. Friend, Mr. Narayana Nambiyar, referred to the system of classification of prisoners. He stated that the classification was not always right. He may be right, or he may be wrong (laughter). The convicting Magistrates, the District Magistrates and the Government who ultimately decide these cases, do their best to classify these persons in the best manner possible. May I say that very often these men, who take part in the Civil Disobedience Movement who are sentenced and who are sent to jail, do not help the trying Magistrates to come to a correct conclusion as to the class in which a particular prisoner should be placed? The classification is naturally based on the standard of living. The Magistrates make enquiries. Some prisoners give the information; others do not furnish the information; they do not co-operate with the Magistrates even in connexion with this matter. The Magistrates have to come to some conclusion. With the best information they have, they recommend that persons should be placed

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in A, B or C classes. Unless these persons assist the Magistrates, it is not always possible for the convicting Magistrates or the District Magistrates or the Government to come to right conclusions in all cases. My hon. Friend referred to two instances in particular. One was that of Nilakantan Nambudripad. In his case, when it was brought to the notice of the Government that he was placed in the C class, that he belongs to a rich family and that he ought to have been placed in a higher class—A or B, the Government at once began to make an enquiry. They asked the District Magistrate to send a report to the Government. By the time this enquiry was completed, luckily for everybody concerned he was released from jail and there was thus no need to proceed with the enquiry. My hon. Friend referred to another instance, namely, the case of Mr. Prabhu who was also convicted in connexion with the Civil Disobedience Movement. When he was first convicted, he was placed in A class; then he came out of jail, took part again in the Civil Disobedience Movement, was convicted and sent to jail. On the second occasion he was placed not in A class but in the B class. I may tell my hon. Friend that the Government have gone into the records of this case and have placed him in A class.

“With reference to Mr. Narayana Menon, I have called for a detailed report. (A Voice: ‘When will the report be received?’) That can be a supplementary question when that question is answered in the Council and not now. (Laughter.)

“My hon. Friend, Mr. Pocker, (Mr. B. Pocker: ‘I am here’)—I was looking for you—(laughter) referred to the Mappilla Outrages Act. I can very well understand and appreciate the feelings of my hon. Friend. I may tell him that no one deplores more than the Government themselves the necessity for keeping that Act on the Statute Book. I am very reluctant to go into the details of this matter, because unfortunately it has a tendency to rouse unpleasant feelings and irritation. But I may say this, that extraordinary diseases require extraordinary remedies. This Act has been on the Statute Book for about 75 years. It, no doubt, contains some extraordinary provisions. This Act is intended to deal with the special class of people who take part in the fanatical outbreaks. There have been about 35 or 36 Mappilla outrages. About 30 of these took place after this Act came into force. When these ignorant people, these fanatical people take part in these outrages, the provisions of this Act are very useful. The very fact that the Government have not been utilising the provisions of this Act very often shows that the Government have taken great care in putting this Act into force. The last outbreak was on a very large scale; it was more than an outbreak, it was a rebellion conducted on an extensive scale. In spite of the fact that the last rebellion was on an extraordinary scale and in spite of the extraordinary nature of this outrage, none has been deported. That shows that the Government sparingly used this Act. I am thankful to my hon. Friend for referring to the small part I had in raising the allowances given to

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these State prisoners. No doubt it is a very small amount. But they are poor people. The way in which they are treated is this: When they are in prison, they are not treated like other prisoners; they are given Rs. 7-8-0 plus rupee one. As I said, they come from poor classes, from the labouring classes. When the Mappilla is not possessed by the fanatical fit, he is a very good man; he is a frugal man; he is a loving husband and a loving father. But when this fit is on him, he is hopeless. My hon. Friend knows that some of these Mappillas are ignorant and fanatical. Some of those in the hilly regions of the Walluvanad and Ernad taluks are like beasts when this fit is on them. The state of society from which they come are low and poor. I think that Rs. 8-8-0 is adequate for their needs. I do not say it is a magnificent sum. I think that amount is sufficient. None of these persons are now kept in jail except two. When these persons are allowed to be out of prison, they are given for the first six months a sum of Rs. 12 per month. If they are living in Madras after that period, they are given Rs. 8 per mensem. If they live in the mufassal, they are given smaller amounts. They are allowed at times to visit their friends and relatives in Malabar. They are allowed to take their wives and, when their wives follow them, they also are given some amount, though it is a small one. When the children of these persons are taken to the places where the State prisoners are, small sums are paid. In addition to all these, the Government have sent circular instructions to the District Magistrates and the Commissioner of Police in Madras, to give employment to these persons as far as possible. We have taken particular care of these persons. Some of these persons are actually employed as peons and watchmen in some offices. So much with regard to the present state of these prisoners and the need for keeping this Act in the Statute Book.

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"Then my Friend, Mr. Pocker, referred to another class of prisoners, not the State prisoners, but those who were convicted by courts and who are kept in prison, and my Friend pleaded for their release. I may tell my Friend at once that, though the Government are not in a position to give an immediate answer, my Friend's request will be carefully considered by the Government. My Friend himself knows that originally the number of these prisoners who were mostly kept in the Alipuram jail at Bellary—I can only speak in round numbers—was between 5,000 and 6,000 and that many of these prisoners were released long before their term was over. They were sentenced to long terms of imprisonment extending to 11, 12 and 14 years. Most of their cases were examined and many of them were released long before their periods of imprisonment expired. I may tell my Friend that the number of prisoners who were convicted by courts of law—the number of Mappilla prisoners—and who are now in the Alipuram jail is very small, compared with the original number. I believe that it is less than 1,500. It is somewhere in the neighbourhood of 1,200. My Friend's request to release them will be carefully considered by the Government. Their cases will be considered from time to time, and as far as possible release will be ordered. My Friend will of

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course excuse me if I am not able to give an assurance on behalf of Government that all of them will be released in a short time. I believe that my Friend will not be fully satisfied with what I have stated. But I hope, at any rate, that as I have been able to see his point of view, he will be able to see the Government's point of view.

"I believe, Sir, that these are the various suggestions that have been made by my hon. Friends on the floor of the House. It is quite possible that I have replied only to some of the criticisms and that some have escaped my notice. But notes of all suggestions have been taken down by the reporters there. The Government will go through these reports and find out what all suggestions have escaped my attention in my reply to the criticisms made by several hon. Members. The Government will consider all those suggestions very carefully and give effect to them, wherever possible."

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"Mr. President, Sir, at this stage, I wish to protest against the hon. the Law Member characterizing the whole Mappilla community as worse than beasts, and I would request him to apologize and withdraw the expression." (Hon. Members: 'Order, order.')

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"I am very sorry that my Friend has misunderstood me. I particularly stated that these Mappilla prisoners belong to the labouring classes, and are very good, very industrious and well-behaved in ordinary circumstances. I am sure that my Muhammadan Friends in this House and also my other Friends will bear me out when I say that what I stated was this: Ordinarily, I said, they are very good men, but these persons living in the hilly regions of the Walluvanad and Ernad taluks, when the fit of fanaticism is on them, act like beasts. That is what I said, and I am not willing to apologize for it, and I am not willing to withdraw that."

B. POCKER SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Are they really more beastly than the Malabar Special Police, Sir?"

* The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL:—"Hon. Members have raised various points of detail, Sir, in connexion with the Land Revenue and Irrigation departments. I shall deal first with the more general questions relating to the principles of Land Revenue Settlement.

"Most of the hon. Members here are well aware of the action that has been taken in connexion with the recommendation of the Joint Select Committee of both Houses of Parliament on the Government of India Bill that legislation should be undertaken in this respect; but from the remarks which have fallen from some hon. Members, it appears that some of them are not aware of it. The recommendation made by the Joint Committee was to the effect that 'the process of revising the land revenue assessments are to be brought under closer regulation by statute as soon as possible.' The Committee were of opinion that the time had come 'to embody in the law the main principles by which the land revenue is determined, the methods of valuation, the pitch of assessment, the periods of revision, the graduation

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of enhancements, and the other chief processes which touch the well-being of the revenue payers.' 'The subject is one', the Committee said, 'which probably would not be transferred to Ministers until the electorate included a satisfactory representation of rural interests, those of the tenantry as well as of the landlords; and the system should be established on a clear statutory basis before this change takes place.' The Government, in the earlier years following the introduction of the Montague-Chelmsford Reforms did make very genuine attempts one after another to carry out this advice. They had a Bill drafted in the year 1920 and referred it to a committee of officials and non-officials in the year 1921. That Committee modified the Bill very materially and the Bill was finally rejected by the Council in the year 1924. Another Bill was drafted in the year 1926, but it was decided not to proceed with it as that Council was on the point of expiry. In 1927, again, when the new Council had been elected, a Bill was published for general information and criticism, but its reception was such that the Government thought that it would be futile to proceed with it. That was at the beginning of the last Council. The question then arises whether the Government should make any attempt in this Council to introduce a Bill and pass it. Well, Sir, the experience we have had in the past does not encourage us to bring forward any measure, and in view of the progress which has been made towards the introduction of further Reforms in India, it seems to me that it would be undesirable at this stage for this Government to attempt to introduce a Bill of such an important matter, and that it would be better for us to carry on as we are doing now, under the existing rules and orders, leaving it to the new Council with a Minister presumably in charge of Land Revenue to determine the future policy of the Government in regard to Land Revenue resettlements.

"Mr. Narayanaswami Pillai suggested that there ought to be no enhancement of land revenue, and Mr. Satyanarayana Chowdari suggested that the Survey and Resettlement departments should be abolished. I have pointed out more than once on the floor of this House that the resettlement operations involve many things besides the enhancement of land revenue. For instance, a revision of the survey may be necessary to bring the Government records up to date and into closer correspondence with the actual facts. I can however assure hon. Members that no resurvey is undertaken without very careful consideration and not unless the Government are fully satisfied that it is absolutely essential. Resettlement operations include the work of bringing up to date all the land revenue records as regards the enjoyment of land and the classification of land as wet or dry, etc., as facts may have altered and records become out of date during the long period that elapses between two such resettlements. These measures are always very desirable, in the interests of the ryots themselves, apart from the question of a revision in the rates of land revenue.

"My hon. Friend Mr. Subrahmanya Bhatt, drew attention to another aspect of the case when he suggested that in South Kanara the resettlement ought to lead to a reduction in the assessment, as in the

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original settlement there had been a mistake made in converting the local measures into Madras measures. I have not been able, in the time at my disposal, to find in the Government records any evidence that such mistake was made; but no doubt this allegation will be examined and in connexion with the resettlement proposals.

"My hon. Friend, Mr. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar, enquired whether the fact that the hon. the Finance Member had not taken into consideration any receipts on account of increased rates of assessment in Kistna and Godavari districts means that the Government have decided not to introduce the enhanced rates, as proposed by the Settlement Officer. That conclusion is not justified. All that can be concluded is that the Government had not arrived at a decision when the Budget was being framed; as hon. Members are well aware, that matter had not been discussed by that time in this House; I may add that the Government have not yet come to a final decision in the matter.

"My hon. Friend, Mr. Ranganatha Mudaliyar, referred to spring channels and suggested that in the case of wet lands under spring channels no charge or only a nominal charge should be made for water used for irrigation under such channels on account of the heavy expenses incurred in the maintenance of these channels. Well, Sir, the Government do take into consideration the fact that the ryots have to incur extra expenditure in this connexion and that when determining the classification of these sources they are included in lower classes in consequence than the adequacy of the supplies would otherwise justify. I shall now turn, Sir, to the proposed Economic Enquiry Committee which the Government have very recently appointed, and of which the full membership has not yet been published. My hon. Friend, Mr. Muthiah Chettiyar, who is one of the Members of the Committee, complained that the terms of reference were too narrow. I think he has overlooked two important words contained there 'or otherwise.' The terms of reference to the Committee are 'to report whether any measures should be adopted by the Government to mitigate the effects of the general economic depression by arranging for the co-operative marketing of certain products *or otherwise*.' It seems to me that those terms are as wide as they can possibly be. Of course the reference is confined to what the Government should do; but that is quite natural, because that is what we want to know; the Government cannot concern themselves with other measures to mitigate the effects of the economic depression.

"Another criticism which has been made is that the Committee has no permission to go to the different parts of the province. There are two reasons for that. The first and the more important one is that the Committee, if it is to do any good at all, should report quickly. If we are to allow the committee to tour in all parts of the Presidency it will mean that there will be very considerable delay. I think the main facts connected with the present economic depression are fairly well known to many of the Members of the Committee and it will certainly be possible for the Committee, if they so wish, to examine

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witnesses who may be available in Madras, or who are willing to appear before them at their own expense. The Government have also placed at their full-time disposal Mr. Hood as Secretary to the Committee and the Committee have got the discretion to send Mr. Hood at Government expense to make any enquiries in any part of the province, if necessary. The second objection is of course a financial one that if a committee of this size were to travel at the expense of the Government, it would involve very heavy expenditure.

“ Mr. Muthiah Chettiyar also referred to the fact that the Committee has not been asked to report on the question of the postponement of kists within the fasli. The reason for that is that if anything is to be done at all, it must be done very quickly. The matter has already been referred to the Board of Revenue who have been asked to report by the 5th of March.

“ There were two criticisms about the personnel. One was that labour is not represented on the Committee. Well, Sir, Mr. Srinivasan is a Member of that Committee. Probably, the Member who made that criticism was unaware of that fact as the names of all the Members have not yet been published; at the time the Committee was appointed, the Government's intention to invite him to serve on the Committee could not be announced as he was not at the time in India. Since then, I am glad to say that he has agreed to serve on the Committee. The other criticism was that by my hon. Friend, Mr. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar, that the non-official personnel is too small to have any weight. The Committee consists of 22 members and of these, seven are officials and fifteen are non-officials. So, the non-officials have a two-thirds majority. I cannot follow my hon. Friend's criticism.

4 p.m. “ My hon. Friend, Mr. Venkataramayya from Ellore, referred to the question of relief for the Lanka ryots. That is a matter which has been engaging the attention of the Collectors and I spoke to the Settlement Member of the Board of Revenue yesterday about it and he is awaiting a report from the Collectors on that subject.

“ My hon. Friend, Mr. Gopalaswami Mudaliyar, pointed out that the present procedure in the granting of takavi loans leaves much to be desired. The Government have recently appointed a committee to consider the possibility of simplifying the procedure relating to the grant and recovery of takavi loans and I trust that as a result, we may be able to simplify the procedure. (Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed: Who constitute the committee?) My hon. Friend asks, who constitute the committee? The Commissioner of Land Revenue is the Chairman of the Committee; the Accountant-General and three Collectors, Mr. Brackenbury, Mr. Wood and Mr. Javad Hussain Sahib; and two non-official gentlemen, Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar and Diwan Bahadur P. C. Ethirajulu Nayudu constitute the members of the Committee. Mr. A. A. Venkatarama Ayyar has been appointed Secretary to the Committee.

“ Turning to Irrigation, the criticism was made that there had been over-budgeting in connexion with the Cauvery-Mettur Project. That,

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Sir, is a criticism, which I must admit is sound, but it is very difficult to foresee in a project of this kind, which is of an unusual character, what amount exactly would be required each year especially in the earlier stages when a large amount of machinery and other things had to be ordered and various arrangements had to be made. Also, at this stage very much depends upon unforeseeable weather. Floods may come down as they have actually done at unexpected times and they delay the work very materially. At such times machinery has to be removed very rapidly and when the floods subside a large amount of silt has to be removed and machinery has to be put back in position before work can be fully resumed. The other matter which is the cause of delay is the uncertainty in finding rock on which the foundation for such an enormous dam can safely be laid. Instructions have been issued a short time ago to the Engineer-in-Chief which we trust will lead to closer budgeting in future years.

“ The criticism was made by my hon. Friend, Mr. Narasa Reddi, that the Government have taken no steps whatever to carry out the Tungabhadra project—this is a criticism directed against my predecessors. I may say, however, that the Tungabhadra project has been engaging the attention of the Government for a great many years. During the last century, Government had under consideration the possibilities of constructing an anicut across the Tungabhadra somewhere for the distribution of water, but in 1898, Sir Arthur Cotton's proposals for the construction of a reservoir on the river were revived and a scheme prepared by Mr. Mackenzie was submitted to the Government of India in 1905 and returned in the following year for revision. Later, it was decided to postpone the scheme on account of financial commitments which were involved in the Cauvery and Kistna projects which were then ready for execution. In 1925, the Ceded Districts Committee recommended that investigation should be started at a new site at Timmalapuram so as to avoid flooding any portion of the Hyderabad territory. That investigation was undertaken and the preliminary report was received last year. We have now got two alternative sites for the reservoir, one at Timmalapuram and the other at Malapuram. We are at present in negotiation with the other Governments concerned. I may assure hon. Members that this Government are anxious to push forward the scheme as speedily as possible. I am glad to learn from my hon. Friend, Mr. Gopalaswami Mudaliyar, that the Ceded districts are prepared to pay the whole cost if we give them six per cent on the money; it is likely to amount to something over 30 crores of rupees; I am glad to learn that there is so much wealth in the Ceded districts. (Diwan Bahadur R. N. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar: Not the Ceded districts alone, but Guntur also.) My hon. Friend, Mr. Gopalaswami Mudaliyar's offer referred to the whole cost.

“ My hon. Friend, Mr. Narasa Reddi, has suggested that some minor projects connected with the scheme might be carried out at once. Mr. Ramakrishna Reddi enquired whether the possibility of taking water under the project to Dharmavaram, Siddhavattam and Badvel

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taluks had been investigated. I may say that the Upper Pennar project is part of this project and it involves the irrigation of the Tadpatri taluk and of the three taluks of the Cuddapah district, but until water is supplied to the Pennar, it is impossible to carry out that portion of the scheme. The extension of the Velgode project to Siddhavattam and Badvel has been dropped owing to the fact that a long tunnel and very heavy rock-cutting were involved which counter-balanced any advantage that would be gained by the extension of irrigation through this channel.

“ My hon. Friend, Dr. Natesa Mudaliyar, stressed the necessity for such irrigation projects as the Tungabhadra and Sangameswaram and set before us the example of the persistency of M. De Lesseps in pushing on his great scheme for the Suez Canal and the Panama Canal. He pointed out that the Panama Scheme was finally rendered possible because the doctors went there first and prepared the ground in advance for the Engineers. I expected Dr. Natesa Mudaliyar to add that he would be very glad to proceed to Sangameswaram and prepare the ground for the engineers.

“ The complaint was made that many irrigation works had been dropped. That is true. They have been dropped on account of various reasons, for instances there may be insuperable engineering difficulties, or insufficient supply of water or an insufficient return on the outlay. Last year, we examined those schemes which had been dropped on financial grounds and it was finally decided to ask the Chief Engineer to reconsider four of those projects; he has been asked to revise the estimates in his office and to examine them and see whether by levying a higher water-rate, it might be possible to make those schemes productive or feasible.

“ My hon. Friend, Mr. Narayanaswami Pillai, complained that sufficient provision has not been made in the Budget for the Kattalai Scheme and the North Bank Canal Scheme. In fact all the money which the Chief Engineer said he could spend has been allotted for these schemes during the year. If more were allotted it would be an example of over-budgeting.

“ My hon. Friend, Mr. Devadasan, complained that the construction of a reservoir at Ambasamudram has not been taken up. I presume he refers to the Papanasam Reservoir Scheme. The gaugings taken in connexion with this scheme were completed last year and the results have been communicated to the Engineer-in-chief of the Hydro-Electric Department, whose report is awaited.

“ Then my hon. Friend, Mr. Kondappa, referred to three projects. The first is the Upper Pennar Scheme. I presume he refers to the Pennar-Kumudavati project which is estimated over 6 lakhs; the estimates for this scheme are under the consideration of the Chief Engineer. He also referred to the Bhairavanitippa Scheme. I may say in regard to that scheme, that there is already a good deal of irrigation under the Hagari

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river and we have to be careful that we do not exhaust the supplies required for irrigation further down the river. This scheme is under further examination by the Superintending Engineer. The Dorigallu project was abandoned in 1909 as it could not be executed as productive or protective work and was unsuitable as a famine work, being a masonry dam. It was again examined in 1927 when the Chief Engineer reported that a water-rate of Rs. 36 an acre will be necessary to bring in a return of 6 per cent on the outlay.

“ Complaint was made regarding the delay in bringing forward the Estates Land Act (Amendment) Bill. This is of course a very important Bill which must receive very careful consideration. A revised Bill has been recently drafted in the Secretariat in the light of the observations of the High Court and the Board of Revenue on the Bill prepared by the Committee. That revised draft Bill will shortly be considered by the Government.

“ It was stated that educated Mussalmans cannot get into Government service owing to the rule regarding age, as Mussalmans begin their education at a later age than other Indians. There was also a statement that Adi-Dravidas were handicapped by the rules relating to age. I may assure hon. Members that if under the existing rules we do not get a sufficient number of Mussalman and Adi-Dravida candidates to fill vacancies which are reserved for these communities according to the communal rotation rule, the Government will, in consultation with the Madras Services Commission, take into consideration measures which may be necessary to enable an adequate supply of candidates from these communities, if possible, to be forthcoming and that may take the form of raising the limit of age, in the case of these two classes of candidates, somewhat higher than the age required of candidates of other communities, for a limited period of years.”

* The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU:—“ Sir, let me first of all thank the House for the interest they have shown with regard to the departments in my charge and for their expression of hope that more amounts may be provided than what has been possible in the current year. Sir, I wish I had been able to provide more funds to help local bodies and other institutions with regard to roads, water-supply and other things, but unfortunately, it has not been possible to do so. My only satisfaction is that we have been able to provide for village roads, wells and for other amenities of the rural population at least the amount that has been provided for these things last year, if not more.

“ With regard to the particular suggestions made by various hon. Members, I shall refer to a few of them under the main heads. With regard to elections to be held to local bodies, some apprehensions have been expressed as regards the manner in which the areas and the circles will be constituted and also with regard to the proper representation of communities like Adi-Dravidas and Mussalmans in the wards of the different municipalities. The position of the Government is that

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as provided in the Act, there will be generally a taluk board for each taluk area. The distribution of seats and areas will be very carefully considered by the special staff that has been employed for the purpose and for which this Council has been kind enough to sanction the necessary allotment. Four Deputy Collectors have been appointed and any proposal that may be received either from district boards or taluk boards will be carefully examined and in view of any objections that may be received I am sure they will try and see as far as possible that there is an impartial distribution and also provide as many seats as possible consistent with the total number of seats reserved for the various communities. I am sure the special staff will try to give as wide a publicity as possible, and in their tours in the various districts hear all members concerned in the matter.

4-15
p.m.

"The hon. Member from the Nilgiris suggested that with regard to grants to local bodies they have not been able to spend the amount given, because there was delay in the disbursement as well as in the announcement to the local bodies of the grant of sums. Government are now trying, in the past too they have been trying, to inform in advance the local bodies of the amounts that are allotted subject to the sanction of this Council.

"With regard to village roads and village wells this Council naturally took me to task for not having constituted the Village Development Fund; and the only excuse for that is the present financial position; and the only excuse for that is the present financial of it. Under the Local Boards Act as amended, which has come into operation, the local bodies will start a village development fund under the statutory powers vested in them, and the question of the grant in aid of that will receive the favourable consideration of the Government as far as possible.

"My hon. Friend for Madras, Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti, repeated his request that in the distribution of grants received from petrol tax the City of Madras should not be ignored. As I said these grants are distributed for works which are approved by the Standing Committee for Roads of the Legislative Assembly and by the Road Conference at Simla. I am sure if the Madras Corporation can put forward any scheme which will satisfy the conditions there will be no objection to granting sums required.

"Suggestions were made in the Medical department with regard to the increase of honorary agency; and I would be only too glad to increase it wherever it may be done. It was stated that more rural dispensaries should be started, but that no provision is made in the Budget for the opening of new ones next year. That is true. But I think the time has come for an investigation as to how far the existing dispensaries are functioning properly and how far the people of the locality take advantage of them. I propose to examine this point before any sum is sanctioned for the opening of new dispensaries.

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"Objections were raised that some clerks were transferred from one district to another covering long distances, and that there is hardship on that account. It is said that a clerk from Coimbatore was transferred to Ellore and a clerk from Ellore to Chittoor and similar other cases involving long distances. I shall have the matter investigated and see under what circumstances this was done.

"The hon. Member for Cocanada pointed out that there is need for the Cocanada hospital being taken up by Government as early as possible. I have to submit to the hon. Member that the lands required are being acquired and that scheme will be considered by the Government, when the plans and estimates are ready.

"It was pointed out with regard to water-supply schemes for urban areas, the claims of Salem, Tenkasi, Courtallam and Tiruppur have not received the attention of the Government. I can only say that in every one of these cases the scheme is under investigation and the plans are not ready.

"My Friend, Mr. Vasudeva Pillai, contended that with regard to the slums in the City of Madras not much is done to improve them. I can only point out that the Madras Corporation in accordance with the recommendations of the City High Mortality Committee have put forward some big schemes and Government have provided loans for them as far as possible.

"A suggestion was made that the Religious Endowments Act should be amended to give jurisdiction to Subordinate Courts other than District Court to deal with suits, etc. On this I have only to say that the suggestion will be taken up when the consideration of the amendment of the Religious Endowments Act comes up.

"I have nothing more to say; I think I have answered all the points raised; but if there are any points I have not answered, if hon. members would remind me of them, I should be glad to answer them."

* The hon. Mr. P. T. RAJAN:—"I am thankful to hon. Members of this House for the opportunity given to me to place before them the good work that is being done by my department, and to remove certain misconceptions regarding them. My hon. Friend, Mr. Ramaswami Mudaliyar, as also Mr. Parthasarathi Ayyangar, referred to marketing of agriculture produce by co-operative methods. There are 73 co-operative loan and sale societies, and they offer very promising means of increasing the wealth of the cultivators. But unfortunately people don't take advantage of them. Government have recently appointed a Deputy Director of Agriculture in the Co-operative department to develop cotton sales societies and to advise Government on the problem of co-operative marketing. Recently a deputation of merchants of oil-seeds waited on His Excellency the Governor, and represented to him the present condition of the groundnut trade. A committee has been appointed and reference to that was made by Mr. Muthayya Chettiyar. The report of that Committee is awaited. (Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti: Has it finished its labours?) No. It is the Committee

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referred to by the hon. the Revenue Member. Of course it is not possible for that Committee, or for any other Committee appointed for that purpose, to have this co-operative marketing established soon. For it is a matter of time; it cannot be done soon.

"Then Mr. Ramaswami Mudaliyar also referred to the improvement of agriculture by co-operative methods. There are a number of co-operative societies for this purpose. There are co-operative societies for supply of seeds, there are demonstration societies and societies for the supply of agricultural implements. There are societies for irrigation and societies for kudimaramat. Some of these societies had rendered very good service to the members. All the same it must be remembered that these societies are based on popular movement, and unless the people co-operate with them these cannot flourish. You cannot expect Government to do everything. Unless the people themselves take interest, you cannot expect to get the full benefit or advantage from these societies. Government can only give a helping hand.

"I will now pass on to the other subjects. My hon. Friend, Mr. Meera Rowther, complained that his community is not given all opportunities of co-operative work. I am afraid Government do not deny opportunities to any particular community or any particular sect. It is up to the individual or to the community to take advantage of the society. And if any community is prevented from so doing and if it is brought to the notice of the Government, they will do the needful in the matter. As I said, it is up to the community to take advantage of the co-operative societies. (Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed: Can't you give special facilities to the backward communities?) Yes, and special facilities have been given.

"Coming now to the Veterinary department, Mr. Subrahmanya Bhatt, the Member for South Kanara, said that there has not been any expansion in this particular department, and he expects Government to give greater facilities by way of veterinary help. The aim of the department has been to introduce six new dispensaries and six touring billets every year. But owing to financial stringency this year it has been possible to open only three new dispensaries; and I hope next year it will be possible to stick to our programme of six dispensaries and six touring bullets. Thus the Veterinary department is doing its level best to minimize the dangerous and the serious effects of the diseases by inoculation.

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"Then, Sir, I am glad Mr. Ramaswami Mudaliyar is taking a good deal of interest in Agriculture. He said that experiments in the Agricultural department have not been brought to the doors of the ryots and he requested that these benefits be made available to the poor ryots. I may say this department is doing work in two directions—one is research and the other propaganda. In the direction of research various

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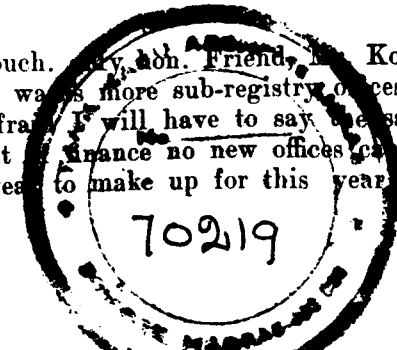
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improvements have been effected. The research officers of the department found out improved varieties of seeds, improved methods of cultivation, improved methods of manuring and improved varieties of implements; and propaganda officers make them known to the people at large. The department is conducting research in almost all aspects in which the Presidency is interested. The ultimate aim of the department is to have a demonstrator in each taluk and we are working towards that end. At present it is not possible, but the ultimate aim is to have a demonstrator for each taluk. The department is doing everything to popularize the results of research by means of demonstrations and exhibitions during fairs and festivals, the distribution of pamphlets in several vernaculars, and the exhibition of motor vans carrying all the things connected with agriculture. In fine, Sir, the department is always ready to render any help to any ryot if he only asks for it from any officer of the department.

"Two other points I should like to refer to, Sir. Mr. Simhachalam Pantulu complained that the Co-operation Bill has not yet been brought up before the House. The Co-operation Bill is under technical scrutiny, and I hope very shortly it will be before the House. Sir, my hon. Friend, Mr. Davis, from the Nilgiris has referred to some points. His complaint has been that the Agricultural Department has not been co-operating with the agriculturists and societies in the Nilgiris. I am afraid it is rather too vague a statement to make, but if he brings to my notice any specific instances, certainly I shall be very glad to enquire into them and see that the department gives them all facilities. Then, Sir, my Friend, Mr. Davis, complained about the work of repairs being done to the Mettupalaiyam-Ootacamund Ghat Road by the Public Works Department. I do not know exactly what he means by that. If he gives me more detailed information, certainly I will call for information from the Chief Engineer and see that the defects that he complains of do not recur. I am glad to see that at least the Nilgiris have not suffered for want of serum and for want of attention on the part of the Veterinary Department. I am glad at least my hon. Friend recognized the good work done by the Veterinary Department. There is another point referred to by him. My Friend spoke of the post of the Inspector-General of Registration, and urged that that appointment should be given to an Anglo-Indian. I am afraid no such promise can be given, but when vacancies occur, the claims of every community and of individual officers will certainly be considered. At least this much assurance I can give before the House that nobody's claims have been overlooked.

"One other subject I want to touch. My hon. Friend, Mr. Kondappa from Anantapur, said that he wanted more sub-registry offices to be opened in his district. I am afraid I will have to say the same thing to him, and that is, for want of finance no new offices can be opened. It may be possible next year to make up for this year and open a number of offices there.

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"I am sorry I was not present throughout the debate, Sir, and I hope by my absence I have not omitted to reply to any points raised by any of my hon. Friends. I can assure my friends opposite that if they would bring the grievances to my notice or to the heads of the departments with which I am connected, their suggestions will certainly receive all the attention and consideration which they deserve."

* The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR:—"Mr. President, Sir, most of the bombardment of the hon. Members of this House was directed against the hon. the Finance Member and naturally, therefore, I hope they are more anxious to hear him in defence of his budget than they are to hear any speech from me. (Voices:— 'No, no'.) Therefore hon. Members will forgive me if my remarks on this occasion have to be necessarily brief. I must, however, acknowledge with thanks hon. Members by saying that their criticisms so far as we, Members of the Transferred Half are concerned, have been of a very helpful and sympathetic character on this occasion. And if I am not able to reply to each of them individually, it is not because I do not consider the suggestions made by them valuable, but because limitations of time prevent me from doing so."

"Well, Sir, with regard to the Department of Education with which I am concerned, I note with satisfaction the manifestation of a general desire on the part of the Members of this House that steps should be taken towards the development of elementary education on a sounder and wider basis. As hon. Members of this House know, it is now the policy of the Government that the available funds should be primarily devoted to the development of elementary education. (Hear, hear.) And it is therefore a matter of encouragement to hear from the hon. Members of this House also that they share that view of the Government. Hon. Members may also know that a Bill to amend the present Elementary Education Act is under consideration and it is the idea of the Government to introduce provisions in that amending Bill which will facilitate the introduction of compulsory elementary education on sound lines. When that Bill is before the House, I am sure there would be very good opportunities for the views of the hon. Members of this House being brought to bear upon these provisions, so as to make the Act as useful as it can possibly be made. The hon. Member for Ganjam, Mr. Patnaik, has made some very valuable suggestions based upon the system of education that is prevailing in the Punjab. Well, the Government's intentions in regard to this matter have to a great extent been frustrated by the attitude taken up by the S.S.L.C. Board. It is an autonomous body with whose decisions the Government cannot lightly interfere. (A Voice:— 'A republic'?) When a scheme for vocational training was once considered by a committee and was recommended for adoption, I see, Sir, that it was that Board that turned it down as being an impracticable scheme. The Government, however, have not given up yet the idea of introducing vocational training, and some schemes of vocational training on the lines that prevail in the province of the Punjab are still under consideration, and the valuable suggestions of the hon. Member from Ganjam will certainly be borne in

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mind when that question comes up for final decision before the Government. (Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed: Is the Government subordinate to the S.S.L.C. Board?) To such interruptions I wish I had the time to reply. I regret very much that I have not the time for that. I shall not engage the House any longer with observations made on the Department of Education."

"With regard to Excise, it was only the other day that we had a full discussion on a resolution which was moved by my hon. Friend, Mr. Yakub Hasan, and the interval between then and now is so very short that I do not think the hon. Members of this House expect the Government to have proceeded much farther than they were on that date. However, I can say that representations have been made both by the hon. Members of this House and others with regard to the further progress that can be made in several districts of this province; and all these proposals are under consideration, particularly those from the district of Nilgiris. The representatives of that district who are in the Council, Mr. Davis, Mr. Ari Gowder and Mr. Muniswami Pillai, have made certain proposals which they think are very suitable and may be introduced forthwith. Those proposals are under consideration and I hope it will be possible for the Government to introduce them if there are no very serious obstacles in the way of their being introduced. With regard to the remarks of my Friend Diwan Bahadur R. N. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar to-day, I must say that the rates on arrack were increased not only at the time when he was the Minister for Excise but in subsequent years also, even larger increases having been made now than those which had been made during his time. He also made the observation that the proceeds of these increased rates should have been employed for introducing total prohibition in some areas. Of course, these increased rates, as he would have known himself, are not introduced throughout the province at one and the same time. They are introduced in a group of districts at one time and in another group of districts in a subsequent year. If the increased proceeds are got from one district it is his idea that they should be employed for introducing total prohibition in another district. I do not know if that was exactly the idea that was behind the mind of the Government when they introduced these increased taxes. But I have not the slightest objection to any additional revenue that may be found being employed for the purpose of total prohibition. But what are the facts to-day? I will refer the hon. Members of the House to only certain figures found on pages 10 and 24 of the Budget Memorandum that has been placed before the hon. Members of the House. Page 10 gives us the figures from 1920-21 to 1929-30 and the figures for the years 1930-31 and the budgeted figures for 1931-32 are given on page 24. Hon. Members will find that the figure which has been budgeted for for the year 1931-32 is with one exception the lowest ever reached by the department, that is, 496 lakhs. Where are those increased proceeds which can be employed for prohibition? I do not mean to say that I have in any manner lost the sympathy which I have expressed

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towards prohibition. What I intend is only this; the present argument on which schemes for total prohibition are sought to be supported, namely, that the increased rates have provided the necessary funds for introducing total prohibition in a district or two, can no longer hold good. As I said already, this 496 lakhs is about the lowest figure we have ever reached: and there is thus no increased revenue which can be used as a set-off against expected losses. Mr. President, I am not going to engage the House longer than this."

* The hon. Mr. H. G. STOKES:—"Sir, in the course of his speech Sir A. P. Patro has remarked that on the occasion of the Budget debate, Members of this House are free to roam from China to Peru. Perhaps, it may be more appropriate to say from London to Madras. I do not propose, therefore, to take longer time than I can possibly help in replying to the general Budget debate. The House will not, I hope, expect me in summing up the debate to deal in detail with all the points raised by each Member. If I do not refer in my speech to the criticism of any of my hon. Friends, I hope he will not infer that I consider his remarks unworthy of attention."

"Before coming to the actual proposals of the Budget, as Finance Member I would like to meet one point with which I am concerned as Member in charge of the Military portfolio."

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"The point is one that was raised by Subadar-Major Nanjappa from Salem with reference to the desirability of restoring or reviving the old Madras regiments. The hon. and gallant Member from Salem has, I think, tabled a resolution on the subject which I understand has a large measure of support from a good many of the Members of the House, although it has not as yet succeeded in the ballot and come up for discussion. On that subject I am glad to be able to inform the hon. and gallant Member that the Government are in full sympathy with him and, in fact, in the reply to the Government of India sent, last August, I think, in connexion with the Simon Report we have raised that point and urged on the Central Government that a move should be made in the direction of restoring to the Army List some or as many as possible of the Madras regiments which in past years have added so much to the glory to the colours which they carried. I hope that the hon. Member will be satisfied on that point and will realize that I am giving no empty assurance on this point, when I say that we fully sympathize with his point of view."

"Turning now to the Budget discussion more particularly; in the course of the debate one or two hon. Members have suggested that the general discussion of the Budget which, on our present system, precedes the detailed discussion of grants is valueless and should therefore be either omitted altogether or curtailed. If that matter was specifically raised in this House, the decision would be one, I imagine, for the House itself to take rather than for the Government. Speaking for myself, such a discussion, although no doubt it covers

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the same ground which is subsequently traversed when the detailed grants are discussed, yet affords an opportunity, valuable alike to the House and to the Government, of surveying the administration as a whole, which the detailed discussion of the grants does not offer. In the latter, one is apt to lose sight of the wood for the trees, while in the general discussion an opportunity is afforded to the House and the Government of viewing our problems in a more correct because a more general perspective. I have listened to the speeches with great care, and have found very many of them most instructive."

"In his speech, Sir A. P. Patro remarked, I think, that the Finance Department was responsible for allowing departments to over-budget. That, I am afraid, I am not prepared to admit. I may remind him that under the Devolution Rules bearing on the question the Finance Department has to prepare the Budget on the material supplied by the departments concerned and it is responsible for the correctness of the estimates framed on the material so supplied. It is indeed possible by making lump sum cuts to reduce the estimates proposed by departments, but such reductions must always be arbitrary and cannot be a safe guide, and are things to be avoided as far as possible. For one reason it has to be apprehended that the spending department which finds that its figures are to be reduced by lump cuts will in the next year increase its demands in the hope of getting something approaching the sum which it really wants. This is not a desirable thing to encourage. Again, under the Devolution Rules, the department's function is to examine and advise on all schemes of new expenditure. But its functions are advisory only; they stop with advice, and it is the Government as a whole, on the advice of the Finance Committee, that decides for which schemes provision should be made in the Budget. I cannot therefore admit that the Finance Department, and not the past Governments, is to be held responsible either for over-budgeting or for the manner in which the increasing affluence we enjoyed from 1925 onwards was made use of."

"Leaving that, I think broadly speaking the debate shows that the House has given its approbation, as a result of its preliminary consideration of the Budget, to two main propositions: first, that the policy of balancing our Budget, that is to say, our revenue and our expenditure chargeable to revenue, is sound and that this should be the object towards which we should strive, and secondly, that with a view to attaining this object retrenchment is necessary. I greatly welcome, as does also the Government, the pronouncement of the House on the first of these propositions. It is well that the House should realize, what I have attempted to impress upon it in my remarks while introducing the Budget, that we have for some years now been living largely on our reserves, that those reserves cannot last for ever and that before they are exhausted, it behoves us to call a halt and take stock of our position. That is, in effect, what we have striven to do in the Budget which is before the House. And in view of the approbation which the House has now given to this policy, we shall be justified

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in continuing to strive for its realization. The second proposition which emerges from the discussion has been, as I have said, that retrenchment is necessary and, from the speeches of the hon. Members, I gather that they regard retrenchment as specially necessary with regard to the salaries of officials.

"Now, retrenchment may be undertaken with two objects: (1) in order to tide over a temporary shortage of funds lasting perhaps for only a year, or possibly two, and (2) with a view to find money, in whole or in part, for the carrying out of large objects of administrative policy such, for instance, as the abolition of the Abkari revenue and the extension of facilities for Public Health, Education or Sanitation. In referring to retrenchment in my remarks on the subject in the Budget speech, I had in mind more particularly retrenchment undertaken with reference to the first of these objects, and I expressed the opinion that, so far as we can foresee, retrenchment for this purpose would not be necessary, but that we should carefully watch the situation and set on foot measures to retrench as soon as it ever became apparent that we should be forced to do so. As the House is perhaps aware from the speech of the hon. the Finance Member for the Government of India, the whole question of the scale of official salaries is shortly to be discussed at Simla and that discussion will no doubt not be confined to the All-India Services only. I do not think, therefore, that at present I can do more than assure the House that the Government are fully alive to the position, and speaking as Finance Member, I may say that the general attitude of the House towards this subject cannot fail to be of the greatest assistance both to me and to the Finance Department in dealing with this question. We shall, however, be in a better position to deal with it after the Conference to which I have referred is over. At the same time, I may point out that those Members of the House who think that in retrenchment of the pay of superior services is to be found a gold mine from which all our requirements can be satisfied are likely, upon a closer consideration of the subject, to be disappointed. Hon. Members may not realize what the facts are as regards these salaries. I propose to illustrate the position from the actual figures of 1927-28. For that year we find that out of a total revenue of Rs. 1,757 lakhs the total expenditure on salaries of employees of all kinds right down to village staff and menials comes to Rs. 690 lakhs, or 39.27 per cent of the revenues of the Province. Out of this sum the entire salaries of non-voted officers is Rs. 88 lakhs, or 5.01 per cent; the entire salaries of the voted gazetted staff is about Rs. 86 lakhs, representing 4.90 per cent of the provincial revenues; the entire cost of the subordinate services is no less than Rs. 516 lakhs, representing 29.36 per cent of the total revenues. If it were possible to abolish the whole of the All-India Services and the whole of the gazetted posts of the Provincial Services without putting any substitutes in their place, we should save only about Rs. 174 lakhs. Even if this were done we should be far from obtaining the sums sufficient to make good such objects as the elimination of the Excise revenue,

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as so many people appear to be desiderating, to say nothing of the cost of meeting other necessary measures such as the improvement of primary education, public health and sanitation and the like. Those people, therefore, who think that the nation-building services can be financed by a reduction of what they sometimes call 'the top heavy' expenditure on administration will, I hope, see that their dream is likely to prove a dream only. The sooner it is realized that these objects can only be attained either by the enhancement of the existing taxation or by the devising of new sources of revenue, the sooner are we likely to arrive at a practical appreciation of the character of the problems to be dealt with. So far as these great objects are concerned there is no gold mine to be found in the mere reduction of higher official salaries. If anything material in that way is to be effected, it cannot be limited to the higher paid officers only. It must go down to the very bottom and must affect not only the superior, but the subordinate services as well. It will be for the House to consider how far they are prepared to face that question."

Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—"In that case you won't get any- 5 p.m. thing."

* The hon. Mr. H. G. STOKES:—"One other point of which I may remind the House in this connexion is that the economy to be effective by the mere reduction of salaries is slow of realization. Without causing very serious detriment to the public service, you cannot arbitrarily start reducing the pay of men already in service. In fact, the Fundamental Rules laid down by the Secretary of State forbid that procedure. You can of course reduce the scale of pay for future entrants. But this means that your economy will only make itself felt gradually as the future entrants begin to fill the cadres and take up the place of the old men on the higher scale. Reduction of salaries, therefore, I suggest to you, is not at all a charm leading us like 'open sesame' to a cave full of wealth. If our hopes for next year are not realized and the present economic depression continues, retrenchment will have to proceed not only along the line of reduction of salaries, but, as I indicated, in paragraph 22, I think, of my introductory speech, along other lines as well. Items which are not essential in the various departments will have to be cut down. Reduction will have to be made in non-recurring items, such as civil works, grants to local bodies for various purposes and the like, and schemes of new expenditure will have to be restricted to those absolutely essential."

"There are one or two other matters to which the speeches during the debate have drawn attention. One was the impression which appears to have been shared by several Members that Government are spending enormous sums—I think one hon. Gentleman used the term 'lakhs and lakhs'—on buildings, especially residences for officials. The facts are that in the Budget for 1930-31 was provided Rs. 81 lakhs for major works of all kinds of which Rs. 4 lakhs, or five per cent of the expenditure, was for residential bungalows for officials. The rest included expenditure on other residences, such as quarters for subordinates, offices, additional accommodation for jails, schools and colleges

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including agricultural and industrial institutions, hospitals and dispensaries and improvements thereto including veterinary institutions and roads and bridges. When we come to the Budget of 1931-32, we find a provision of about Rs. 3½ lakhs for bungalows for officers which include necessary residences at the new district headquarters at Ellore; Rs. 6½ lakhs is for other residential quarters. We have provided for offices Rs. 15 lakhs, for improved jail accommodation about Rs. 4 lakhs, for hospitals, dispensaries and veterinary institutions Rs. 14 lakhs, for roads and bridges a like sum, and for schools and colleges and agricultural and industrial institutions Rs. 5 lakhs, all together making a total Rs. 62 lakhs as compared with Rs. 81 lakhs in the current year. This, I do not think it will be suggested that this represents an undue expenditure on residential accommodation for officials. At the same time, I do not deny that, if retrenchment becomes necessary, the field of civil works is one in which we shall have to search for possible economies.

“ Then, I am afraid that some hon. Members have been under the impression, which I am anxious to dissipate, that in the Budget we have starved the Transferred as opposed to the Reserved departments. Nothing could be farther from the truth. It is perfectly true that for Part II schemes we have been obliged to curtail our allocations to some 30 and odd lakhs, and this represents a considerable fall as compared with 1930-31 and its predecessors. That is simply because we have now reached a stage at which a limit must be put to the expansion of our expenditure on new commitments. The complaint to which I have referred was particularly advanced with reference to rural water-supply and village communications. Now actually rural water-supply gets the same allocation under Part II in 1931-32 as it did in 1930-31, namely, Rs. 4 lakhs, representing 11·8 per cent of the available money as against 4·1 per cent in the preceding year. And village communications receive Rs. 7 lakhs in 1931-32 as against Rs. 9 lakhs in the preceding year, the percentage being 20·7 per cent of the available money as compared with 9·2 per cent in the preceding year. Medical and Public Health received 12·6 per cent of the available money as against 8·7 per cent in the preceding year. The House will realize that it is inevitable that, in a year like the present, there should be a curtailment of expenditure on both sides of the Government and that this should be reflected in the allocations that are made for the Transferred Half, which includes most of the great spending departments, no less than in those for the Reserved. The reasons for the decrease I have already given in my introductory Budget speech. Taken as a whole, the proportion of the available money allotted to the two sides of the Government is about the same as it was in the preceding year. I do not therefore consider that the charge of the starvation of the Transferred departments as compared with the Reserved is fairly sustainable. Everybody would be glad of course if a great deal of money had been available for distribution. But that is not the point.

“ Then some criticism was directed, I think, to the policy of repaying debt out of our balances. The action of the Government in having

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decided to repay a certain amount of debt from its balances during 1929-30 and 1930-31 was subjected to adverse criticism. Well, in those two years, we made special repayments of debt amounting to Rs. 279·76 lakhs. I should like to explain to the House the effect of that on our current revenue. By doing so, we have saved equated payments amounting to Rs. 29·98 lakhs, or in round figures Rs. 30 lakhs per annum. Since most of the loans thus repaid would have continued for about another ten years, it would not be unfair to say that we have thus saved for current expenditure about Rs. 30 lakhs a year for ten years, or Rs. 3 crores in all. I think perhaps that the hon. Members have not realized the exact extent of the benefit to our current revenues which this financial operation has involved. It will be noticed as a coincidence that it approximates to the amount of addition to our revenues available for the Part II schemes, for which we have been able to allocate money in the Budget Estimate, which comes to Rs. 38·47 lakhs; so that we find that an amount of Rs. 30 lakhs has become available from that source for expansion.

“ Some references were made to the fact that our debt has increased since 1921. The hon. Members will find at page 95 of the Budget Memorandum a statement of our debt position. Perhaps they would like me to give a short analysis of the debt position. We started on 1st April 1921 with a total debt of Rs. 985·12 lakhs which was almost all productive. It was made up of the following: firstly, the amount spent by the Government of India on irrigation works prior to 1st April 1921 and treated as an advance to the Local Government (Rs. 875·26 lakhs). This amount is not repayable but a fixed sum of Rs. 29·69 lakhs is paid annually to the Government of India as interest on the amount. Secondly, there are amounts advanced by the Government of India prior to 1st April 1921 for financing the Provincial Loan Account (advances to local bodies, cultivators, etc.) and these come to Rs. 109·86 lakhs. This amount we have to repay in annual instalments of Rs. 9·50 lakhs in addition to interest on the outstanding balance of each year at 4·51 per cent. Thus, since 1920-21, we shall have borrowed Rs. 1,203·51 lakhs, of which Rs. 149·64 lakhs is non-productive. The total amount thus borrowed, adding that figure to our debt with which we started, comes to Rs. 2,188·63 lakhs. In the same period, up to the end of 1931-32, we shall have repaid Rs. 619·69 lakhs, which will leave our debt position at the end of March 1932 at Rs. 1,568·94 lakhs, in round figures Rs. 1,569 lakhs. Out of that Rs. 54·87 lakhs is non-productive, and the balance, viz., Rs. 1,514·07 lakhs is therefore productive debt. As against this, we shall have on the 31st March 1932 Rs. 485·63 lakhs owing to this Government by local bodies, cultivators, etc., as compared with Rs. 109·86 lakhs on the 1st April 1921, that is to say, an increase of Rs. 375·77 lakhs. I do not think that can be said to present an alarming picture, a picture which calls for adverse criticism on our debt position.

“ One or two hon. Members in the course of their speeches have 6-15
regretfully compared the figures for the preceding five or six years and p.m.

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have said, where on earth have the 348 lakhs gone to? What has become of them? Well, it is not possible to mention specifically where they have gone to. The best way to get an idea of it is to compare the expenditure in the last year in which the full provincial contribution was remitted by the Government of India, namely, 1924-25 with that proposed in the Budget Estimate for 1931-32. It is necessary, on account of various changes in account classification, to make certain adjustments of the figures in order to arrive at the true figures for comparison. After making these adjustments we find that in 1924-25 our expenditure was Rs. 1,357 lakhs exclusive of provincial contributions while in 1931-32 the Budget Estimate provides for an expenditure of Rs. 1,742 lakhs, giving an increase of Rs. 385 lakhs. Of this amount, Rs. 218 lakhs represents expenditure on various objects of the Transferred departments, namely, Rs. 99 lakhs for Education, 62 lakhs for Medical and Public Health, Rs. 25 lakhs for Agriculture and Industries and Roads and Bridges—Grants to local bodies, excluding what we get from our share of Petrol-tax which comes to Rs. 32 lakhs. The balance of Rs. 167 lakhs is accounted for under Irrigation projects, Debt Services 28 lakhs, Pensions Rs. 26 lakhs, Land Revenue and General Administration Rs. 18 lakhs, Police Rs. 17 lakhs, Administration of Justice and Jails Rs. 14 lakhs and other heads Rs. 52 lakhs. The total devoted to the Transferred departments comes to Rs. 218 lakhs against Rs. 167 to the Reserved which, of course, includes Irrigation which, although a Reserved subject, is certainly a nation building department, as much as any of the others. It was remarked by some hon. Members who commented upon this subject that it could have been better if, instead of expanding our expenditure since the remission of the contributions, we had reduced our taxation. Well, it would have been possible to do so, I dare say. But the whole question is one of past history to which it would be scarcely relevant now to enter. It should, however, be realized that if we had taken that course, our rate of expansion would have been materially retarded.

“Then, there are two other important topics which emerged from the discussion. One relates to the question of overbudgeting and the other to the proposal that we should not devote part of our available balances to capital expenditure instead of taking loans. Several speakers have referred to my introductory remarks about supplementary grants especially supplemental grants of token amounts as if they regarded it as a Machiavelian device on the part of Government to commit the House to expenditure to which it might otherwise have not consented. One hon. Member actually went so far, I think, as to refer to overbudgeting as ‘hood-winking’ all concerned. I am sure that the hon. Member did not intend, by using the term ‘hood-winking’ to suggest that over-budgeting has been deliberately made with intent to deceive. If he did, I can only assure him that he is entirely wrong, and must repudiate the charge with all the emphasis I can command. (A voice: ‘Departments over-budget.’) There is no department which is over-budgeting deliberately either.

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“Another hon. Member urged that supplementary grants should not be used to ‘delude’ the House with the results I have indicated. I confess, it never occurred to me that the remarks which I made in my speech upon this topic could possibly be interpreted to convey any such idea. I only suggested that as the result of our efforts to avoid over-budgeting we might in future have to come more frequently to the House for supplementary grants. That does not mean that supplementary grants are to be passed as a matter of course, or will be admitted by the Finance Department or by the Finance Committee or Government without very close scrutiny as to their necessity. As for token grants, the intention is that the House should only be asked to vote for them if we are satisfied that the bulk of the expenditure involved can be met by re-appropriation. In all such cases, the ultimate commitment is fully set out and the Finance Committee and the House can be under no delusion as to what it is they are being asked to agree to.

“With regard to the criticism that balances should not be used for capital expenditure, I have very little to add to what I said in my introductory remarks. No doubt it is generally a sound principle that large capital works should be met from loans, especially those works whose lives extend for many years, so that you can distribute the burden over a number of generations. But, in applying that principle to any particular circumstances, it seems to me that you are entitled to consider whether it would pay you better at the particular time to increase your debt, or have recourse to your cash balance, if you are so happy as to have one. As I explained in my speech, the present conditions for borrowing are by no means favourable and it has appeared therefore wiser to utilize part of our available cash rather than to increase our debt. By adding to our debt we reduce *pro tanto* our borrowing power for the future. I have already pointed out how valuable and timely has been the addition to our recurring expenditure of the Rs. 30 lakhs which we have saved by the debt repayment transactions which I have just explained.

“In the course of this morning’s discussion, several speakers have criticized as unduly optimistic the estimate of land revenue which we have budgeted for in 1931-32. One speaker, fresh from economic lecture halls, has denounced our optimism on *a priori* grounds of economic principle, and another, on the ground that, with the prices at the present level and the possibility of their going lower, the whole basis of land revenue settlement will fall to pieces and our budgeting will be falsified. The object, I take it, of these speakers was to reinforce the argument for the postponement, or the remission of kists. On this subject I have nothing to add to what my hon. Colleague the Revenue Member has stated. So far as the estimates of revenue in the Budget are concerned, it appears to me quite an impracticable suggestion that we should be called upon to frame our estimates on the assumption that the whole principles on which the land revenue has been settled must be scrapped. That is a very much larger question for which I must decline any responsibility in framing the Budget. For the purpose of

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budgeting, I must leave it out of account. I have already stated in my introductory speech that for 1931-32 we must assume, from the data upon which these matters have in the past been usually calculated, that we will have a fairly normal year. At the same time, in another part of my speech, I have recognized that it is impossible to say what further strain may be placed upon us if the economic crisis may be prolonged and prices continued to fall, or if the process of adjustment to the new conditions should be unduly delayed. If the catastrophe which either of these speakers have prophesied should indeed come to pass, we shall certainly have to face the resulting position, and to revise our estimates. In that case it will probably result that there will be no money for Part II Schemes in 1932-33 or succeeding years and, probably, the provision for 1931-32 will have itself to be curtailed. We shall also have to retrench still more drastically all along the line in respect of Part I Schemes. I hope that this contingency may not arise, although Mr. Arasu regarded it with some glee; and I have not been sufficiently daunted by the prospect to contemplate them in the figures of the Budget which I have put forward. Mr. Arasu has told us that we are too optimistic. Doubtless it is possible to be too optimistic, but I venture to suggest to him that it is possible also to be too pessimistic.

“ Well, Sir, if I may draw an inference from the speeches delivered in the debates, I gather that the first impression that it conveyed was that all was well, that there was plenty of money for everything and everybody, and that if there was not, it could be somehow produced from some undisclosed hoard at the disposal of the Finance Member. One hon. Member even went so far as to call me a hypnotist, though, since he immediately went on to denounce the Budget freely, I cannot suppose that he took long to recover from my hypnotic influence. Sir, I am not a hypnotist, but neither am I a conjuror to produce, by some financial sleight of hand, crores out of a hat. The Government, unlike some Indian Princes of whom we have been told, has no secret hoard on which to draw. Its position is patent to all who like to study the Budget, and my object has been to present to you the plain facts of the case. At the risk of repetition, I may re-state the position as I see it. During the three years 1925-26 to 1927-28 we have been relieved of the Imperial contribution which meant a corresponding increase of revenue of 348 lakhs a year; we have been enjoying during and since the same period the advantage of a succession of favourable years; we have in consequence been in a position to make from year to year considerable additions to our expenditure commitments under various heads. It is quite true that our actual expenditure for various reasons already indicated, has not kept pace, and balances have been accumulated on which we have been able to draw pretty freely for providing for new commitments. But the commitments remain, nevertheless, as Part I Schemes and have to be provided for. We are now confronted with a bad year; at the same time our expenditure is overtaking our revenue. This process of expansion cannot go on for ever. We have

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now reached a stage at which our new commitments must be restricted to what we can afford, if we can afford any at all. For that reason I am glad that I carry the House with me in my attempt to balance revenue and expenditure. I can well understand that to hon. Members the check in the expansion comes as a disappointment, possibly as a shock. The fact is not due, as several hon. Members have apparently thought, to any want of sympathy on my part, or on the part of the Government with the needs, hopes and aspirations of the public. It is due to the hard logic of financial facts. It is very much better that the fact is realized in time to curtail our expenditure, instead of continuing at the old pace till every resource is exhausted.

“ A moderation of the pace will enable us to bring to complete fruition many schemes now in hand, which would otherwise be wrecked by any sudden financial collapse. The Budget has been denounced as a Budget of despondency, a bankrupt Budget, a make-shift or patch work Budget and so on and so forth. Whatever else it may be, I do not admit the despondency. I regard the Budget as one of necessary caution, deserving of the motto which I suggested for it. I would urge there is no need for panic or for recourse to the exaggerated language of panic in considering our financial situation.”

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

III.—PAPER PLACED ON THE TABLE OF THE HOUSE.

G.O. No. 87, a Development, dated 21st January 1931, recording the Audit Report and Accounts of the Government Industrial Institute (Ink Factory), Madras, for the period 1st December 1929 to 31st March 1930.

R. V. KRISHNA AYYAR,
Secretary to the Legislative Council.

THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OF THE GOVERNOR OF MADRAS.

Tuesday, the 3rd March 1931.

The House met at eleven of the clock, Mr. President (the hon. Mr. B. RAMACHANDRA REDDI) in the Chair.

PRESENT:

Usman Sahib Bahadur, <i>Kt.</i> , The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir Mahomed.	Murugappa Chettiyar, Diwan Bahadur A. M. M.
Krishnan Nayar, <i>Kt.</i> , The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M.	Muthiah Chettiyar, Mr. M. A.
Campbell, C.S.I., C.I.E., C.B.E., V.D., I.C.S., The hon. Mr. A. Y. G.	Nachiyappa Gounder, Mr. K. A.
Stokes, C.S.I., C.I.E., I.C.S., The hon. Mr. H. G.	Nanjappa Bahadur, Subadar-Major S. A.
Muniswami Nayudu, The hon. Diwan Bahadur B.	Narasa Reddi, Mr. T.
Rajan, The hon. Mr. P. T.	Narasimhaswami, Mr. D. V.
Kumaraswami Reddiyar, The hon. Diwan Bahadur S.	Narayanan Nambiyar, Mr. V. P.
Abdul Hameed Khan Sahib Bahadur.	Natesa Mudaliyar, Rao Bahadur C.
Ahmed Meeran Sahib Bahadur.	Palat, Mr. R. M.
Alamelumanga Thayarammal, Mrs. K.	Pannirselvam, Rao Bahadur A. T.
Annamalai Chettiyar, Mr. S. A. A.	Parthasarathi Ayyangar, Mr. C. R.
Arasu, Mr. V. T.	Pate, I.C.S., Mr. H. R.
Ari Gowder, Mr. H. B.	Patnaik Mahasaya, Sriman M. G.
Arogyaswami Mudaliyar, Diwan Bahadur R. N.	Patro, <i>Kt.</i> , Rao Bahadur Sir A. P.
Basheer Ahmed Sayeed Sahib Bahadur.	Pooker Sahib Bahadur, B.
Basu Dev, Mr. C.	Premayya, Mr. G. R.
Bayabani Sahib Bahadur, S. M. K.	Raja of Bobbili.
Bayappa Reddi, Mr. P.	Rajagopala Pillai, Mr. P. V.
Birley, Mr. Frank.	Ramalinga Chettiyar, Rao Bahadur T. A.
Bhanoji Rao, Mr. A. V.	Ramamurti, Pandit Ganala.
Browning, Mr. W. M.	Ramamurti, I.C.S., Mr. S. V.
Davis, C.B.E., Mr. J. A.	Ramaswami Ayyar, Mr. T. S.
Devadasan, Mr. M.	Ramaswami Mudaliyar, Mr. V. M.
Dharmalingam Pillai, Rao Sahib V.	Ranganatha Mudaliyar, Mr. A.
Dorai Raja, Mr. S. N.	Ranganatha Mudaliyar, Mr. G.
Durai Swami Reddiyar, Mr. K. M.	Ranganatha Mudaliyar, Mr. M. D. T.
Ellappa Chettiyar, Rao Bahadur S.	Rangaswami Reddi, Mr. M. B.
Foulkes, Mr. R.	Batnasabhapati Mudaliyar, Diwan Bahadur C. S.
Gopalaswami Mudaliyar, Diwan Bahadur M.	Sahajanandam, Swami A. S.
Hilton Brown, I.C.S., Mr.	Sami Venkatachalam Chetti, Mr.
Indriah, Mr. C.	Satyanarayana Choudari, Mr. C.
Jagannadha Raja, Rao Bahadur G.	Sesha Reddi, Mr. B. P.
Jagannatham, Mr. H. M.	Shetty, Mr. A. B.
Jayaram Nayudu, Rao Sahib C.	Siva Raj, Mr. N.
Kesava Ramamurti Nayudu, Mr. K.	Sivasubrahmanya Ayyar, Mr. K. S.
Kondappa, Mr. A.	Soundara Pandian, Mr. W. P. A.
Kumara Raja of Venkatagiri.	Sreshta, Mr. M. S.
Luker, Mr. A. T.	Srinivasa Ayyangar, Mr. T. C.
Madanagopal Nayudu, Mr. B.	Srinivasan, Rao Bahadur B.
Madhusoodhanan Thangal, Mr.	Sriramulu, Mr. G.
Mahboob Ali Baig Sahib Bahadur.	Subharayan, Dr. P.
Manikkavelu Nayakar, Mr. M. A.	Subrahmanya Bhatt, Mr. U. C.
Moidoc Sahib Bahadur, Khan Bahadur T. M.	Subrahmanyam Chetti, Rao Sahib P.
Moses, Mr. P. C.	Sundara Rao Nayudu, Mr. T.
Muhammad Meera Ravnttar Bahadur, K. P. V. S.	Syed Tajudin Sahib Bahadur, Khan Sahib.
Muniswami Pillai, Rao Sahib V. I.	Vasudeva Pillai, Mr. V. G.
	Venkatarama Ayyar, Mr. K. R.
	Venkataramayya, Rao Sahib Badeti.
	Vengopal Nayudu, Rao Bahadur B. K.
	Watson, I.C.S., Mr. H. A.
	Yahya Ali Sahib Bahadur, Khan Bahadur.
	Yakub Hasan Sahib Bahadur.
	Zamindar of Mirzaparam.

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I—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS

Police

Alleged lathi charge in Godown Street on 31st January 1931.

* 504 Q.—Mr. M. A. MANIKKAVELU NAYAKAR: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether there was a lathi charge by the police on picketers in Godown Street, Devaraja Mudali Street, Rattan Bazaar Road and China Bazaar Road on Saturday the 31st January 1931; and

(b) whether, after the passing of the adjournment motion in the Council on 30th January 1931 regarding the lathi charge in Godown Street, he has issued any orders to the police not to indulge in such lathi charges?

A.—(a) Picketers whose activities threatened a breach of the peace were dispersed by the police in the places and on the date mentioned.

(b) No instructions have been issued to the police as to the methods to be employed in dealing with picketers since the adjournment motion in the Legislative Council.

Mr. M. A. MANIKKAVELU NAYAKAR:—"With reference to the answer given to clause (a) of this question 'Picketers whose activities threatened a breach of the peace were dispersed by the police in the places and on the date mentioned', may I know what their activities were and how they threatened a breach of the peace?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—"Whenever picketing takes place, an unruly crowd gathers and there is always a tendency towards the breach of the peace."

Mr. YAKUB HASAN:—"I understood that instructions would be issued to the police after the Adjournment motion was passed in this Council. Here it is said that 'no instructions have been issued. . . since the Adjournment motion in the Legislative Council'. I remember distinctly that the hon. the Home Member made a promise that he would issue instructions to the police and yet this answer shows that no instructions were issued. May I know why?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—"No formal instructions were issued. In my conversations with the Commissioner of Police, the feeling of this House was mentioned to him. The report from the Commissioner of Police which I read to the House yesterday was also the result of my instructions to him."

Diwan Bahadur C. S. RATNASABHAPATI MUDALIYAR:—"May I know from the hon. the Home Member whether the Adjournment motion passed in this Council was considered by the Government and, if so, what action was taken on it?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—"I have already answered that question."

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Civil Justice

Transfer applications filed in the District Court of South Kanara.

* 505 Q.—Mr. U. C. SUBRAHMANYA BHATT: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether he has received the information called for with reference to question No. 161, dated 28th January 1931, regarding the number of transfer applications filed in the District Court of South Kanara to transfer suits pending before the Additional Subordinate Judge of South Kanara and, if so, what it is; and

(b) what action the Government propose to take in the matter?

A.—(a) Yes.*

(b) None.

Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—"May I know what difficulty the Government feel in transferring this Additional Subordinate Judge, especially in view of the fact that he was practising as a lawyer in that very place?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"It was some 17 years ago that this gentleman was first appointed as a District Munsif and it is not unusual to appoint lawyers as District Munsifs and subordinate Judges in the very places where they were practising. In this case the gentleman who has been appointed as Additional Subordinate Judge is one who has come there after long absence and I do not think there is anything wrong in this. If the High Court however make any recommendation for the transfer of this gentleman from that place, certainly the Government will consider it."

Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—"May I know whether the Government will be pleased to make this suggestion to the High Court?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"No, Sir."

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"May I know if the information called for has been received?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"No, Sir."

Jails

Remission for convicts working in the branch press in the Penitentiary.

* 506 Q.—Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether Mr. Green, the Superintendent of Government Press, recommended remission for convicts working in the branch press in the Penitentiary for good work; and

(b) whether it is a fact that Mr. Howe, the Superintendent of Penitentiary, did not sanction this remission and that the convicts struck work for three days?

A.—(a) Yes.

(b) The information has been called for.

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Land Revenue*Collection of rent on the land to the west of Wall Tax Road.*

* 507 Q.—Mr. C. BASU DEV : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) in whom is vested the ownership of the land on the western side of the Wall Tax Road between the Elephant Gate Police Station and the Madras Central Station (Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway) and what rights the Madras Corporation and the Government of Madras respectively possess in the said piece of land ;

(b) whether the Government is aware that the lessees who built superstructures on the said piece of land are forced to pay double rent to the Corporation of Madras and to the Government of Madras in spite of the fact that the Government of Madras collect separately quit-rent from the Corporation of Madras and, if the answer is in the affirmative, what is the reason for collecting rent twice over ; and

(c) whether in view of the collection of rent twice, the Government will be pleased to cancel the rent payable to the Government by the said lessees and refund the moneys so collected ?

A.—(a), (b) & (c) The Government have no definite information. A report has been called for.

Survey and Settlement*Resurvey and resettlement in Kurnool district.*

* 508 Q.—Mr. A. RAMAKRISHNA REDDI : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) when resettlement is ordinarily due in the Kurnool district ;
(b) whether Government propose to have resurvey in the Kurnool district ;

(c) whether Government propose to have resettlement in the Kurnool district ;

(d) if the answer to (c) is in the affirmative, when the work is to be started ;

(e) what is the estimated total cost of the resettlement ; and

(f) how much money is likely to be spent upon it in the coming year ?

A.—(a) Resettlement is due in the several taluks of the Kurnool district in the years specified against them—

Taluks.	Year in which due.			
Dhone	...	...	...	...
Kurnool	...	...	...	...
Nandikotkur	...	...	...	...
Nandyal	...	...	...	...
Sirvel	...	...	...	...
Pattikonda	...	...	...	...
Koilkuntla	...	...	...	...
Cumbum	...	...	...	...
Markapur	...	...	...	...

(b) No.

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(c) & (d) Yes. The work connected with the resettlement of Kurnool district has been assigned to Revenue Settlement Party No. II. There is no information as to when the work will be started.

(e) & (f) No estimate has been made.

Progress of settlement operations in South Kanara district.

* 509 Q.—Mr. U. C. SUBRAHMANYA BHATT : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Settlement Officer is carrying on settlement operations in the district of South Kanara ;

(b) if the answer is in the affirmative how far he has progressed in the same and what is the nature of the work done by him ;

(c) what the method of work of the Settlement Officer in each village inspected by him is ; and

(d) whether the Government will be pleased to lay on the Council table a statement regarding the same ?

A.—(a) Yes.

(b) & (d) A statement^a showing the progress of resettlement operations in and up to the end of the quarter ending 31st December 1930 in the South Kanara district is appended.

(c) This is governed by the various orders of the Board of Revenue and the Government which are issued from time to time.

Village Establishments*Report called for in answer to question No. 314.*

* 510 Q.—Sriman M. G. PATNAIK Mahasayo : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether the report called for in answer to question No. 314 answered on 30th January 1931 has been received ; and

(b) if so, whether it will be placed on the Council table ?

A.—(a) & (b) The report has not been received.

Wild Animals*Rewards for killing tigers in South Kanara in 1930.*

* 511 Q.—Mr. A. B. SHETTY : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) the number of cattle killed by tigers in South Kanara in 1920 ; and

(b) the number of tigers shot and the amount of rewards given in 1930 ?

A.—(a) & (b) The Government have not the information.

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Mr. A. B. SHETTY :—" May I know if the Government will be pleased to call for the information ? "

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL :—" The Government cannot supply the full information as the returns relating to deaths due to wild beasts have been stopped under the orders of the Government of India, but I shall be glad to obtain information as to the number of cases in which rewards were given for the destruction of tigers if the hon. Member desires to have it."

Corporation of Madras

Alleged inconvenience caused by the working of the electrical machinery in Thambu Chetti street.

* 512 Q.—Mr. C. R. PARTHASARATHI AYYANGAR: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether the premises Nos. 32 and 33, Thambu Chetti street, were sold to the Madras Electric Supply Corporation by the Municipal Corporation; if so, when and why, and under what conditions;

(b) what was the original condition of the site, and why the Municipal Corporation altered it and sold it;

(c) whether the Electric Supply Corporation obtained any previous licence from the Municipal Corporation;

(d) if so, what were the activities of the Electric Supply Corporation in the beginning and at present;

(e) the hours during which machinery in the premises is working both during day and night;

(f) whether complaints have been received from the residents of the locality about the intolerable noise created by the working of the machinery and the damage to the houses on account of the high rate of vibrations; and

(g) whether it is a fact that the Health Officer and the Assistant Health Officer and Electrical Engineer of the Municipal Corporation have given it as their opinion that the working of the machinery is a nuisance and prejudicially affects the health of the public living near by?

A.—The Government have no information.

Mr. C. R. PARTHASARATHI AYYANGAR :—" Will the hon. the Minister be pleased to call for the information ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU :—" Yes, Sir."

Education

Medical inspection of schools.

* 513 Q.—Mr. A. B. SHETTY: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Excise be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have considered what facilities could be given for the treatment of ailments detected in the course of medical inspection in schools; and

(b) what they propose to do to make the present scheme of medical inspection more efficient and useful?

[3rd March 1931]

A.—(a) Yes; the Government have decided that the aim of medical inspection should be to ascertain the general physical condition of pupils, the treatment of pupils suffering from diseases being left to parents. With a view to enabling the parents to take action, copies of inspection cards are sent to them.

(b) Proposals for a scheme of medical inspection on improved lines are awaited from the Director of Public Instruction.

Diwan Bahadur C. S. RATNASABHAPATI MUDALIYAR :—" May I know whether the Government are asking the Medical authorities to make subsequent inspections in schools so that they may verify whether the parents have undertaken the treatment of the diseases of their boys ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR :—" In the next inspection they will be able to find out whether the pupils are all right. Beyond that I do not think that it is possible for the Government to do anything."

Diwan Bahadur C. S. RATNASABHAPATI MUDALIYAR :—" Will the Government consider the desirability of having more than one medical inspection every year in schools ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR :—" It is not possible to have such frequent inspections."

Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" May I know how many times medical inspection is made ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR :—" The inspection, I think, is made annually and, if it is found that any pupil is suffering from any disease, it is communicated to his parents."

Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED :—" May I know whether the Government are aware that in many cases the directions of the Medical Examiner are not followed by the parents ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR :—" I do not know how the Government can do anything in such cases."

Mr. C. R. PARTHASARATHI AYYANGAR :—" Will the Government be pleased to direct that the Medical Officer should see that the pupil is sent to a medical institution where he should be treated free ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR :—" I do not know whether it is possible. However, I shall consider the suggestion."

Action taken on the recommendations of the Beasley Committee on Physical Education.

* 514 Q.—Mr. A. B. SHETTY: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Excise be pleased to state whether the Government propose to take action on such of the recommendations of the Beasley Committee on Physical Education as were not given effect to last year?

A.—In G.O. No. 2156, Law (Education), dated the 22nd October 1929, placed at the disposal of the Press, the Government expressed the view that the consideration of the question should be deferred

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until progress was made in the provision of playing fields. It is only a year since the question of providing schools with playing fields was taken up. It has not been possible to make appreciable progress. The Government propose to wait for some time more, before taking further action.

Mr. T. S. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" May I know when the report of the Beasley Committee on Physical Education was published ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR :—" I cannot give the exact date. "

Mr. T. S. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" At least two years ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR :—" Probably. "

Mr. T. S. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" May I know why it has not been possible for the Government to give effect to the recommendations of the Beasley Committee ? The answer says that the provision of play-grounds is a condition precedent to the effect being given to those recommendations and that Government is moving in the direction of providing play-grounds. May I know how long it will take for them to move ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR :—" That is more than I can say. "

B. POCKER SAHIB Bahadur :—" Will it take the Government ten years to find the necessary finances ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR :—" I do not know even if ten years will be sufficient, if the present financial stringency is to continue. "

Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" Have the Government made provision for play-grounds for any of the colleges in the City of Madras ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR :—" Except for the Presidency College, they have not made provision for play-grounds for other colleges. "

Mr. T. S. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" May I know if the Government have granted the local bodies any moneys for providing play-grounds in schools under their managements ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR :—" A small provision has been made in the next year's Budget. "

Mr. ABDUL HAMERD KHAN :—" Will the Government consider the desirability of giving effect to the recommendations of the Beasley Committee in part instead of waiting for good time to come ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR :—" That is the idea of the Government. "

Mr. T. S. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" Do not Government think that time is an important factor in these things and that, if it takes a decade to give effect to the recommendations of this Committee, after ten years, there will be a necessity to constitute a fresh committee ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR :—" I do not think another committee will be necessary. The present Committee's report is very exhaustive. "

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B. POCKER SAHIB Bahadur :—" By that time will not the report of this Committee become antiquated and useless ? "

Action taken on the reports of the committees on physical education.

* 515 Q.—Mr. A. B. SHETTY : Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Excise be pleased to lay on the table of the House the reports of the committees appointed to consider physical education in boys' elementary schools and in girls' schools and the orders passed by the Government on those reports ?

A.—The reports are under consideration. The suggestion that they may be placed on the table will be considered.

Mr. A. B. SHETTY :—" May I know when this Committee submitted its report ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR :—" I cannot give the exact date. "

Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED :—" Probable date ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR :—" Probably, two years ago. "

Excise

Proceedings of the conference of peons of Excise department.

* 516 Q.—Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER : Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Excise be pleased to state —

(a) whether the Government or the Commissioner of Excise got the copy of the proceedings of the conference of the peons of the Excise department held at Mohanur in Salem district on 24th December 1930 ;

(b) if so, what they propose to do with regard to the requests contained therein ; and

(c) whether they have any objection to call the Excise peons as Excise constables ?

A.—(a) to (c) The Government have not received a copy of the proceedings referred to. As to whether the Commissioner has received a copy, they have no information.

Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER :—" Will the Government be pleased to call for the information and answer the question ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR :—" I do not think any useful purpose will be served. "

Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED :—" May I know whether the Government will consider any memorial from Excise peons requesting the Government to call them as Excise constables instead of Excise peons ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR :—" No such proposal is pending before the Government. "

Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED :—" May I know whether they will consult the Excise Commissioner on this point ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR :—" No, Sir. "

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Oriya representation in Excise department.

* 517 Q.—Sriman M. G. PATNAIK Mahasaya: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Excise be pleased to state—

(a) how many (1) Sub-Inspectors, (2) Assistant Inspectors and (3) Inspectors of Excise there are in the Presidency; and

(b) how many of each grade are Oriyas?

A.—(a) The sanctioned strength is as follows:—

Sub-Inspectors	...	...	...	...	658
Assistant Inspectors	...	...	...	...	37
Inspectors	...	...	...	...	67

(b) The Government have not the information.

Sriman M. G. PATNAIK Mahasaya.—“Will the Government be pleased to call for the information?”

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR:—“It involves a large amount of labour. If the hon. Member will write to me and tell me what purpose will be served by collecting this information, I shall certainly consider his suggestion.”

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS**General***Declaration of District Congress Committees as unlawful associations.*

518 Q.—Mr. C. SATYANARAYANA CHOUDARI: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) the names of District Congress Committees declared by the Government as unlawful associations;

(b) whether the declaration is still in force or whether it has been withdrawn; and

(c) whether it is a fact that the attention of the Government has been drawn by their legal advisers to the illegality of declaring the District Congress Committees unlawful associations when their parent body, the Working Committee, whose policy they are carrying out, is allowed to function as a lawful body?

A.—(a) The Guntur District Congress Committee, the West and East Kistna District Congress Committees, the West Golavari District Congress Committee and the Nellore District Congress Committee.

(b) The declarations are in force.

(c) No.

Jails*Jails where buttermilk is not supplied to political prisoners.*

519 Q.—Mr. C. SATYANARAYANA CHOUDARI: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state what the jails are in which buttermilk is not supplied to political prisoners?

[8th March 1981]

A.—The hon. Member apparently refers to the supply of buttermilk to ‘C’ class prisoners. The Government have not recognized any class of prisoners known as political prisoners. Only ‘C’ class prisoners in the Alipuram Jail, Bellary, are at present supplied with buttermilk. All ‘A’ and ‘B’ class prisoners accustomed to vegetarian diet are supplied with buttermilk.

Irrigation*Investigation of the Tungabhadra project.*

520 Q.—Diwan Bahadur M. GOPALASWAMI MUDALIYAR: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) what has been the expenditure incurred till now on the investigation of the Tungabhadra project; and

(b) whether the report of the special engineer for investigation of the project will be placed on the table?

A.—(a) Rs. 1.65 lakhs.

(b) The Government do not propose to place the report on the table at present.

Land Revenue*Proposed transfer of the headquarters of Ramnad district.*

521 Q.—Diwan Bahadur A. M. M. MURUGAPPA CHETTIYAR: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether there has been any proposal to transfer the headquarters of the Ramnad district;

(b) if so, whether the claims of Manamadurai to be treated as headquarters have been considered; and

(c) whether there is any proposal to transfer the departments piecemeal to the headquarters in case their total transfer is for any reason impracticable?

A.—(a) & (b) It was decided in 1922 that the headquarters should remain at Madurai. No proposal to transfer the headquarters has been considered since then.

(c) No.

Supply of water for recultivation in Tanjore district.

522 Q.—Mr. A. P. N. V. NADIMUTHU PILLAI: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether any, and if so, what arrangements the Government have made for the supply of water for recultivation of the flood affected area in the Tanjore district; and

(b) whether the Government will issue a circular to all revenue officers to publish the information regarding the said arrangements to all mirasidars?

A.—(a) & (b) The Government have made no special arrangements.

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Loans*Recovery of agricultural loan given to one Mr. I. V. Chathukutty Nayar.*

523 Q.—Rai Sahib C. KOLANDA REDDI: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether Mr. I. V. Chathukutty Nayar of Cheruthayam amsam in Chutikkal taluk, Malabar district, was granted a loan of Rs. 2,500 both under the Agricultural Loans Act and Land Improvement Loans Act on 29th August 1929 on full investigation and scrutiny of his scheme;

(b) whether Mr. Nayar has under the terms of the above loans to pay them off in equal instalments of Rs. 337 and odd;

(c) whether the Divisional Officer of Tellicherry inspected Mr. Nayar's farm about June 1930 and was satisfied with the progress made;

(d) whether he will be pleased to place the extract of the Revenue Divisional Officer's diary of inspection of Mr. Nayar's farm on the Council table;

(e) whether Mr. Nayar has invested much more money than the above loan in sinking more than the stipulated number of wells, has constructed other permanent houses and has also gathered materials for further works;

(f) whether the security given for the money includes all his interest in the farm as also some other valuable collateral security;

(g) whether the Collector of Malabar in his proceedings of 15th December 1930 ordered the summary recovery of the full amount of Rs. 2,500;

(h) whether he will be pleased to place on the Council table a copy of the above proceedings;

(i) whether Mr. Nayar's father offered the first instalment of money; and

(j) the reason for the summary realization specially during this heavy depression?

A.—The Government have not the information.

Agriculture*Opening of a fruit cultivation demonstration farm in Rajampet taluk.*

524 Q.—Mr. K. KOTI REDDI: Will the hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state in what stage the proposal to open a fruit cultivation demonstration farm in the Rajampet taluk of Cuddapah district is at present?

A.—No such proposal was at any time under the consideration of Government.

[NOTE.—An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.]

II.—REMARKS MADE BY THE HON. THE LAW MEMBER ABOUT THE CHARACTERISTICS OF MAPPILLAS.

* Mr. YAKUB HASAN:—“Sir, the excellent speech delivered by the hon. Sir M. Krishnan Nayar yesterday was marred by one unfortunate remark which I am inclined to regard as a slip of the tongue rather than a deliberate utterance. While speaking of the Mappillas of the hilly regions of Ernad and Walluvanad taluks, after mentioning some of their good characteristics, Sir Krishnan Nayar said that “when the fit of fanaticism is on them the Mappillas of these hilly regions act like beasts” or even “worse than beasts.”

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[Mr. Yakub Hasan.]

“The characteristics possessed by the Mappillas of the hilly regions of these two taluks are common to most of the Mappillas of the whole of Malabar. The most cultured and enlightened Mappilla is not ashamed to own that he shares all the characteristics of the lowest and the most ignorant of his fellow beings. So, whatever is said of the people belonging to one part of the district is equally applicable to the whole community. The impulse, Sir, that sometimes moves men to commit extraordinary acts is not by itself a bad motive force. While it moves a cultured man with well balanced faculties to do an act of heroism which commands the admiration of the world, it leads an ignorant and illiterate person to an out-burst which is called fanaticism. The tendency, Sir, in a section of people to be roused to the heights of religious frenzy at times, however disastrous it might be in its consequences when misdirected, is capable of being cultivated into a faculty of noble potentiality. The possession of the impulsive spirit of this nature in a marked degree, far from lowering him to the state of a beast, raises a man above the common level of human being.

“The Mappilla is a son of the soil, as much a Nayar or a Tiya, and if Malabar was an independent country, the Nayars, the Tiyas and the Mappillas would form one homogeneous nation. The remark about Mappillas, Sir, to which exception is rightly taken becomes, therefore, all the more unkind when it falls from the lips of an enlightened Nayar.

“In the interests of good relations which, it is the desire of all of us, should prevail in all sections of the people who own Kerala as their homeland, I would earnestly appeal to Sir Krishnan Nayar to reassure his fellow provincials that he did not mean to disparage the Mappilla community in general or any section of it in particular.”

* The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—“Having 11-15
heard the statement of my hon. Friend, Mr. Yakub Hasan, I very a.m.
willingly give that assurance which he wants from me, namely, that I did not intend any disparagement to the Mappillas or any section of them. I am very sorry if my remarks have caused any pain to my Friend, Mr. Yakub Hasan, or any other friend of mine in this House. If I may say one word with reference to myself, I wish to say this. All my friends in this House and outside this House who know me are aware that I am constitutionally incapable of intentionally wounding the feelings of any person. I have heard from my hon friends in this House that during last ten years, I have been in this Council, one characteristic in me more prominent than any other is my incapacity to wound the feelings of others. If my remarks made yesterday have wounded the feelings of my hon. Friend, Mr. Yakub Hasan, or other Muhammadan friends in this House, I hope this statement of mine will satisfy them. I may say that I have many valued Muhammadan Mappilla friends both in this House and outside it.”

[3rd March 1931]

III.—PETITION TO THE COUNCIL.

* Mr. U. C. SUBRAHMANYA BHATT:—"On behalf of the Madras Presidency toll-gate contractors, I beg to present a petition detailing their grievances. They say that they had no previous notice that the toll-gates were going to be abolished; if they are to be abolished at once, they would be put to serious loss and hardship. I think, Sir, that the petition itself will be circulated to the hon. Members of this House and they will know in detail what the grievances are. Briefly they say that in the first place fifteen to twenty thousand persons will be thrown out of employment all at once. Secondly, they say they have spent large sums of money in the hope of running these toll-gates. They would be inconvenienced because they have made preparations in advance with the hope that they would run these toll-gates; they have entered into agreements for a long period with their employees and the passing of this Bill will place them in unpleasant situation with their subordinates with whom they have already entered into contract and may entail loss to them."

The Secretary then read the petition * to the Council.

IV.—THE MADRAS MOTOR VEHICLES TAXATION BILL.

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"The House will now resume consideration of the Madras Motor Vehicles Taxation Bill. The debate will continue on the motion made by the hon. the Chief Minister on the 24th February 1931."

* Mr. V. T. ARASU:—"Sir, the Bill that is now under consideration viz., the Madras Motor Vehicles Taxation Bill, is a measure which proposes to abolish a taxation which is as pernicious as it is vexatious. Therefore, I am as anxious as any hon. Member of this House or even the hon. the Chief Minister himself, that this Bill should be brought into effect as early as possible. But there is one consideration, a very important one, which I would ask this honourable House and the hon. the Chief Minister to bear in mind. Hon. Members of this House would have noticed from a report, appearing in yesterday's papers, of a meeting of the Landholders' Association, Madras. In that meeting it would appear that a resolution was passed to the effect that, in the coming Constitution, we should have two Chambers, that is to say, bi-cameral system of legislatures. One reason they have given is that uni-cameral legislatures all the world over are guilty of hasty and ill-considered legislations. That is a fair criticism, I should say; because, you will know, Sir, that of all forms of tyrannies in the world, the tyranny of a uni-cameral legislature is considered to be the worst, and the most oppressive by all Political Scientists. That is the reason why, probably, all the democracies of the present day have adopted bi-cameral legislatures. According to the Bryce Committee, the first and the foremost function of a Second Chamber is to act as a check or brake on hasty legislation."

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Mr. V. P. NARAYANA NAMBIYAR:—"On a point of order, Sir. It was the other day moved that the consideration of this Bill be adjourned. That motion was negatived by this House and the consideration of the Bill was fixed for to-day. My hon. Friend is perhaps stating that the consideration of the Bill should be postponed. May I know whether the hon. Member is in order?"

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"Sir, the point of order does not arise. The motion that was adopted the other day was for the adjournment of the consideration of the Bill to this day. Now we can move for the further adjournment of the Bill."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"The hon. Member (Mr. Arasu) is in order, because the motion before the House is that the Bill be taken into consideration. But I would request the hon. Member to confine his remarks to the abolition of toll-gates and not bi-cameral or uni-cameral legislatures."

* Mr. V. T. ARASU:—"I was saying, Sir, that all modern democracies have bi-cameral legislatures. One reason, according to the Bryce Committee, which impelled all modern democracies to have Second Chambers, is that they would act as a check and brake on hasty legislation. But in this province fortunately or otherwise we have no Second Chamber."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"The hon. Member is once again traversing the same ground, which is not in order. He will limit his remarks to the Bill before the House."

* Mr. V. T. ARASU:—"I was submitting, Sir, that we are rushing this measure through. This is an instance of hasty legislation. What I was trying to point out is that, because we have no Second Chambers in this province, it is necessary that we should impose on ourselves certain restrictions which would save us from the charge that we have a tendency to legislate hastily."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"The hon. Member will kindly resume his seat."

* Mr. C. SATYANARAYANA CHOUDARI:—"Sir, the ryot of this land has never been prosperous at all. All professions and classes including the Government servants have been feeding upon him; consequently the ryot is very much exhausted; he has lost all his energy and vitality. Sir, the economic depression that we see all round to-day has made his condition more miserable. Under these circumstances, one would have expected the Government to come forward with measures of relief to save the ryots from tension. But what is it that we see? We have seen that the budget for the year 1931-32 has only stiffened the grip round the neck of the ryot, with the result that, after the presentation of the budget, the ryot is found gasping for breath and feeling suffocated. Therefore, this Bill, coming as it does, close on the heels of this budget, is most welcome to the ryots, because, I feel, Sir, that

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this Bill relieves to some extent the congestion caused by the hon. the Finance Member by his budget in the lungs of the ryot. The toll-gates have always been a source of hardship to the ryots. They should have been abolished long long ago and they would have been abolished long ago if the people had only sufficiently and effectively agitated for it. It is time that these toll-gates are abolished at once. The people would feel grateful for those who are responsible for the abolition of the toll-gates. I want to assure the hon. the Chief Minister and Mr. Hilton Brown that the people feel thousand times more grateful to them for the relief they propose to give by the Bill at a time when the ryot is inclined to consider the relief of every pie most valuable. Sir, the abolition of toll-gates is a matter over which the hon. the Chief Minister and Mr. Hilton Brown ought to be congratulated.

“When we come to the other aspects of the Bill, viz., the rates, we feel some difficulty. On the one side there are the bus owners and the general public who feel that the rates proposed in the Bill are heavy. By enhancing the tax on buses, it is the pocket of the general public that is sought ultimately to be affected because the moment the tax on buses is raised, bus owners are sure to raise the fares. Therefore, the general public feel that the rates proposed in the Bill are unduly heavy. This complaint is really reasonable and legitimate. I also feel that the rates proposed in the Bill are heavy.

“On the other side, we have the District Municipalities and the District Boards who say that, unless sufficient income by way of taxes on buses is guaranteed, they are likely to suffer from decrease in their income. Besides those two contending parties, the toll-gate contractor comes in and says ‘I want to have toll-gates.’ I was really feeling anxious how the hon. the Chief Minister and Mr. Hilton Brown were going to get over this difficulty. I am glad they have risen to the occasion and they found it possible to promise to reduce the rates so that they might be acceptable to the bus owners, the public and the representatives of the people sitting in this house. I consider that, while this Bill provides for the abolition of toll-gates, it would not unduly tax the bus owners. I request the hon. the Chief Minister to reduce the rates or taxes proposed for buses and redress the grievances of the bus owners also.

“I pray, Sir, that the toll-gates may be abolished at once. The ryot is walking on his knees; he cannot bear the burden of the toll fees for one minute more. I say, Sir, that the toll-gates must go from 1st April 1931 and that we cannot allow any delay.

“The rates proposed under the Bill are undoubtedly heavy and excessive and, unless there is reasonable reduction, the country is not prepared to accept the Bill and the public is not prepared to accept it. I would therefore request the hon. the Chief Minister and Mr. Brown to see that the rates they propose for taxing the motor buses are reasonable and not unnecessarily oppressive.”

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* Mr. U. C. SUBRAHMANYA BHATT:—“Sir, coming as I do from the district of South Kanara, a district full of rivers which are unbridged and a district which has not got sufficient railway communication and where therefore travelling by buses will become costly in course of time, on account of heavy fares charged, consequent on the new taxation, I for one would naturally oppose a Bill like this. Apart from the special conditions which prevail in my district, I would say that the principle on which the taxation is based, so far as this Bill is concerned, is not sound. The principle of taxation in this Bill is based on the number of cars owned by a person; but that is not a sound principle at all. The proper consideration should have been the extent to which a man makes use of his car and the number of miles which he travels. If that principle was adopted, it would have been sound. However, such a principle could have been given effect to only if there was to be a tax on petrol, which again was not a feasible proposition, as it was an All-India tax and no substitute could be found. And because the Minister in charge has not been able to find out another substitute for this tax on petrol, he wants to rush through this Bill. I say that it is unfair to rush through this Bill on the ground that you have not been able to find a substitute for the petrol tax. As this Bill is based on a faulty principle, it should not be rushed through in this manner.

“Secondly, Sir, so far as my district which has got so many unbridged rivers and streams is concerned, this Bill would work great hardship, as compared with the other districts; because even if road tolls are abolished in my district, the river tolls will still remain. Does this Bill make any attempt to abolish river tolls also? I submit it does not. If the people of districts like mine are to continue to pay river tolls even after this Bill becomes an Act, it would be very unfair to those districts. To illustrate my point, let us suppose that the owner of a private car in Mangalore wants to go to Udipi; he will have to cross four or five rivers. Or supposing he wants to go to Mulpi, a place some 18 miles from Mangalore, he will have to take the car over three rivers and he will have to pay ferry tolls thrice. Such being the case, it will be really unfair if this Bill were to abolish only the road tolls.

“Then again, whereas in other districts it is enough for bus-owners to own only one or two buses to travel long distances, in the case of a district like South Kanara, for maintaining a service even for short distances, say from Mangalore to Coondapoor, a distance of about 60 miles, the owner will have to maintain 7 or 8 buses, because there are 7 or 8 rivers which are unbridged and consequently it would be impossible to cross them and therefore their needs must be as many buses as there are rivers. If each of these buses is called upon to pay taxes, it would be very ruinous both to the bus-owner and to the people who resort to buses. No doubt the Minister in charge will turn round and say ‘Your bus-owners will not have to compete with the Railways whereas the bus-owners in other districts will have to’. Such a view will not be justified for the reason that the poor people of my district

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have never had the use of Railways which afford a cheap means of conveyance and this bus service was a great blessing to them. Of late they have been enjoying a quick and cheap conveyance in these buses, and if you are going to force the bus-owners to enhance the fares by taxing them more, what will be the condition of the poor people? I have also got my own doubts as to whether the framers of the Bill had some idea of assisting the Railway Companies and the Tramway Companies. Whether they had any such intention or not, the effect of a Bill like this will certainly be to give a premium to the Tramway Company in Madras City and to Railway Companies in the mufassal at the expense of the bus trade. In short, the effect of this Bill is to ruin the motor bus trade. I would therefore suggest that this Bill be adjourned or postponed to a further date when it would be possible to bring forward a measure based on a more equitable principle of taxation."

Mr. R. MADANAGOPAL NAYUDU:—"Sir, I move that the question be now put."

Mr. V. P. NARAYANAN NAMBIYAR:—"I second it."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"The question is that the question be now put."

The motion was carried.

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"I will now put the main motion to the vote of the House. The question is—

'That the Madras Motor Vehicles Taxation Bill, as amended by the Select Committee, be taken into consideration.'"

The motion was carried.

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"The Bill will now be taken into consideration clause by clause."

Clause 1.

* Mr. U. C. SUBRAHMANYA BHATT:—"Mr. President, I move the following amendment:—

'In sub-clause (2), after the words "the Presidency of Madras" add the words "except to the district of South Kanara".'

"In moving this amendment, I only wish to submit that the district of South Kanara should, on account of its peculiar condition, be exempted from the operation of this Act. I do not want to traverse, in this connexion, the ground which I have already traversed. I would only add that South Kanara stands on a peculiar footing, as compared to the other districts of the Presidency. In the first place, the bus-owners of the South Kanara district have not so far been paying the toll-tax, once they paid the road licensing fee. If this Bill is to be passed, they will have to pay a tax which they have not been paying so far. Moreover, if this tax is to be collected from the bus-owners,—about Rs. 860 or so a year on every bus—they in their turn will raise the bus fares, and both the bus-owners and the general public would be very badly affected. The people of South Kanara will therefore have to

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pay a very heavy bus-fare, or they will have to walk the distance, or take to the old conveyances, i.e., the bullock carts, going at the rate of less than three miles an hour. There is another difficulty experienced by the bus-owners of South Kanara which I have already referred to. That is, whereas bus-owners in other districts can maintain a service for long distances with one or two buses, the bus-owners of South Kanara will have to maintain at least eight or ten buses to run a service even for short distances, owing to the fact that they have to cross so many unbridged rivers and streams.

"So far as owners of private cars are concerned, they are also adversely affected; because although the road tolls are abolished by this Bill, the river tolls will continue to be in force so long as the rivers remain unbridged. Besides, South Kanara has not got direct road communications with the other parts of the Presidency. For instance, if a man wants to come to Madras from Mangalore, he will have to go through Mercara and Mysore where the tolls will continue to exist. This Act will not touch the tolls levied in Coorg or in the Mysore State. If a man wants to go to Tellicherry, or Ootacamund, he will have to pay tolls. Therefore I say that South Kanara is placed in a very peculiar condition, and the benefits accruing from this Bill to the car and bus-owners of the other districts cannot be availed of by the bus-owners and car owners of the South Kanara district. This Bill will also throw a very heavy burden on the motor industry and the motor owners in South Kanara. No doubt, it is a very good thing to abolish toll taxes and alleviate to a certain extent the distress of the poor ryots, but consideration must also be had of the persons who use the buses and cars, and trade in them. So far at least as the South Kanara district is concerned, the benefits which the ryot will receive as a result of this Bill are far out of proportion to the hardship caused to the bus-owners and motor car owners; and I therefore submit that this amendment should be passed by the House."

* Mr. M. S. SRESHTA:—"Mr. President, Sir, I am placed in a very difficult position, because, I feel like a large number of people, that this Motor Vehicles Bill is a very desirable measure, but I am rising to second the motion of my hon. Friend, Mr. Bhatt, because I feel that, as the Bill now stands, it is very prejudicial to the district of South Kanara. I am afraid, there are not very many hon. Members in this House who are familiar with the peculiar conditions of the district of South Kanara. It may therefore seem that my arguments and the arguments of my hon. Friend, Mr. Bhatt, are somewhat in the nature of special pleading, but the fact is quite different. When Mr. Bhatt spoke, I heard Mr. Hilton Brown remark, 'why should people go from Mangalore to Udipi along the sea coast and why not they go along the circuitous route?' I may tell my hon. Friend that the circuitous route is about 54 miles long, while the sea-coast route is 32 miles and the sea-coast route in South Kanara is an extremely pleasant one. But the difficulty is that there are ten streams going from east to west in the district and it is not possible to go from the south to the

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north without crossing all these ten streams. I own a land about nine miles from Mangalore but have not visited it for several years, because there is a ferry to cross. These streams are flooded during certain months of the year owing to the monsoons and they cannot be crossed conveniently on certain days. These are the conditions in South Kanara. However much we may feel that this Bill is on the whole a very desirable measure, we cannot expect much sympathy from the people of South Kanara. It may be that these conditions may be improved and I am hoping that certain changes might be made in the Bill which will make it possible for me to support it.

“In the first place, I would like to point out that the local bodies are sacrificing a growing income for a fixed amount. I am afraid the bargain is not entirely to the advantage of the local bodies. They get a certain amount based upon the income derived during the last three years or so, but what about the fact that year by year buses and cars will increase in number with a corresponding increase in income? I am not concerned with local bodies in other districts, but so far as the local bodies in my district are concerned, they stand very much to lose by the present situation. Not only are they sacrificing a growing income for a fixed amount, but for various reasons this fixed amount is much less than is due to them. Therefore, South Kanara Members cannot be expected to support this measure as it stands, but if it is possible for the Government, under clause 11, to treat South Kanara in a special manner, to make exemptions and reductions in the rates, then it might be possible for South Kanara to support this Bill.

“The other point that I want to impress upon the House is this: Why should the figures be based upon the income for the three years ending 31st March 1930 and why not have the latest figures including those for 1931? This will only mean a certain amount of calculation and I do not see any reason why this calculation should not be made.

“I must say, that to a great extent this Bill has been rushed through—I do not think the present Government are responsible for it and I am glad they are not responsible for this rush—and it strikes me that a little more time for calculating the revised amount suggested by me can easily be spared even now. Even if this Bill is brought into force at once, the latest figures can be ascertained thereafter.

“Another point I wish to mention is this: As Mr. Bhatt pointed out, we, in South Kanara, do not stand to gain by this measure, because although tolls are abolished, the ferries are there and the inconvenience and annoyance of crossing each ferry will be a great deal more than the trouble of crossing all the toll-gates together. The average time taken in crossing a ferry is half an hour and sometimes it is even one hour. Sir, you can very well understand that with all these inconveniences and annoyances before us, we are not very enthusiastic about this Bill. Therefore, I suggest to the hon. the Chief Minister to consider the question of putting South Kanara on a parity with the other districts.

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When we are put on a parity with the other districts in the matter of taxation and other things, why should we suffer so much from the lack of amenities while the other districts are better off? I should say that, so far as South Kanara is concerned, the Government have been slack and have not given proper attention to it. As my hon. Friend Mr. Bhatt pointed out, all the defects of this Bill should be rectified, and there is unanimity of opinion on this point among the Members from South Kanara. I say that, if this Bill is passed into law, early steps should be taken to provide that all the ferries are bridged. I may here point out that just on the boundary of the town of Mangalore there is a big river which cannot be crossed by means of any conveyance, except by train. This condition is peculiar to South Kanara and it is not creditable to Government that no attention has been paid to the bridging of these ferries.

“I have only one word more to say. I trust that every possible step will be taken early to remedy the drawbacks mentioned. In the meantime I second the motion moved by my hon. Friend, Mr. Bhatt.”

* Mr. A. B. SHETTY:—“Mr. President, Sir, I believe the case for South Kanara was placed before the Select Committee by my hon. Friend, Mr. Sreshta; but unfortunately, he was not able to carry the Committee with him, probably as he was the only Member representing South Kanara in the Select Committee. Now Mr. Bhatt as well as Mr. Sreshta have pointed out why the abolition of tolls will not help South Kanara to the extent it is expected to help other districts. We have not only several unbridged rivers and streams in the district, but we are surrounded by places where tolls have not been abolished, such as Coorg and Mysore. We shall have to continue to pay tolls in Coorg and Mysore if we want to go to any other part of the Presidency. Even Malabar, the neighbouring district, is not connected by road with South Kanara. There is no connecting road for a distance of about eight miles between Malabar and South Kanara. Besides these, there are other factors. For instance, several roads in the district are not motorable during the rains on account of unbridged streams which intersect them. Then, again, South Kanara being at a distance from Madras, petrol is very much costlier there than it is here. As a matter of fact we have to pay as much as 5½ annas more for every gallon of petrol that we consume. Motor traffic has been a great boon to our district in the absence of sufficient Railway communication and it is on a consideration of this circumstance that the district board has exempted motor buses and taxis plying for hire from the payment of toll-gate fees. As a result of this exemption motor transport business is being conducted in South Kanara much better than in any other district. We have got a Company called the C. P. C. Company, which is probably the best organized and the most flourishing bus concern in the whole Presidency. I trust that the hon. the Minister will give due consideration to all these points and see whether he cannot grant the exemption asked for in this amendment.”

* The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU:—“Sir, I am sorry I cannot accept this amendment in favour of one district. I quite

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realize the various points which have been urged by hon. Members. It is stated that South Kanara is cut up by a number of rivers and as such, bus-owners have to maintain a large number of motor cars if they are to run a service for long distances. I may tell hon. Members that under clause 11, if it is passed, that fact will be considered for exemption or reduction in suitable cases. In such cases, I shall consider the question whether in the case of persons owning more than one bus, say four or five, some kind of reduction may be given. Similar provision exists in other Acts and I shall consider whether in such cases exemptions could not be granted.

"My hon. Friend, Mr. Sreshta, pointed out that the tax will work very heavily on the people of his district and that there should be a sort of promise that all the rivers should be bridged. I can only say this. If we do not have this Act and if the toll-gates are not abolished, the result will be that the toll-gates will continue and more toll-gates will be established and even South Kanara buses will have one day to pay tolls, while to-day that district is enjoying exemption—as it is solely in the discretion of the district board to levy tolls or not—and to-morrow the district board may tax even buses, an exemption which they are now enjoying. By the abolition of tolls there will be no such fear at all. If this Bill is passed and if there should be an excess of income, as we expect there would be, all the excess amount would be utilized for the improvement of various roads. If this Bill is not passed, the toll-gates will continue and there is no chance of the money realized by the toll-gates being spent on the roads.

"Then, so far as the charge of rushing through this Bill is concerned, I have only to point out that the memorial presented to the Council this morning shows how much of waste there is in the matter of the administration of these tolls. Now the motor-car owner and the bullock-cart owner are paying tolls. Only a certain portion of the amount collected is paid to the district board, and not the whole amount. It was stated that about 15,000 people on a pay of Rs. 20 or Rs. 30 per month are being employed on this toll business. That means about 3 to 4½ lakhs of rupees are paid to these people in the shape of wages and something more has to be made by way of remuneration or as profit. The Bill, if passed, will certainly put an end to this waste and every pie contributed by the motor cars will, after paying a certain amount to the local bodies for what they have hitherto been enjoying, be utilized on the roads. This Bill is aimed at improving the condition of the villages and to remove the annoyance to the villagers. While the district boards will secure the amount that they have been getting, the surplus will be utilized for the benefit of the roads. With these few remarks, I oppose this amendment."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"The question is—

'That in sub-clause (2) of clause 1, after the words "the Presidency of Madras" the words "except to the district of South Kanara" be added.'"

The amendment was lost.

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* Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI:—"Mr. President, Sir, in the absence of Mr. Natesa Mudaliyar I request I may be allowed to move his amendment."

12 noon.

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"Mr. Pocker will now move his amendment as it is identical with that of Dr. Natesa Mudaliyar."

* B. POCKER SAHIB Bahadur:—"Mr. President, Sir, I really wanted to oppose the consideration of the measure itself; but when I was about to do so, the closure motion came in; and so I have to confine my remarks at present to the amendment of which I have given notice. Sir, I beg to move—

'That in sub-clause (2) the words "except the City of Madras as defined in the City Municipal Act" be added after the words "Presidency of Madras".'

"It has been said that this measure was conceived by the former Ministry and that it had the blessing of the former Ministry in support of it. It may be that it was conceived by the former Ministry, but I cannot concede that it has had their blessing. If the former Ministry thought that it was an advantageous measure, certainly they would have brought forward this piece of legislation even during their period of office. I cannot accuse the former Ministry of such lethargy as not to have introduced such a golden measure when they had the opportunity to do so. No doubt they conceived it but they found they were entirely in the dark as to its far-reaching consequences and so they did not want to proceed further without getting further particulars about the existing state of affairs and without equipping themselves with the necessary information to enable them to judge of the consequences of rushing forth with such a Bill. So I take it that the present Ministry alone should be held responsible for this measure (hear, hear) as it is brought now.

"The other day an attempt was made by the hon. the Chief Minister to have a conference with the Members on this side of the House to see whether some sort of an agreement could be come to. I certainly appreciate the spirit in which the hon. the Chief Minister was making that attempt. It is with reference to this very amendment of mine discussion at that conference took place; that is, the subject-matter of discussion at the conference was the effect of this Bill on the bus-owners in the City of Madras; and the hon. the Chief Minister was kind enough to concede that the city bus-owners will be very much affected adversely by the provisions of the measure, as they originally stood. So he was quite willing to consider the point of view of these bus-owners. I may say that as a result of the discussion some sort of understanding was attempted to be arrived at; but what I find now is that there is some misconception on both sides about what was understood then. The hon. the Chief Minister offered to reduce the rates to what he called Rs. 10 per seat and he also promised that under the rules he would frame under this Bill for the

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first time he would see that only 75 per cent of what is laid down under the schedule is sanctioned. If it is properly worked out according to him, the city bus-owners will not be affected beyond this, namely, that the tax which they pay now under the City Municipal Act will be increased by 50 per cent. What was understood by the Members on this side of the House who were present at the conference was that this rate of Rs. 10 per seat was with reference to a half-year. But now it transpires that the hon. the Chief Minister meant not per half-year but per quarter, i.e., Rs. 10 per seat per quarter. Sir, there being such a fundamental mistake as to the way in which each party understood the other, if there is any understanding at all—that understanding goes. The question is which is the reasonable interpretation to be put on the discussion that ensued at that conference. Well, if it is Rs. 10 per seat per quarter—I shall take for my illustration a bus having 30 seats—the bus-owner will have to pay Rs. 300 per quarter, and that means Rs. 1,200 per year. Now he is paying only Rs. 200 to the Corporation every half-year. And if it is increased, as suggested by the hon. the Chief Minister, it will be trebled. Now it does not require a prophet to say that if the measure even as conceded by the hon. the Chief Minister is carried, the result will be to deliberately kill the bus-traffic, which of late has been found to be very useful to the public of the City of Madras, and has found occupation for hundreds of poor people and has also been found to be a source of profit for many bus-owners. Of course, I am fully aware that it is farthest from the intention of the hon. the Chief Minister to commit these murders (laughter), but at the same time he is not able to see eye to eye with us so as not to cause occasions to create such disastrous results by rushing through this measure. So far as the City of Madras is concerned, on the one side there is the electrification of the Railway just coming in and there is the tramway on the other side, and consequently, these bus-owners, who I understand are mostly poor people, will be adversely affected to a great extent and they will have ultimately to wind up their business. Thus, this Bill will throw out of employment thousands of people who are at present employed in buses and deprive several poor men of their daily bread. Then, there are also, Sir, so many companies formed to run these buses, and they too will have to close their business. At the conference it was also suggested—even the hon. the Chief Minister pointed out—that as in other countries the licence fee may be consolidated in the provincial tax. The Chief Minister conceded that if we are to have a complete measure we ought to include the licence fee also in this Bill. Thereupon we urged upon him that it would be better to take up this measure once for all, and not piecemeal and to wait for some time more to equip ourselves with the necessary information with reference to the consolidation of the licence fee, so that there may be no difficulty afterwards. At present the licence fee is different in different places, and we are absolutely in the dark as to the way in which the present Bill will work out in the several districts. So far as the City of Madras is concerned, it is quite certain that this measure will kill the bus trade and also inconvenience the

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people. The feeling among the bus-owners and the public might not be well known to the hon. the Chief Minister himself; but to those who go about in the buses and to those who move with them and with the ordinary people, the feeling is very well known. The feeling is very keen and the fact that the other day when they heard of the introduction of this Bill, there was a stoppage of bus traffic for almost a whole day will show how much they feel in the matter and the several representations and petitions made to this Council—perhaps, the hon. the Chief Minister would have also received some of them—all these show how much feeling there is in the City of Madras against this measure. I am not saying this in a spirit of putting obstacles in the way of the hon. the Chief Minister. I have confined my amendment to one aspect of the matter, about which there is absolutely no dispute at all. The hon. the Chief Minister has himself conceded that this Bill will affect the bus-traffic in the city adversely and that too very much. What he was trying to do was to make concession in the rules in such a way as not to burden them too much. Even to increase the existing rates is very cruel in the present economic depression of the country which has affected the city as well as any other part of the province. No doubt there is the principle that in a measure like this we cannot be guided by the interests of any particular locality or a particular class of people. I entirely agree with that. And the only justification for sacrificing the interests of a particular locality or a minority class is that the measure will benefit the country as a whole. Well, in order to test the advisability of this measure from that point of view, I asked the hon. the Chief Minister the other day as to what statistics he had as to the number of buses which run long distances which will be benefited by this measure and the number of buses which run short distances which will lose their trade by this measure. He said that he has information to furnish me with, though he has no official statistics, and that according to it there are about 7,000 buses in the whole Presidency out of which 4,000 have to pay two tolls or more than two tolls every day. All those 4,000 buses will stand to gain by the passing of this measure. Of course the other 3,000 will be losers. No doubt, even as he put it, 3,000 buses should not be sacrificed for the benefit of 4,000. Certainly that is not a sound principle. But even for this figure the hon. the Chief Minister said he has not got any official statistics. He has given only some round figure out of his experience. Certainly, I realize he has more experience than most of the Members of this House to speak on this matter. But still, so far as a measure of this kind is concerned, we ought not to be groping in the dark as to its effects on the country. I do not think anything will be lost if statistics are called for and if that information is laid before this House before this measure is rushed through. Whether this measure comes into force on the 1st of April this year or on the 1st of April next year, I do not think, it matters much. For, we have been undergoing this nuisance of tolls all these years and I do not think Mr. Ramalingam Chettiyar will feel much to undergo the same inconvenience

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for a year or for six months more. I do certainly think that this measure is being rushed through without sufficient consideration being paid to it and without gathering sufficient materials bearing on it.

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"The idea of the hon. the Chief Minister that the consolidation of this licence fee also should be included in such a measure is certainly laudable. But what he thinks is that, if that is aimed at, this measure may never be introduced at all. I only request him to have resort to his confidence in himself, and if he is bent upon bringing up a consolidated measure taking into consideration the licence fee also, and if he is determined to have such a measure, a gentleman like him will be able to achieve his purpose. The fact that he has been able to bring forward this Bill within such a short time of his taking up office shows that if he is determined to bring forward a Bill so as to include the question of licence fee also, it will not be difficult for him and he can bring in such a Bill even perhaps in this session. It may be said that, after all, my amendment is only as regards the City of Madras. But we cannot forget the fact that the City of Madras, though small in area compared with other districts of the Presidency, is the metropolis and it is a place to which we have to give greater importance than other districts. But in fact it is not the City of Madras alone that stands on this footing. As the amendment which has just now been lost—the amendment moved by Mr. Bhatt relating to the exclusion of South Kanara—shows, the South Kanara people also do not want this Bill. As a matter of fact, there are so many other districts also which may require such exemptions. Well, the fact that we do not find many amendments to exclude such other districts is only to be explained by the shortness of the notice that the people had of this measure. I do not think that the people of the country whom this measure vitally affects are sufficiently familiar either with the Bill or its provisions or its implications. In a measure like this it is absolutely necessary that sufficient time should be given to the people to consider its effects on them. After all, you cannot expect even their representatives in this House to know each and every fact about this particular trade so as to enlighten the House as to all the necessary materials which may be relevant to this measure. In these circumstances, I would ask the House to vote for this amendment so as to exclude the City of Madras."

* Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI:—"Mr. President, if I second this amendment, it is not with a hope that it would be accepted by the hon. the Chief Minister, but only in order to emphasize the assurances which the hon. the Chief Minister gave when we met both in the Select Committee and also in the informal conference two days ago. I further hesitate to object to the passage of this Bill, for my friends, Messrs. Browning and Luker, who are not less interested in the bus trade all over the Presidency, have given their support to the passage of this Bill, and in particular I am told that even the rates which have been ultimately arrived at were agreed to in consultation with Mr. Luker. But all the same, Sir, it is my duty to place once again before this House the severe handicaps under which the City of Madras is bound to suffer. If South Kanara would be hit hard according to its representatives in this House,

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Madras will be hit perhaps the hardest under this Bill. In the first place, there are no toll gates which are passed by the taxis, buses or private motor cars so long as they confine their travels within the limits set down by police licences. And even private cars which go outside the city on very rare occasions have only to pay eight annas as the toll-gate fee in cases where municipal licences are not taken. Therefore a sudden increase both in respect of private cars and in respect of buses which this Bill contemplates is sure to affect all of them and much more so in the case of those taxis and buses which ply for hire. As against the district traffic, in the City of Madras the buses have to compete against two very powerful organizations, namely, the Madras electric tramways and the suburban railway traffic which again is going to be developed very effectively and perhaps would itself constitute a very formidable rival to the bus traffic. Apart from that, Sir, every one in the House is well aware that the City of Madras is separately treated in respect of legislation. Even at the time of the wholesale revision of the Local Municipalities Act, the City Municipal Act did not come in for any share of revision. As a matter of fact, we are working under an archaic system of local self-government. While the district municipalities and the local boards are given the power of levying either licence fees, road-tax or mileage fees on those cars and buses which ply for hire, the City of Madras is denied that privilege. About four years ago, the then President of the Madras Corporation had addressed the Secretary of the Local Self-Government Department to enable the City of Madras to do so. Probably if that power had been conceded then to the Corporation, it would have been in receipt of a much larger income than it has to-day. But the hon. the Chief Minister was good enough to take into account all these considerations in evaluating the possible compensation to be paid to the City of Madras. I may, Sir, further point out that a number of exemptions are granted in the City of Madras both to the Police officers and to its own employees. Even in that case the Chief Minister was good enough to agree to consider that point. Again, Sir, take the question of water cars. Probably in the whole of the Presidency there are only two or three municipalities which have imported these water motor cars, and I have no doubt that the Chief Minister would consider the advisability of granting compensation or at any rate exemption from the taxation proposed in this Bill so far as they affect the local municipalities and the City of Madras.

"I do not propose to speak upon the improved merits of this Bill. This Bill, in my opinion, is an experimental measure and I will not be surprised if the Chief Minister who has come on the stage of this Bill at a subsequent date will himself realize that it was not after all a good measure as he is led to believe it to be. It seems to me, Sir, that so long as he himself is not quite confident of the success of the Bill, it is necessary that in the administration of this Act, he must see that the bus traffic is not killed in any manner. After all, this bus traffic has become a necessity in rural parts. Even that district, Sir, which is represented in the Ministry in the person of the hon. Diwan Bahadur S. Kumaraswami Reddiyar has sent a protest to him as the president,

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I hope he has not yet resigned that post. (The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. Kumaraswami Reddiyar:—‘That district also is archaic.’) Anyway, Sir, the appeal is issued in the name of Diwan Bahadur S. Kumaraswami Reddiyar, the president, and I hope that he, as a colleague of the Chief Minister, would not agree to any injustice being perpetrated, even without knowing that it is an injustice to the bus traffic.”

* The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU:—“Sir, I am sorry I am not able to agree to this amendment. The only matter I have to mention is that the hon. Member for Malabar, Mr. Pocker, in referring to the proceedings of the informal conference said that he misunderstood my terms. Sir, it was understood that rates should not be enhanced to more than 50 per cent in excess of what they are now paying. My friend took as an example the case of a bus with 30 seats and tried to point out the hardship. On that point, Sir, I may say that from the figures I have with me, out of 660 buses plying in Madras, 619 have a seating capacity of less than 20 and only 41 have a capacity of more than 20 seats. (A voice:—‘What about buses with 30 seats?’) As to the number of such buses, I have not had the time to investigate. In the case of these 619 buses with 20 seats and less the rates will work out not even to 50 per cent over the present rates. For a 16-seater bus, it will work at Rs. 12-8-0 more than what they are now paying. For a 17-seater, it will come to Rs. 20 more, and for a full 20-seater, it will come to Rs. 50. Therefore the rates that I propose cannot be said to be high. I have tabled an amendment in my own name to give effect to that understanding. As I said, in the Select Committee, with a view to see that these rates do not work hard in the first year of the operation of the Act, it was understood that in the first year, only 75 per cent of these rates only should be charged in the case of buses. That amendment will be made under item 4 of the second schedule to the Bill.

“Secondly, Sir, this Bill was published as early as January 1930 and also in January last, and all the district boards were consulted and at various stages the Bill has been before the public. And it was thoroughly considered by a very large Select Committee consisting of 27 members, and all of them agreed that the Bill is one which ought to be passed as early as possible. I should certainly say that there is nothing like rush or haste in going through this Bill; at any rate it is admitted that we should tackle these inconvenient toll gates as early as possible and give relief to the car-owners. For these reasons, I cannot accept this amendment.”

The amendment was put and lost.

Clause 1 was then put, passed, and made part of the Bill.

Clause 2.

* Mr. HILTON BROWN:—“Mr. President, Sir, I beg to move the amendment of which I have just given notice. It is this:

‘In item (ii) insert between the words “district board” and “constituted” the words “or a cantonment authority”.’

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[Mr. Hilton Brown]

“In doing so, I do not want to take up the time of the House to any great extent. It is a very small point. 12-30 p.m.

“Under section 60 of the Cantonment Act it was open to the Government to enclose any area into cantonment area and levy any tax which is levied in the municipality. This tax has been so imposed in certain cantonments in the Presidency like Poonamallee, St. Thomas Mount, Wellington and Bellary. It is therefore necessary to cancel the notification under which they were levying the tax. In that case it is necessary to compensate them. For that reason I am proposing the amendment here. The amount involved is small, Rs. 2,000 in the case of St. Thomas Mount and Rs. 1,000 in the case of Wellington.”

The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU:—“I second it.”

The amendment was put and carried.

Clause 3 was put, passed and added to the Bill.

Clause 3 was put, passed and added to the Bill.

Clause 4, sub-clause (1).

* The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU:—“I move—

‘Between the words “Fort St. George Gazette” and “direct” insert the words “from time to time”.’

“Clause 4 authorizes by notification to levy a tax at a rate not exceeding the scale in Schedule II. It is understood that the Government may revise the rates from time to time not exceeding the rates given in the schedule. I therefore move the amendment.”

Mr. HILTON BROWN:—“I second it.”

The amendment was put and carried.

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—“I move—

‘Omit the words “kept or”.’

“In doing so, I am sure that most of the hon. Members here will agree with me that if the words are retained it will work a great hardship. All owners of motor cars who may keep their motor cars in their stables or in various places and who may not put them on road will be affected. There is no justification for levying a tax in such cases. It is the intention of my amendment to exclude such cases. I have no doubt that the large number of hon. Members who are car-owners will realize the hardship they will be put to.”

* B. POCKER SAHIB Bahadur:—“I second the motion. I am quite sure that nobody will like to levy a tax on a private car or bus which is not being used at all. It will be rather an extortion to levy a tax on a car which has not been used at all. As the section stands at present, if the owner of either a motor car or a bus keeps it without using

[B. Pocker Sahib Bahadur] [3rd March 1931]

it he is liable to pay the tax. It may even take some months at times to get the car or bus repaired. Even in such cases when the owner of the bus does not derive an income out of it and when the owner of the car cannot use it, he has to go on paying the tax. In the case of private cars it may be that a gentleman has got more than one car and that he is using only one. That such people should be made to pay tax for both the cars is certainly a thing which I do not think even the Members on the other side will subscribe to."

Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"I want to have some information from the hon. the Chief Minister. I think it is the intention of the Government to grant some exemption under clause 11. If it is so, the House may agree to retain these words."

The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU:—"The idea is to tax cars owned or kept by persons. Of course the usual purpose of keeping a car is to use it. If you omit the words 'kept or' it will mean that the onus will be on the Government to prove that it has been used. On the other hand, if there are cases in which for special reasons the car is not used, it will be considered for exemption under section 11."

* Mr. T. S. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"It is not possible for me to understand the difficulty pointed out by the Chief Minister. There is a penal section which says that it is open to a Police officer to stop a car and see if it does not have a licence in a conspicuous place and a penalty of Rs. 50 is provided. In the face of this provision, I do not find any necessity why there should be this clause introduced with the insertion of the words 'kept or'. It is our intention to tax only those cars which are used in the Presidency. Suppose a bus-owner has a number of buses and he uses a few of them and does not use the others; it would be a hard thing to come under the exemption section. If he uses the car without the licence, it is open to the Police officer to stop the car and prosecute him. In the face of that, I do not see why the words should not be omitted. It may be that it is unnecessary for the owner to use it for a month or two or a quarter, or it may be that the owner concerned may go on leave. In such cases I do not see why he should be asked to apply for the exemption."

Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO:—"I am not able to understand the real difficulty of the learned hon. Member. We find that there is a general exemption in cases where the cars are not used. There is therefore no such difficulty as has been pointed out. The clause is very clear and it makes cars used or kept liable to taxation. I am not able to appreciate the position of the power being with the police officer. Instead of that the provision as it is will minimise the difficulty. The retention of the words as they are will be helpful than the alteration that is now proposed."

The amendment was put and lost.

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Clause (4), sub-clause (2).

Sriman M. G. PATNAIK Mahasayo:—"I move—

'In the second proviso, after the words "a part", the words "or the whole" shall be inserted.'

"It is only a very small amendment and is intended to clear the intention."

Mr. V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"I second it."

The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU:—"I accept it."

The amendment was put and carried.

New Proviso.

Sriman M. G. PATNAIK Mahasayo:—"Sir, I move the following amendment:—

'Add the following as the third proviso to clause 4 (2):—

"Provided that a moiety of the tax shall be leviable upon a motor vehicle which has been kept or used in the Presidency of Madras only for a period less than the last thirty days but more than the last fourteen days of a quarter."

"Now, this amendment is based on section 99 of the District Municipalities Act. At the Select Committee stage, an exemption up to a total of fourteen days was proposed and it was accepted by the Committee. That is also a provision taken on the analogy of section 99 of the District Municipalities Act. That section also says that if a vehicle is not used for more than sixty days in the half-year, a moiety of the tax alone should be charged. I say the same principle should be adopted. Having accepted an exemption of the tax altogether for use for only fourteen days, we may accept a moiety of the tax alone being charged for use for not more than thirty days. In the District Municipalities Act, we have a similar exemption for sixty days. I substitute here thirty for sixty days. So, I hope the House will accept my amendment to add a new proviso. I have nothing more to add."

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"I second it."

* The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU:—"I am sorry I cannot accept the amendment. The principle under the Municipal Act by which if a vehicle is not within the municipal limit for more than sixty days it is exempted from the municipal tax, cannot be applied to the case of a provincial tax. Because, in the case of the municipality it is a local area within which the tax is applicable. But here if the vehicle is not within one municipal area, it will remain in another area within the province. That means that principle cannot apply to provincial taxation."

The amendment was put and declared lost.

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Sriman M. G. Patnaik Mahasayo demanded a poll which was taken with the following result:—

Ayes.

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Mr. M. D. T. Ranganatha Mudaliyar. | 11. B. Pocker Sahib Bahadur. |
| 2. „ V. M. Ramaswami Mudaliyar. | 12. Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan. |
| 3. Sriman M. G. Patnaik Mahasayo. | 13. „ Ahmed Miran. |
| 4. Dr. P. Subbarayan. | 14. „ Basheer Ahmed Sayeed. |
| 5. Diwan Bahadur R. N. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar. | 15. „ Muhammad Meera Ravuttar. |
| 6. Mr. K. R. Venkatarama Ayyar. | 16. „ A. B. Shetty. |
| 7. Rao Bahadur T. A. Ramalinga Chettiyar. | 17. „ K. A. Nachiyappa Gounder. |
| 8. Mr. T. C. Srinivasa Ayyangar. | 18. „ K. M. Duraiswami Reddiyar. |
| 9. „ Sami Venkatachalam Chetti. | 19. „ U. C. Subrahmanya Bhatt. |
| 10. „ T. S. Ramaswami Ayyar. | 20. „ A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar. |
| | 21. „ C. R. Parthasarathi Ayyangar. |
| | 22. „ V. T. Arasu. |

Noes.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir Mahmud Usman Sahib Bahadur. | 29. Mr. A. Kondappa. |
| 2. „ Diwan Bahadur Sir M. Krishnan Nayar. | 30. „ R. M. Palat. |
| 3. „ Mr. A. Y. G. Campbell. | 31. Rao Bahadur R. K. Venugopal Nayudu. |
| 4. „ Mr. H. G. Stokes. | 32. Rao Sahib V. Dharmalingam Pillai. |
| 5. „ Diwan Bahadur S. Kumaraswami Reddiyar. | 33. Mr. G. R. Premayya. |
| 6. „ Mr. P. T. Rajan. | 34. The Raja of Bobbili. |
| 7. „ Diwan Bahadur B. Muniswami Nayudu. | 35. The Kumara Raja of Venkatagiri. |
| 8. Rao Bahadur G. Jagannadha Raju. | 36. Mr. S. N. Dorai Raja. |
| 9. Mr. W. P. A. Soundara Pandian. | 37. „ M. A. Muthiah Chettiyar. |
| 10. „ H. R. Pate. | 38. „ A. V. Bhanaji Rao. |
| 11. „ H. A. Watson. | 39. „ H. B. Ari Gowder. |
| 12. „ R. Madanagopal Nayudu. | 40. Rao Sahib P. Subrahmanyam Chetti. |
| 13. „ S. V. Ramamurti. | 41. Mr. J. A. Davis. |
| 14. „ Hilton Brown. | 42. Swami A. S. Sahajanandam. |
| 15. „ T. Sundara Rao Nayudu. | 43. Rao Sahib C. Jayaram Nayudu. |
| 16. Khan Sahib Syed Tajuddin Sahib Bahadur. | 44. Mr. G. Sriramulu. |
| 17. Rao Bahadur A. T. Pannirselvam. | 45. „ D. V. Narasimhaswami. |
| 18. Mr. M. Devadasan. | 46. „ H. M. Jagannatham. |
| 19. „ N. Siva Raj. | 47. Rao Sahib B. Venkataramayya. |
| 20. Subadar Major S. A. Nanjappa Bahadur. | 48. Mr. K. Kesava Ramamurthi Nayudu. |
| 21. Diwan Bahadur C. S. Ratnasabhapati Mudaliyar. | 49. „ Mahboob Ali Baig. |
| 22. Diwan Bahadur M. Gopalaswami Mudaliyar. | 50. „ V. P. Narayanan Nambiyar. |
| 23. Mr. B. P. Sesha Reddi. | 51. „ A. T. Luker. |
| 24. „ M. S. Sreshta. | 52. „ F. Birley. |
| 25. „ P. V. Rajagopala Pillai. | 53. „ R. Foulkes. |
| 26. „ V. G. Vasudeva Pillai. | 54. „ W. M. Browning. |
| 27. „ C. Indriah. | 55. „ C. Satyanarayana Choudari. |
| 28. „ P. Bayappa Reddi. | 56. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. Patro. |
| | 57. Mr. C. Basudev. |
| | 58. Rao Bahadur S. Ellappa Chettiyar. |
| | 59. Rao Sahib V. I. Muniswami Pillai. |
| | 60. Khan Bahadur T. M. Moidoo Sahib Bahadur. |
| | 61. Rao Bahadur R. Srinivasan. |
| | 62. Mr. Madhusoothanan Thangal. |

Ayes 22. Noes 62.

The amendment was lost.

Clause 4, as amended, was then put, passed and added to the Bill.

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Clause 5.

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—“ Sir, I move—

‘ In line 3, sub-clause (1), omit the words “ custody or control ”.’

“ Mr. President, if I move this amendment it is in order to remove any ambiguity regarding the use of the term ‘ custody or control ’. There is already the word ‘ possession ’. If it is stated that the possessor or the registered owner of a motor vehicle is the person who is liable to pay the tax, one can understand it. I do not see any reason why anybody who is in custody of a motor vehicle should be held responsible for the payment of the tax. It may be that a private car or a car which is plying for hire is in the possession of a man who is not the owner, and at that time that he should be called upon to pay the tax seems to me to be rather an anomaly. Sir, there may be many difficulties to the people who are using the cars if they are called upon to pay the tax, when they are not the owners. Besides, I do not know where the necessity is for the use of the words ‘ custody or control ’ when the word ‘ possession ’ itself contains all the implications that are significant in the words ‘ custody or control ’. They say, we find these words in other Acts and they seem to have been used as necessary for legal exigencies. But I do not see why we should waste words which are certainly not helpful, but on the other hand are likely to imperil the object which we have in view. So, Sir, I move that the words be omitted.”

* B. POCKER SAHIB Bahadur:—“ I second the amendment. As pointed out by the hon. Mover, the words ‘ custody or control ’ in the first place are redundant, and not only that they are rather dangerous too. As has been already pointed out the word ‘ possession ’ as every one who had anything to do with jurisprudence will know, implies custody. I do not think that the word ‘ custody ’ is in any way necessary for the purpose of carrying out the object of this section. It does not stop there as it is also injurious. For instance, a man may have the loan of a motor car from a friend for a day or two or for a month. Is that ^{1 p m.} man also to be run after by the Government to pay the tax? Of course when he is asked, he will have to pay or to show that the tax has already been paid. Not only that, if the tax is not paid by the person in whose custody the car may be, the policeman in uniform has got the right to stop the car and enforce the payment of the tax from him. There are other dangers also lurking in the introduction of the words ‘ custody or control ’. For instance, a man might have pledged or mortgaged his bus to some person and the question will be whether the bus-owner or the person who has got a lien over the bus will have to pay. I do not think that there is any necessity to introduce all these complications. I am sure that the framers of the Bill have no intention of introducing these complications. So I take it that the hon. the Chief Minister will take the amendment in the right spirit and accept the same.”

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Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR:—"With your permission, Sir, I would move a new amendment in the place of the amendment moved by my hon. Friend, Mr. Hameed Khan, if he is willing to withdraw his amendment."

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"I beg leave of the House to withdraw my amendment."

The amendment was by leave withdrawn.

Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR:—"Sir, I move—

'that in line 3 of sub-clause (1) the word "custody" be omitted'
 "I quite agree with Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan that there will be a lot of trouble if the word 'custody' is retained in the sub-clause. I venture to think that the hon. the Chief Minister's object will also be served by retaining the word 'control'. In that view it is that I have proposed this amendment."

Mr. K. R. VENKATARAMA AYYAR:—"I second the amendment of Mr. Ramalinga Chettiyar."

The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU:—"I accept the amendment."

The amendment was put and carried.

Clause 5 (1), Proviso.

* The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU:—"Sir, I move—

'that after the words "shall be deemed to preclude any such" the words "owner or" be inserted.'

Mr. T. SUNDARA RAO NAYUDU:—"I second the amendment."

The amendment was put and carried.

Clause 5, sub-clause (3) (b).

* Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—"Mr. President, I move—

*'that the following be added at the end of sub-clause (3) (b):—
 "Notwithstanding the provisions of section 166 of the Madras Local Boards Act, 1920, and of section 174-A of the Madras District Municipalities Act, 1920".'*

"The object of this amendment is to consolidate the licence fee as well into the proposed provincial tax. We have already had much discussion with regard to this in the Select Committee, but no decision could be arrived at on account of the lack of clear and definite notions as to the implications of the Bill that was then before the Committee. Sir, it is very essential that, when we are proposing a tax of the nature contemplated in the Bill, we should have a full consolidated tax on motor vehicles and not have many and varied taxes on one and the same vehicle. The provincial tax, as approved by the Select Committee, is admittedly very exorbitant and high and hon. Members of this House have already expressed their opinion that it will seriously affect the bus traffic and also to a small extent the private car owners. When

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that is the case, it is but necessary and fair that we should consolidate all the taxes, or, if not, at least some of the taxes that are being paid by the same vehicle in this provincial tax. The provincial tax is imposed according to the Preamble of the Bill itself, because it is considered expedient to abolish the levy of taxes on motor vehicles by local bodies within the Presidency and to provide for the levy of a provincial tax on motor vehicles and so on. When that is the case, I consider that the licence fee also, which is more or less a tax, should be consolidated. Licence fee is imposed in the City of Madras on account of the necessity for having a special staff for controlling a definite profession. But the rate at which the licence fee is levied in the districts particularly at Vizagapatam and Chingleput is very unjust and unconscionable. A thousand rupees is levied from each and every bus run in the district of Chingleput and two thousand rupees and odd is levied from each and every bus in Vizagapatam and one or two other districts in the Andhradesa. That being the case, in addition to the licence fee which is not abolished by this measure, the bus owners have to pay at the rate of Rs. 400 to Rs. 860 per annum. That really is a hardship and there is no justification for the continuance of the same when a provincial tax is going to be imposed. All that I want, Sir, by this amendment, is to abolish the licence fee that is now levied by the local boards and, as it is quite possible to do so, to compensate the district boards out of the provincial tax for the loss of their income from this source. I hope the hon. Minister will accept this amendment and by this very measure seek to abolish the licence fee that hangs very heavily on the motor vehicles. I do not think, Sir, that there would be any valid objection to this amendment. All that could be said against it is that the loss suffered by the local boards has to be made good. To that my suggestion is that it can be made good by contributing out of the revenues that will be derived from the tax under the measure that is now before us. There is a considerable body of opinion which feels that at the rates proposed under this Bill, the revenues of the Government will be considerably more than what is anticipated. When that is the case, I only want to say that we could try this for one or two years to see whether we could not really get more revenue out of this tax and compensate the local boards to the extent of Rs. 24 lakhs which they are now collecting in the shape of licence fees. I think that is possible. I know that the hon. the Minister is aware that there is a large body of opinion which feels that this tax now proposed would certainly bring to the coffers of the Government more than Rs. 70 lakhs even at a reduced rate. When all motor cars—some of these are now escaping payment of tax—are brought under the operation of this Bill, certainly there will be scope for the enhancement of the revenues. I trust under the circumstances that the hon. the Minister will do something to abolish the licence fee which is felt very keenly by the motor bus owners, especially by those who ply their buses in short distances without having to pay at present any toll fees. It is this class of people that has to be kept in mind. It may be that a very large number of bus-owners do get profit and great facilities on account of

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this measure; but that is no justification why a smaller section of the people should be overtaxed. Therefore I urge in the name of justice and in the name of fairplay that the licence fee should be abolished in this province and consolidated with the provincial tax."

B. POCKER SAHIB Bahadur:—"I second it."

Mr. K. R. VENKATARAMA AYYAR:—"Mr. President, I am afraid my Friend Mr. Basheer Ahmed is not really effectively carrying out his purpose by the amendment that he proposes. His object seems to be to get rid of the registration fee prescribed in section 174-A of the Madras District Municipalities Act, 1920, and in section 166 of the Madras Local Boards Act, 1920. He asks that the tax provided for in the new Bill shall be the sole tax leviable. That is his aim. But the proposal that he makes will not effect that purpose. Clause 5 (3) (b) of the Bill says: 'Every licence granted under clause (a) shall be valid throughout the Presidency of Madras.' That has nothing to do with the substance of section 174-A of the Madras District Municipalities Act or section 166 of the Madras Local Boards Act, whose object is to provide for a separate fee by way of registration fee to the local bodies concerned. My hon. Friend merely says: 'notwithstanding the provisions of section 166 of the Madras Local Boards Act, 1920, and of section 174-A of the Madras District Municipalities Act, 1920.' What he implies is that the sections of the above Acts are impediments to his attaining the object in view. There is no such thing at all. What he has got to do to effectuate his object is to suggest an amendment to schedule I of this Bill to add the words 'section 166 of the Madras Local Boards Act, 1920, and section 174-A of the Madras District Municipalities Act, 1920'. That is the way to effectuate his object. I do not at present consider it necessary to deal with the question whether or not it would be good policy to curtail the source of income provided in favour of the municipalities and local boards. But, for the purpose intended, the amendment proposed is not the proper one."

* The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU:—"I have nothing to add to what my Friend Mr. Venkatarama Ayyar has stated. The amendment defeats its object. On the merits of the question, I may say that licensing fees are collected by various local bodies at varying rates and systems. In some districts it is collected at so much per seat and in some others it is collected at so much per mile. The local boards are getting from this source about 24 lakhs of rupees now. The point was raised in the Select Committee that the licence fees should be consolidated with the provincial tax. It was then pointed out that it was not possible to take up that question as the various local boards raised licence fees at various rates and that it would take some time before some sort of uniformity could be thought of."

"I said that question would be considered separately, as also the question as to what extent the Government should take power under the Act to levy fees. Even as it is, if a district board wants to levy fees, it has to get the sanction of the Government, which will see that

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these taxes are not raised in a manner that will be severely harsh. The question as to how far licence fees should be standardized will be considered separately."

Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—"I find that my amendment has been wrongly placed in the agenda paper. So, for the time being I would like to withdraw it with liberty to move it at the proper place."

The amendment was by leave withdrawn.

Clause 5, as amended, was put, passed and added to the Bill.

Clause 6.

* Rao Sahib B. VENKATARAMAYYA:—"My first amendment is to delete the whole clause. If the hon. the Minister is unwilling to accept the deletion of the whole clause, I move that sub-clauses (2) and (3) of clause 6 may be deleted and the figure (1) may also be omitted from clause 6."

"What I submit is there are other statutory provisions which give such power to the police officers. The object of the present Bill is to authorize certain persons to collect taxes and there are clauses 7, 8 and 9 which are sufficient to meet the purpose. Under those circumstances there is no necessity for this clause."

The amendment was duly seconded.

* The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU:—"I thought he was for the omission of sub-clauses (2) and (3). Am I right?"

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"I understand that though the Mover has moved his amendment for the deletion of the whole clause, he will not press it if the hon. the Minister consents to the omission of sub-clauses (2) and (3)."

Mr. K. R. VENKATARAMA AYYAR:—"I move—

'that sub-clauses (2) and (3) of clause 6 be omitted and that the figure (1) in sub-clause (1) be also omitted'."

Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"I second the amendment."

The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU:—"I accept the amendment."

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"I shall put the second amendment to the vote of the House. The question is—

'that in clause 6, sub-clauses (2) and (3) be omitted and the figure "(1)" in sub-clause (1) be also omitted'."

The amendment was put and carried.

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"Is Mr. Venkataramayya pressing his amendment for the deletion of sub-clause (1) also?"

Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—"Has not the hon. Member B. Venkataramayya already given up sub-clause (1)? The only amendment before the House was that sub-clauses (2) and (3) be omitted and the hon. the Chief Minister has accepted it."

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The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU:—"Yes, Sir."

* Mr. T. S. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"Both the amendments were discussed. Now if the amendment of my hon. Friend Mr. Venkatarama Ayyar is carried clause 6 (1) becomes superfluous, because if sub-clauses (2) and (3) are omitted, clause 6 (1) becomes a pious hope. I would like to know why a motor car-owner is asked to exhibit his licence in a conspicuous place on the vehicle. As it is, what action can be taken against the owner if the clause is left with a pious hope? I think these things arise because amendments are moved and accepted in a haphazard manner on the floor of the House."

* The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU:—"Sir, the object is to have the licence exhibited in a prominent place in the car. It is for not causing any inconvenience to the travelling public that this clause is intended. It is not necessary that it should be followed by a prosecution."

Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO:—"Sir, the hon. the Minister's explanation seems to me to be quite a plausible explanation, because if the proposed amendment is accepted it would mean that he would have to amend Amendment No. 18 standing on the agenda paper thus: 'Any person refusing to stop a motor vehicle when required, etc., shall be punishable with fine which may extend to fifty rupees.' I know there are penal clauses added in the Bill. If they are intended to be a pious hope, I think it would be better to delete the whole clause. What would be the consequence if there is no legal sanction behind a suggestion in an enactment? It is all right when we are passing a resolution. But in an enactment when we want a thing to be done constitutionally, there must be sanction behind it. If sub-clauses (2) and (3) are not allowed and if my hon. Friend is not pressing his amendment No. 18, there is no force at all in retaining clause 6 (1)."

* Rao Sahib B. VENKATARAMAYYA:—"In reply to Mr. Ramaswami Ayyar I may say that power is given in clause 16. The section by itself makes it obligatory that licence is to be carried in the vehicle and if licence is not carried that section itself need not inflict penalty. Under section 16 the Local Government may make rules. I think the hon. the Chief Minister did not notice that rule in giving his reply. Therefore the omission to carry licence can be penalized. The penalty need not be provided in the same section. The only question therefore is whether the existence of the clause is necessary."

* Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—"Sir, I rise to deprecate the idea of taking away the powers of legislature to make laws and transferring them to the Government so that they may make rules under the rule-making powers. Here is a Bill and we are making a law and when we are doing so, instead of putting all the rights, the duties and obligations imposed by these clauses in the very body of the Act itself, that we should transfer such powers to the Government seems to me to be very undesirable and improper. If we are to do so, we

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need not waste our time here; we are not to allow everything to devolve on the Government itself or the powers-that-be to frame rules under section 11 and great advantage may be taken of such devolution and abuse is likely to be the result if rules are to be made by the Government under rule-making powers under section 11.

"If we are to transfer everything that could be properly and legally settled by this House to the rule-making power of the Government, we will be really abdicating our position as legislators in this House. I see that the provisions of clause 6 as they stand are sound and necessary. The imposition of the penalty is rather abhorring. I submit that sub-clause (3) ought to go; there need be no penalty. My hon. Friend, Mr. Venkataramayya wants to transfer this to the rule-making power of the Government. We ought not to do that. I consider, Sir, that it will serve a useful purpose if the hon. Minister will kindly agree to the postponement of the consideration of this clause, after we have considered the rest of the provisions of the Bill. I strongly feel that we should not leave everything to the rule-making power of the Government. I therefore move, Sir—

'that the consideration of this clause be adjourned to a later stage for the reasons I have explained.'"

AHMED MEERAN SAHIB Bahadur:—"I second it."

* The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU:—"Sir, no doubt in the original Bill there was a provision that there should be a penalty. I know there is a feeling in this House that the Police should not be invested with the power of stopping cars. Sub-clauses (2) and (3) are independent of sub-clause (1). Sub-clause (1) does not provide for the imposition of any penalty for non-exhibition of the licence. Sub-clause (1) is independent; in that sub-clause there is no penalty imposed for non-exhibition of the licence. If the licence is not carried in a conspicuous place, then the Police officer will detain the car to see whether the car has got the licence. If there is licence, then the Police officer will allow the car to proceed further. The power to find out whether the tax is paid or not, by detaining the car, will be required under section 8. Sub-clause (3) is a penal clause to sub-clause (2); it is not a penal clause to sub-clause (1). I think there is no need to postpone the consideration of the clause to a later stage."

Mr. T. C. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR:—"Sir, it is not intended that the power of the Legislative Council to make specific provision should be taken away and that it should be left in the hands of the Government. There is real difficulty which we feel by the existence of the provision contained in sub-clauses (2) and (3) for the legitimate and proper behaviour of the owner of a car and for the imposition of a penalty for not doing so. For example, Sir, some of us have to travel long distances in two districts and sometimes in Native States also. For long distances there will be no habitations at all; we have to go through tracts of countries penetrating through forests. Some policeman or one who may look like a policeman may stop a car at an unearthly hour when women and children are travelling. The particular locality and the hour may

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be such that the car should not be stopped even for the purpose of satisfying whether the car has taken licence. There is obvious advantage in the omission of sub-clauses (2) and (3). I hope the hon. the Chief Minister will see the inconvenience of the existence of such a provision and I think he will agree to its deletion. Most of us who own cars will always be able to give effect to the provision in sub-clause (1). It is an advantage to the car-owner himself to do so. But the presence of a penalty for not stopping a car, when asked to do so by a policeman, would be a danger."

Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—"I withdraw my adjournment motion."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"Sub-clauses (2) and (3) have been deleted by the vote of the House, as well as the figure (1) of sub-clause (1). The only portion of clause 6 that remains to be voted upon is sub-clause (1)."

Clause 6, as amended, was put, passed and added to the Bill.

The House then adjourned for lunch.

After Lunch (2-40 p.m.)

Clause 2 (ii).

* The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU:—"Sir, I request the permission of the House to consider clause 2 again. Mr. Hilton Brown moved this morning that in the definition of 'local body' a cantonment also may be included. On an examination, it is found that 'cantonment' is a Central subject, and therefore we cannot put it in. We cannot introduce the words 'or a cantonment authority' except with the previous sanction of the Governor-General. Therefore, I request the leave of the House to bring in an amendment to omit the words 'or a cantonment authority' in clause 2 (ii) which amendment was accepted by the House this morning."

Mr. R. MADANAGOPAL NAYUDU:—"I second it."

Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR:—"It can only be done, Sir, at the third reading stage. It cannot be done now, I think."

* Mr. T. S. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"On a point of order, Mr. President. I do not think it is possible now at this stage, when that section has already been dealt with, for the legislature to go back. Perhaps, at a later stage, at the third reading of the Bill, it may be done."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"Ordinarily, I would be disposed to agree with what has been pointed out by Mr. Ramaswami Ayyar. In this particular case, however, I think that it would be more convenient if this is re-considered at once. A certain amendment in the definition clause having been already allowed and passed, let it not be understood that the other clauses of the Bill have been discussed on the basis of this amendment. I think, as a special case, this amendment may be re-considered at once. It is open to the House to re-open the clause and cancel its decision which was based on a mistake."

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[The President]

"I take it that the House agrees to reopening the question. I shall now put the question to the House:

'In sub-clause (ii) of clause 2, the words "or a cantonment authority" be deleted.'

The amendment was put and carried.

Clause 7.

* B. POCKER SAHIB Bahadur:—"Sir, I move—

'that clause 7 be deleted.'

"The feeling as regards the provisions of this Bill has already been expressed and I do not therefore want to take up the time of the House by repeating it. This penal provision is absolutely unnecessary in view of the existence of the subsequent clauses. Under clause 8 of the Bill, there is provision made for seizure of the bus, for its auction and for the realization of the amount of tax. After all, the object of this clause is to realize the amount of tax and not to punish the owner. In addition to the provisions made under clause 8 and the subsequent clause 9, i.e., authorizing the realization of the amount as if it is land revenue—to impose a penalty of Rs. 50 on the ground that the tax has not been paid in time is really very hard. There need not be three penal clauses or three methods prescribed for one and the same purpose. There is the provision for seizure and there is also provision to recover as if it is land revenue. Simply to punish a man for not paying the tax in time, even if he is not fair and should not be tolerated. Even under clause 8, in sub-clause (2) (ii) you find that 'unless such tax and charges are so paid, the vehicle will be sold by public auction for the recovery thereof and of such penalty not exceeding twenty-five per cent of the amount of tax as the Licensing Officer may specify in the notice.' What is the result of it? First of all, it is prescribed that for non-payment of tax in time, he has to pay Rs. 50. Secondly the bus or car is seized, and not only the tax but also a penalty not exceeding 25 per cent of the amount of tax is to be realized. How many times is a man to be penalized for non-payment of tax in due time? Over and above these two penalties, there is the provision in clause 9 that you can collect the amount as if it is arrears of land revenue. I say in a measure like this, to have three different weapons to realize the tax on a car or bus is really too hard. So, Sir, I move that clause 7 be deleted."

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"Mr. President, Sir, in seconding this motion for the deletion of clause 7, I have to point out that Members from various sections of the House have given notice of this amendment and that shows that this provision is really a hardship which is felt by all sections of the House and if those who have given notice of this amendment do not move them, it should not be taken that they do not want the deletion of the clause. Yet, the feeling is there that if this clause is allowed to remain, it will certainly work a great hardship, and it has been pointed out by the hon. Mover. Why should we penalise people for non-payment of taxes? In every country where

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taxes are collected, I am sure there are other sources by which they are collected and there are very few penal clauses. It may be said that these provisions are there so as to make collection easy for the collecting authorities. But I ask, why should such a provision be allowed to remain on the Statute Book when we are not going to make use of them and why should there be a redundant provision for the purpose of tax collection?

"The other thing is, as was pointed out by the hon. Mover, that in every case of non-payment of tax, there are two stages of penalties. The first is that, if a person fails to pay the tax, he has to pay a fine; again in the subsequent sections there is provision made for the detention, fine and seizure and various other things, which will certainly tell upon the owner of any vehicle. Therefore, I believe the hon. Minister will be well advised in accepting the deletion of this clause from the Bill."

* Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"Sir, some of us had the benefit of a conference with the hon. the Chief Minister about the Bill and I think he has been kind enough to be more accommodating and when we pointed out some of the provisions which we thought were objectionable, he amended them considerably. I may state that it is rather an unusual feature in the laws of the country to prosecute a man before the magistrate and fine him for non-payment of a tax. I think there is no parallel to this in the case of any other tax in this country and it seems to me very doubtful indeed whether we should make an exception in this particular kind of tax. According to this, if a person does not pay this tax in time, he is liable to be brought up before a magistrate and fined to the extent of Rs. 50. In view of the fact that Government seem to take ample powers for the recovery of the tax, especially under clauses 8 and 9—clause 9 is particularly very drastic—it seems to me very doubtful indeed whether this clause 7 should remain. I am inclined to believe that this clause should be omitted and I hope the hon. the Chief Minister will reconsider his view and accept the amendment of my hon. Friend to omit this clause. It is always open to the Government to come before this House and ask for the strengthening of the Act, if necessary, by bringing in an amending Bill, if any difficulty is found in the practical working of this Act. If this clause is deleted, Government have only to fall back upon the provisions contained in clauses 8 and 9. I hope the hon. Minister will consider this suggestion sympathetically. I feel that Government lose nothing by accepting this amendment, on the other hand they stand to gain. I think it will give satisfaction to every section of the House if this unusual feature in this legislation of subjecting a defaulter to criminal prosecution and fine is omitted from the Bill."

* Mr. T. S. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"Mr. President, Sir, I support the motion for the deletion of clause 7. My reasons are that this clause refers to a number of penalties and the Bill looks more like a penalizing one than one intended to help the people. One sees in clause 5 of the Bill that it is the duty of the owner of a car to pay the tax and there is nothing about the Government or the officer in charge of these matters

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demanding the tax. Suppose by any chance, a person neglects to pay the tax—not that he is unwilling to pay—and forgets to pay the tax within the fourteen days prescribed under the Bill to pay the amount of the tax, it is open to the authorities to start a prosecution against the man. There are a number of other provisions providing for penalty in case a tax is not paid and why should there be an additional penal section I am not able to see. After all, it is not a criminal offence, but it is only failure to pay the tax and failure to pay the tax may not be entirely due to the fault of the man. Suppose he is unable to pay the tax, why should you prosecute him in a criminal court and fine him? Is it not enough if you distrain his property?"

* The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU:—"Sir, there is a similar provision in the Bihar and Orissa Act. My hon. Friend, Mr. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar, said that there is no country where this provision exists. (Diwan Bahadur R. N. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar: 'I said non-payment of other taxes in this Presidency is not a criminal offence.') There is a similar Act in Bihar and Orissa and in section 12 of that Act you will find:

'12. Whoever—

(a) keeps a motor vehicle for use without having paid the tax or additional tax in respect of such vehicle, or

(b) delivers a declaration or additional declaration wherein the particulars required by or under this Act to be therein set forth are not fully and truly stated, shall be punishable with fine not exceeding, in the case of the first conviction, one and a half times, and in the case of a second or any subsequent conviction, twice the amount of the annual tax payable for the motor vehicle in respect of which the offence is committed.'

"So, prosecuting a man for non-payment of tax is not new to this Bill. I consider that the provisions in clauses 7, 8 and 9 are absolutely necessary to enable Government to recover the amount. Now when we are trying to levy a provincial tax upon these vehicles, we want power to see that the money is paid as quickly as possible. So far as clause 7 is concerned, that clause authorizes that a prosecution shall be launched against the registered owner or the person having possession, custody or control thereof. If the tax is not paid in the usual course, notice will be given to the registered owner and I am sure nobody will allow himself to be prosecuted. The normal procedure will be to give him intimation before a prosecution can be launched against him. There are cases in which a person may be the owner of a vehicle but another person may, under an agreement with the owner, be in possession of the vehicle and may be plying it for hire, in which case the latter person would have to pay the tax. In order to make the person who is in possession of the car to pay the tax and not the owner, section 8 provides for the seizure of the vehicle, etc. Section 9 provides for cases in which both these remedies could not be effected. If nobody could be made liable for prosecution and if the vehicle is available for seizure, then section 9 will be enforced to recover the amount as an arrear of land revenue. I can assure hon. Members of this House that there is no anxiety on the part of the Government to take powers which are not necessary. All these methods are devised with a view to see that these taxes are paid.

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It is not that we are anxious to effect seizure or things of that sort, but that the tax on the vehicle should be paid every quarter and it all depends upon the users of vehicles. So it is absolutely necessary that there should be some provision to induce people to pay these taxes and Government are anxious to avoid prosecuting people for the purpose. They will ordinarily try to give notice beforehand and see that the amount is paid without resorting to prosecution. It is only in the case of certain recalcitrant people who try to avoid their obligation to pay the tax and shove their responsibility on to others, that they have to be brought under this clause. I therefore consider that these three sections are absolutely essential. With regard to clause 6, I really considered that in addition to clauses 7, 8 and 9, there was no need for that provision and therefore it is that I was willing to drop the idea of a Police officer having to stop a car for the purpose of satisfying himself that the vehicle is one in respect of which a licence has been paid, etc. I therefore think that clause 7 is necessary and I would press for the retention of the clause."

8 p.m. * The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"The question is—
'That clause 7 be deleted'."

The amendment was put to vote and declared lost.
Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan demanded a poll and the House divided thus:—

Ayes.

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| 1. Dr. P. Subbarayan. | 7. Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan. |
| 2. Diwan Bahadur R. N. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar. | 8. " Ahmed Meeran. |
| 3. Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti. | 9. " A. B. Shetty. |
| 4. " T. S. Ramaswami Ayyar. | 10. " K. A. Nachiyappa Gounder. |
| 5. " B. Pocker. | 11. " K. S. Sivasubrahmanya Ayyar. |
| 6. " V. P. Narayanan Nambiyar. | 12. " U. C. Subrahmanya Bhatt. |
| | 13. " V. T. Arasu. |

Noes.

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| 1. The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir Mahomed Usman Sahib Bahadur. | 19. Mr. N. Siva Raj. |
| 2. " Diwan Bahadur Sir M. Krishnan Nayar. | 20. Subadar-Major S. A. Nanjappa Bahadur. |
| 3. " Mr. A. Y. G. Campbell. | 21. Diwan Bahadur C. S. Ratnasabhapati Mudaliyar. |
| 4. " Mr. H. G. Stokes. | 22. Diwan Bahadur M. Gopalaswami Mudaliyar. |
| 5. " Diwan Bahadur S. Kumaraswami Reddiyar. | 23. Mr. M. S. Sreshta. |
| 6. " Mr. P. T. Rajan. | 24. " P. C. Moses. |
| 7. " Diwan Bahadur B. Muniswami Nayudu. | 25. " P. V. Rajagopala Pillai. |
| 8. Rao Bahadur G. Jagannatha Raju. | 26. " C. Indraiah. |
| 9. Mr. W. P. A. Soundara Pandian. | 27. " P. Bayappa Reddi. |
| 10. " H. R. Pate. | 28. " A. Kondappa. |
| 11. " H. A. Watson. | 29. " R. M. Palat. |
| 12. " R. Madanagopal Nayudu. | 30. Rao Bahadur R. K. Venugopal Nayudu. |
| 13. " S. V. Ramamurti. | 31. Rao Sahib V. Dharmalingam Pillai. |
| 14. " Hilton Brown. | 32. Mr. G. R. Premayya. |
| 15. " T. Sundara Rao Nayudu. | 33. " H. B. Ari Gowder. |
| 16. Khan Sahib Syed Tajudin Sahib Bahadur. | 34. Pandit Ganala Ramamurti. |
| 17. Mr. A. T. Pannirselvam. | 35. Rao Sahib P. Subrahmanya Chetti. |
| 18. " M. Devadasan. | 36. Mr. J. A. Davis. |
| | 37. Swami A. S. Sahajanandam. |
| | 38. Rao Sahib C. Jayaram Nayudu. |
| | 39. Mr. D. V. Narasimhaswami. |

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Noes—cont.

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| 40. Rao Sahib B. Venkataramayya. | 46. Rao Bahadur S. Ellappa Chettiyar. |
| 41. Mr. K. Kesavaramamurti Nayudu. | 47. Mr. G. Sriramulu. |
| 42. Mahboob Ali Baig Sahib Bahadur. | 48. " H. M. Jagannatham. |
| 43. Mr. C. Satyanarayana Choudari. | 49. Rao Sahib V. I. Muniswami Pillai. |
| 44. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. Patro. | 50. Rao Bahadur R. Srinivasan. |
| 45. Mr. C. Basu Dev. | 51. Mr. Madhusoodanan Thangal. |

Ayes 13.

Noes 51.

The amendment was lost.

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"Mr. President, Sir, I move—

'That in line 3 the word "custody" be omitted.'

"Sir, we arrived at a compromise with the hon. the Chief Minister this morning, with regard to this and as a result of that, I move for the deletion of the word 'custody' only. It is only a consequential amendment. I hope the hon. Minister will have no objection to accept the amendment."

Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—"I second it."

* The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU:—"Mr. President, Sir, I accept the amendment."

The amendment was put and carried.

* The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU:—"Mr. President, Sir, I beg to move—

'For the words "and shall also pay the amount of the tax due by him in respect of such vehicle" substitute the words "and the amount of the tax due by him in respect of such vehicle shall also be recovered as if it were a fine".'

"Sir, this is a case in which proceedings are taken against a person for not paying the tax under section 7. Now the object of the present amendment is to complete the remedy; for in addition to a man being convicted or fined for failure to pay the tax, he has also to pay the tax. To provide for this it is moved that the tax also be recovered as if it were a fine. That is, the amendment provides for taking proceedings for the recovery of the tax also, so that the proceedings under section 7 may be a complete remedy."

Mr. T. Sundara Rao Nayudu seconded the amendment.

* Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI:—"Mr. President, Sir, I am surprised the hon. the Chief Minister who evinced a great deal of concern even for the defaulters of taxes should come in with this amendment at this time. Sir, he is quite aware that even the penalties provided for in the draft Bill were vehemently opposed in the Select Committee and after a good deal of explanation by him, we were obliged to agree to as few coercive processes as possible. But now forgetting all these incidents, he comes in with an amendment that in addition to fine that is imposed by the magistrate, which may be recovered by the process of a court, he also adds to it the amount of the tax. It seems to me to be a very severe hardship for a man to be subjected to this, not that I say that the defaulter should escape with a mere payment of fine and not pay the tax itself. But what I object

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to is that there would be hardly time allowed to him to pay the fine as well as the tax. For, when a man is hauled up before a Magistrate for default, and sentenced to pay a fine, the Magistrate will naturally take care to see that the tax due is at once paid so that he may not be called once again to appear before him for that. I suppose we can trust the owners of motor-cars and the owners of buses to this extent that when once a man is fined by a Magistrate he will not commit the same offence by withholding payment of tax, but that he would pay the tax at least after the first punishment. In view of this consideration, I request the hon. the Chief Minister to re-consider the consequence which an amendment of this nature would devolve upon the defaulters and I beg of him to withdraw the amendment."

Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO:—"Mr. President, Sir, I fear my hon. Friends over there seem to be under a misapprehension with regard to this amendment. If I remember aright, there is a similar provision in the Local Boards Act and the District Municipalities Act for launching prosecutions for non-payment of tax in time. So I don't see why any particular hardship should be caused by a similar provision in this Bill. This is no innovation which the hon. Minister is trying to introduce. For failure to pay the tax in time one is subject to prosecution, and in addition to the fine, the defaulter has to pay the tax. Otherwise he will be subject to two classes of penalties, first, prosecution for non-payment of tax in time, and second, further prosecution or attachment by distraint for non-payment of tax. So in order to avoid the consequential procedure, this amendment is proposed. So there is nothing new in this, and therefore, I don't see why this amendment should not be adopted."

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"Mr. President, Sir, I am really sorry that Sir A. P. Patro should have taken up this attitude. I wish to point out to him that he is wrong in bringing the analogy of the Local Boards Act and the District Municipalities Act; for this case stands on a different footing. This case refers to a provincial tax to be collected in advance. But what we find in the analogy is that those taxes can be collected in the course of the period with regard to which they are leviable. So in this case more than the necessary provision of penalty is unnecessary; and therefore the suggested amendment will work hardship on the owners of cars and buses."

* The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU:—"Sir, in the Bill, as introduced in the House originally, section 7 provided for the prosecution for non-payment of tax. In the Bill as amended by the Select Committee section 7 also provides for prosecution. But the clause provides only for the prosecution and the recovery of the fine; it does not provide for the recovery of the tax. For that the Magistrate has to take action under the Criminal Procedure Code. Hence to provide for this in the Act itself, I suggest that the amount of the tax be recovered as if it were a fine. As regards the objection raised by Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti, I hope he will agree with me

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when I say that the present amendment aims at preventing a man from being prosecuted more than once for the non-payment of tax. I may also add that the Magistrate will see that the defaulter is given sufficient time to pay the fine as well as the tax. As I said, Sir, the present amendment is to recover the tax as if it were a fine and I hope the House will have now no objection to adopt it."

* Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"Mr. President, Sir, I wish to ascertain from the hon. the Chief Minister one point. He has established reasons for the adoption of his amendment that besides the fine, the recovery of the tax also should be provided for in this clause itself. It seems to me, Sir, necessary that sufficient time should be given to defaulters after the notice of prosecution has been served on them but before they are required to appear before the Magistrate, so that in the interval they may try as far as possible to pay the tax. I know some time elapses between the date of notice and the date of trial. I only want that the date of trial should not be unnecessarily hastened. And I want also to know if meanwhile the tax is paid why the prosecution should not be dropped."

* The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU:—"Sir, clause 7 will generally be resorted to after notice is served on the defaulter; and should he pay the tax before the date of trial and if the Magistrate is satisfied that for reasons beyond his control, the defaulter was not able to pay the tax in time, he would remit the fine, and ask the prosecution to be withdrawn."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"The question is—

'For the words "and shall also pay the amount of the tax due by him in respect of such vehicle" substitute the words "and the amount of the tax due by him in respect of such vehicle shall also be recovered as if it were a fine".'

The amendment was put and carried.

Clause 7, as amended, was put, passed and added to the Bill.

Clause 8.

* The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU:—"Mr. President, Sir, I beg to move that—

'For clause 8, the following clause be substituted, namely:—

"8 (1) Any officer empowered in this behalf by the Local Government may, by general or special order, direct that any motor vehicle in respect of which the tax due has not been paid be seized and detained in such custody as he thinks fit—

Provided that no motor vehicle shall be seized or detained when actually employed in the conveyance of any passenger or goods.

[Mr. B. Muniswami Nayudu] [3rd March 1931]

(2) *Where a vehicle has been seized and detained under sub-section (1), the said officer shall forthwith issue a notice to the registered owner of such vehicle—*

(i) *requiring him to pay within fifteen days from the date of the service thereof—*

(a) *the tax due in respect of the vehicle; and*

(b) *the charges, if any, incurred in connexion with the seizure, detention and notice; and*

(ii) *stating that unless such tax and charges are so paid, the vehicle will be sold by public auction for the recovery thereof and of such penalty not exceeding twenty-five per cent of the amount of the tax as the said officer may specify in the notice.*

(3) *If the tax and charges referred to in clause (i) of sub-section (2) are paid within the period specified in the notice or at any time before the sale of the vehicle under sub-section (4), it shall be returned to the registered owner or other person entitled thereto.*

(4) *If such tax and charges are not paid within the period specified in the notice, the said officer may direct that the vehicle be sold by public auction and the proceeds of the sale applied to the payment of the said tax and charges and of the penalty specified in the notice.*

(5) *If there is any surplus after such payment, the said officer shall, on demand made within six months from the date of sale, pay it to the registered owner of the vehicle sold or other person entitled thereto.*

(6) *If any doubt or dispute arises as to the person entitled to the return of the vehicle under sub-section (3) or to receive the amount of the surplus under sub-section (5), the said officer shall not deliver the vehicle or pay the amount except to the person who produces a decree or order of a competent Civil Court declaring him to be entitled to such vehicle or amount, unless security is furnished for the production of the vehicle or the repayment of the amount, when required."*

"Sir, in moving this amendment, I have to submit to the House that we have defined a licensing officer as one who is empowered in this behalf. In this section, I want to provide for a separate officer, if necessary, to be appointed to take action. It is possible that the licensing officer may also be the officer to act under this section. Therefore, instead of 'licensing officer' it is proposed to have 'any officer empowered in this behalf'.

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"And similarly, Sir, wherever the expression 'licensing officer' occurs in the subsequent clauses the words 'such officer' have been substituted; these amendments are purely verbal, and it is with a view to enable the Government to employ any other agency than merely the licensing officer to carry out the duties contemplated by section 8, that these amendments are moved."

Mr. T. SUNDARA RAO NAYUDU:—"I second it."

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI:—"Sir, with reference to this amendment, I only desire to mention to the House under what circumstances we have replaced the authority originally intended to be vested with this power by the officer now called 'licensing officer'. Sir, several Members of the Select Committee expressed their unmistakeable unwillingness to invest the Police with this authority. Since then individual Members of this Council have been in receipt of petitions and memorials from the public from various quarters, from bus-owners, from owners of private cars, and others to save them from the tyranny of the Police autocracy. I only mention this to this House in order that under the somewhat generic term 'licensing officer' or any other officer that may be authorized by the Government, the Police officer might not come in. It is to impress that opinion of the public, Sir, that I make this remark, and I hope the hon. the Chief Minister, so long as he is responsible for the administration of this Act will see that no such mistake is committed even under the general name of 'licensing officer or any other officer that may be appointed in this behalf.'"

The amendment was put and carried.

Clause 8 as amended was then put, passed and added to the Bill.

Clause 9.

* Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"Sir, I move—
'That this clause be omitted.'

"The clause runs thus: Any tax due under this Act may also be recovered in the same manner as an arrear of land revenue."

"Sir, this is really one of the clauses which certainly cannot be accepted by the House, especially with reference to a tax like this. I could have understood if this clause found its place in an Act where the situation was different. Here, we are taxing a motor vehicle more than the owner of it. And there are clauses in the Bill itself which certainly are enough to safeguard the interests of the Government and to see that the maximum amount of money is collected. If this clause is allowed to remain in this Bill, the result will be that it is not only the real owner of the vehicle who will be called upon to pay the arrears in the shape of his own property being auctioned or sold by the Government, but the property of somebody else, who might be the owner of the bus at any stage in the history of that vehicle. There are many widows who are owners of buses or cars that ply for hire. Suppose a particular widow is a registered owner of this motor vehicle and she at the same time possesses a house belonging to her. If for the default of payment of the tax payable under this Bill by her son or any person who is employed in the business, this clause is to be applied, the result

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will be that instead of collecting the tax on the vehicle itself, her own property which may be the only source of living for her will be taken hold of by the authorities and it may be auctioned at any stage, and she will be left in a very precarious condition. This will certainly work a great hardship. Therefore I move that clause 9 be deleted from the Bill."

Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti seconded the amendment.

* The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU:—"I am sorry, Sir, I have to oppose this amendment and I am not convinced of the reasons urged in support of it. The clause merely enacts a method of recovery of this amount due. It does not mean that every defaulter will be prosecuted under the other provisions of this Act or that his car will be seized or auctioned. This clause simply says that the amount due may also be recovered in the same manner as an arrear of land revenue. Each individual case of default will be dealt with on its merits. In some cases we will resort to prosecution. If in some other cases, it appears reasonable to resort to the provisions relating to the recovery of land revenue, we would adopt that course. When there is need for prosecution, that method will be followed. I think, Sir, in the interests of the people themselves this method should be available to the officers, rather than leave them with only one remedy. I, therefore, hold that clause 9 is essential."

* Mr. T. S. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"Sir, it is not possible to follow the reasoning of the hon. the Chief Minister with regard to the necessity for so many penal clauses. Section 8 itself is penal. Unless it be that there is some magic in the Land Revenue Act which is supposed to help in the collection of the tax, I do not see why the provisions referred to in section 8 will not be enough. After all section 8 as it were follows the principles and procedure to some extent adopted in the Rent Recovery Act itself. It is really a duplication of the same process as it were that has been followed in the Rent Recovery Act and I do not see any reason why clause 9 should be introduced. Evidently it means that if there are any provisions which are omitted by oversight and which are contained in the Rent Recovery Act, they may also be brought into effect. I do not think that is the right spirit in which this Act is to be worked."

The amendment was put and lost.

Clause 9 was then put, passed and added to the Bill.

Clause 10.

* The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU:—"Sir, I move—

'That for sub-clause (1) of clause 10 the following be substituted:—

"(1) From the proceeds of the tax collected under this Act after deducting the expenses of collection, which shall be ascertained by the Local Government, the Local Government shall annually—

(a) pay to each local body which at the commencement of this Act was levying tolls, or vehicle tax on motor

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vehicles or both, a sum determined by the Local Government as representing the average annual income of the local body during the three years ending the 31st day of March 1930 from such tolls, or vehicle tax on motor vehicles, or both as the case may be; and

(b) credit to themselves a sum determined by them as representing their average annual income during the said three years from all tolls levied by the Local Government in the Presidency of Madras."

"Sir, the point is this. The Bill as it emerged from the select committee provides for the payment of proceeds of the tax to local bodies only. Besides the roads managed or maintained by local boards and municipalities there are a large number of roads which are under the control of the Public Works Department. When the local bodies and municipalities are compensated for their loss of tolls income, it is also necessary and reasonable that compensation should be paid for tolls on these roads also which are maintained by the Government. This amendment makes provision for the payment of proceeds to the Local Government in respect of the roads controlled by them. Sub-clause (a) provides for payment to the local bodies and sub-clause (b) for payment to the Local Government."

Mr. Hilton Brown seconded the amendment.

The amendment was put and carried.

* Mr. M. S. SRESHTA:—"Sir, I move that for the figures '1930' in line 10, the figures '1931' be substituted. The reasons for this alteration I have already stated earlier to-day. The object of this Bill is not to levy additional taxation. But the object is merely to see that local bodies are remunerated for what is taken away from them. It is a bargain, as a matter of fact between the local bodies and the Local Government. It is not to the advantage of the local bodies at all, because the local bodies exchange a growing revenue for a fixed income. There is no reason in my opinion why this fixed amount should not be as much as possible, and there is also no reason why we should stop with the year 1930. If we stop with the year 1931, it will be possible to give each local body a large amount. There is no reason to fear that the Local Government will in any way be prejudiced by this because there is sub-section (3) to section 10 which provides that if there is any deficit in any year, the deficit is to be made up by the surplus in subsequent years. Therefore even if during the current year it is not found possible to provide the amount due to local bodies that deficit will be made good in the subsequent year. What I want to point out is that there is no necessity at all to be afraid that the income this year may not be sufficient to compensate each local body in full. If there is to be a deficit this year, this can be made good by the surpluses of the succeeding years. That being so, I hope that the hon. the Chief Minister will see the desirability of accepting this amendment."

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Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR:—"I rise to a point of order, Mr. President. So far as the amendments 27 to 31 are concerned, they are all covered by the amendment now passed. The House has accepted amendment No. 27, that is, to sub-clause (1) and there cannot be amendments to that sub-clause again. The Council has already agreed to the amendment proposed by the Chief Minister, and I do not think we can go back upon it."

3-30 p.m. Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"The House can reconsider the question if the House allows."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"No doubt it has been lost sight of. No specific decision has been arrived at on the question whether it is to be 1930 or 1931. I think we can discuss the question separately."

* Mr. U. C. SUBRAHMANYA BHATT:—"I second the amendment proposed by Mr. Sreshta. I should like to submit that it is a notorious fact that as time passes on the number of motor cars and buses will increase and therefore Government could not say that they would be put to any loss by the change of the years. In view of that I hope the Chief Minister will give a favourable consideration to this, especially in view of the fact that they remove from the local body a source of income which they are bound to get as time passes on and in its place they are giving a sum which they fix at the present scale."

* Diwan Bahadur C. S. RATNASABHAPATI MUDALIYAR:—"I do not think the change will alter the position of the Government in any way. In section 10 it is provided that if in any year the net proceeds of the tax fall short of the amount payable to local bodies such proceeds shall be distributed among them proportionately to the sums determined under sub-section (1) as payable to each of them, and the deficit shall be made good in the same proportion in the earliest subsequent year or years in which there may be a surplus. The average of the three years has to be considered and this is a constant figure. That stands to reason. So I do not see why the Government should hesitate to accept a reasonable amendment like this. The local bodies are now asked to forego a growing income. In the place of that I think they may accept this amendment."

Diwan Bahadur M. GOPALASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"I would also urge on the hon. the Chief Minister the desirability of acceding to this reasonable request, because this does not militate against his principle."

Mr. J. A. DAVIS:—"The motor traffic has increased within the last three years by leaps and bounds. To take one instance, in Ootacamund municipality the motor traffic has increased by 30 per cent and we have to maintain our roads to that standard and give one-third of our revenue for roads. I therefore appeal to the hon. Minister to accept the amendment of Mr. Sreshta."

* The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU:—"I quite see the point raised by various Members. The only basis of taxation that is made is the average income payable for three years ending 31st March 1930. If you take another year the figures might vary and possibly increase by three or four lakhs. The result will be that the initial deficit will increase and the possibility of having an excess to be used for roads

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will be much less. From that point of view it is desirable that the average should be for three years ending 31st March 1930. But in view of the fact that there is so much feeling in the House and especially in view of the fact that the Select Committee has put in a clause to make good the deficit in future years, I would not oppose this. I would only inform the House that if in the first few years there is a deficit it will be the local bodies that will have to bear the deficit."

The amendment was put and carried.

Mr. J. A. DAVIS:—"I would remind the hon. Minister that the other day he told us that he did not mean to disturb the budget of local bodies. He also said that he could not see that the portion of the toll revenue is completely spent on the road. I will only appeal to the Chief Minister to apply the same principle and urge that our budget should not be disturbed. I would therefore appeal to the Chief Minister to apply the same principle to those bodies who are spending on the roads. I do not therefore press my amendment which runs thus:

'Add the following in continuation of the last line of sub-clause (i):—

"And that this sum, in no case, shall be less than the amount such local body has been expending on the maintenance of its roads during the past three years".'

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"I move—

'Add the following proviso:—

"Provided that entire amount of the taxes collected shall be ear-marked for the construction, improvement and maintenance of roads".'

"Sir, I have no doubt that if there is any one who agrees with me in this amendment I do think it is my hon. Friend Mr. Hilton Brown himself. Because, Sir, it seems to me at any rate that the principle of this Bill is to see that the roads that are in a hopeless condition in our Presidency are improved and maintained and kept up in a proper order. There are various local bodies who utilize the amount in different ways and it is only a very small percentage of the amount that is collected from the tolls that is spent in the maintenance of the roads. Sir, if we agree to the taxation of these motor vehicles more than what it is and the iniquitous manner in which it is done we do so in order to get one relief and that is to see that the roads in our Province are improved and kept in a proper condition. If that is not going to be guaranteed I do not see the necessity for a Bill of this character. If the district board and other local bodies think that the Bill will take away a good portion of their total revenue which they require for other purposes than the maintenance of road they have various other provisions in the Local Boards Act by which they can raise the revenues in order to keep their other departments going. Therefore, Sir, I believe that this is a really important amendment and I think the House will agree with this. If vested interests like the district board

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presidents that are here do not agree with my idea they will agree at least to a large proportion of that amount being spent up on roads alone. I have no doubt that we must at least fix a certain amount—75 per cent being spent on roads alone. With these words I move the amendment and I hope it will be accepted by the House."

Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—"I second it."

* The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU:—"I am afraid I cannot accept the amendment, though I may sympathise with the hon. Mover. The principle is that tolls are abolished and the local bodies are guaranteed an income from the proceeds. As to the actual utilization of the income it will depend upon the budget of local bodies. I can't say that all the incomes are being utilized on roads only. A large proportion is being utilized for the maintenance of lights, hospitals, etc. Having regard to the fact that at present toll income is being utilized also for services it would be hard now to say that every pie should be spent only on roads. In these circumstances I am sorry I cannot accept the amendment. I am sure the object of the hon. Mover will be satisfied by sub-section 4 which provides that every pie of the excess must be spent on improvement of roads."

The amendment was by leave withdrawn.

Clause 10 (2).

The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU:—"I move—

'After the words "payable to a local body" insert the words and figures "under sub-section (1)".

'For the words "accruing from" in sub-clause (2) (a), substitute the word "of".

'Omit the words "during the last three years or any part thereof" in sub-clause (2) (c).'

"The amendment under sub-clause (2) is to provide more specifically the payments to the local bodies under sub-section (1) as amended. The next two are verbal amendments to bring the Act into a better form."

Mr. HILTON BROWN:—"I second it."

The amendments were put and carried.

* Mr. A. B. SHETTY:—"Sir, I move—

'Add at the end the following as new sub-clause 2(d):

"(d) The tolls on motor vehicles running for hire in respect of which exemptions were granted by the local bodies during the last three years or any part thereof."

"This amendment is necessary in the interests of districts which have given exemption to motor vehicles plying for hire, from paying the toll-gate fees. In the note circulated to the Select Committee, I find that the average amount of loss to the District Board of South Kanara has been shown as Rs. 66,000 judging from the figures of tolls collected during the last three years. This estimate does not take into account the tolls on motor vehicles plying for hire which have been exempted. If tolls had been levied on these motor vehicles, the total

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income of our district board would have gone up to at least Rs. 1½ lakhs in South Kanara. So, in the interests of district like South Kanara, I request the hon. Minister to accept this amendment as sub-clause 2 (d)."

* Mr. U. C. SUBRAHMANYA BHATT:—"Mr. President, Sir, I beg to second this amendment, and in doing so, I appeal to the hon. the Chief Minister to consider the case of the district of South Kanara favourably, because the District Board of South Kanara has been rightly or wrongly favourable to the motor bus owners. The very fact that they have been kind and that they have exempted the motor bus owners from paying the road tolls should not act to their prejudice while the amount of compensation payable to that Board is to be considered. If only the District Board of South Kanara has as the other District Boards collected the tolls, it would have also been in a better position, and it would have got a larger amount. Now that the motor buses of the district hardly paid the toll fees, I should think it is but fair that the District Board under whose jurisdiction the motor buses which are now to be taxed are plying should be treated favourably, and so long as the roads of the district are to be maintained by the district board, I see no reason why we should not be given the proper amount which they should have paid if the motor buses had been taxed. Such being the case, even if the hon. the Chief Minister does not want to give any other concession to the district of South Kanara, I should think it is but fair that he should at least treat this particular case of the District Board of South Kanara favourably."

* Mr. M. S. SRESHTA:—"The hon. the Chief Minister has been dealing with all matters coming before him with a sense of justice, and I am sure he will see the justice of considering this concession being given to South Kanara. It is within the power of the District Board of South Kanara to exact tolls from buses. But it did not exercise this power. I do not think the District Board should be penalized for good for this reason. If this new Bill had not been brought forward, it would have been within the power of the District Board to give up this exemption and recover the tolls from the buses also. This chance is now gone from the District Board for ever. Under the circumstances, I think it is but fair that this amendment should be passed. I heartily support this amendment, and I hope that the hon. the Chief Minister will see the justice of making this concession to South Kanara."

* Diwan Bahadur C. S. RATNASABHAPATI MUDALIYAR:—"Mr. President, I beg to speak on this motion just to get some information as to facts. Fortunately or unfortunately, if the District Board of South Kanara has exempted certain number of buses from paying tolls, how are we to know what amount would have been collected by way of tolls on those buses? Because it is very difficult for Government to ascertain the loss which that particular board would have incurred by granting such an exemption, I want to know from the mover of this amendment whether by exemption he means the amounts realized by way of compounding the tolls or permits issued to the several buses. I can understand such a loss incurred by the giving of permits being taken into account in fixing the average amount, and this will be a

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reasonable position. If the amendment aims at the amounts which have been realized by way of issue of permits is to be taken into account, I support it. Otherwise, I oppose it."

* The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU:—"I am sorry I cannot accept the amendment. Because the exemption from tolls in respect of buses is not one that is peculiar to South Kanara alone. I know there are other districts which also have exempted buses, though not fully, but partially. There are many districts where on the payment of a small fee, called the compounding fee, buses have been allowed to run without having to pay the toll fees. If you are to go into the question of how much amount not only South Kanara but also the other districts would have lost by such a proceeding, it will be really impossible to find a basis on to which pay compensation for the loss of toll income. In making the allocation for compensation, my idea is that the local bodies should receive as much as possible. But we have to take practical consideration into account and as matters stand we want to compensate local bodies at least to the full extent of the amount that they have been getting. And as we are now taxing one set of vehicles and not all sorts of vehicles, it is but fair that any excess over the amount of compensation should go only to the improvement of roads and not merely to one particular district. The conditions in South Kanara may be very peculiar, and if the South Kanara roads required additional attention, I am sure if a proper case is made out for it, it will receive proper consideration when the excess amount that will be realized are disbursed."

The amendment was put and lost.

Clause 10 (3).

The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU:—"Sir, I move—

'For sub-clause (3), substitute the following, namely:—

"(3) If in any year the net proceeds of the tax fall short of the aggregate of the amounts payable to local bodies under clause (a) of sub-section (1) and creditable to the Local Government under clause (b) of the said sub-section, such proceeds shall be distributed among the local bodies and the Local Government proportionately to the sums determined under sub-section (1) as payable to each such local body and to the Local Government, and the deficit shall be made good in the same proportion in the earliest subsequent year or years in which there may be a surplus."

"This is a clause embodying the principle that has been already accepted by this House in section 10 (1), and that is that the amount to be distributed as compensation for loss of toll income will include the amount payable not only to the local bodies but also the amount payable to the Local Government as representing their average annual income from all tolls. This revised draft of sub-clause (3) is only to give effect to what has already been accepted by the Council."

Mr. HILTON BROWN:—"I second it."

The amendment was put and carried.

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Clause 10 (4).

The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU:—"Sir, I move—

'In sub-clause (4), for the words "The balance, if any, after deducting the expenses of collection and", substitute the words "The balance, if any, of the net proceeds of the tax" and for the word "mentioned", substitute the words "referred to".'

"This is merely a verbal amendment, and I hope it will be accepted."

Mr. HILTON BROWN:—"I second it."

The amendment was put and carried.

Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—"Sir, I move—

'Add the following provisos at the end:—

"Provided that in no circumstances shall the expenses of collection exceed half per cent of the total amount of tax levied.

"Provided also that the manner in which the Government may determine to expend the surplus of the proceeds of the tax, under sub-clause (4) shall be laid on the table of the Legislative Council and shall not be given effect to until the same is considered and passed by the Council with or without modifications."

"Sir, I want to achieve two objects by these two provisos. The first object is, to restrict the amount of expenditure that might be incurred in the collection of this tax. Already Mr. Davis and also some other hon. Members of this House have expressed the opinion that it would be better to have the collection entrusted to the local boards and municipalities, as it is now being done with regard to the collection of tolls. If the Government were to institute a separate agency for collection, whether it be the Revenue department or the Police department, there will be no restriction on the expenditure that may be incurred on collection. No doubt, we were given to understand at the Select Committee stage that the expenditure will not be more than Rs. 25,000 for collection. I think, Sir, in the nature of circumstances it will be impossible to restrict the expenditure within Rs. 25,000. It will go for aught I think up to Rs. 2 or 3 lakhs, and that will be a very considerable proportion of the tax collected, and that further means that the amounts going to the local boards and municipalities will have to be reduced proportionately to that extent. I want, therefore, in any event that the collection expenditure should be restricted to half per cent of the total amount of tax levied. Even then it would come to about a lakh. I hope the Minister will agree with me in restricting the expenditure up to a certain limit. It is only the principle that I want to emphasize and not the actual amount of tax to be expended on collection.

"Then, the other proviso is that when the surplus is to be expended, the Council should have an effective voice in the manner in which surpluses are to be expended. When the surplus is determined, we

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should know the manner in which the Government is allocating it. We do not know what the future Government will be and what attitude it will take, and what exactly will be the circumstances which will determine their distribution of the surplus. No doubt, Sir, there is the clause that the surplus should be expended for the formation and improvement of roads. But then, which roads and how? That is the question. So, I want that the Council should have an effective voice in the disbursement of the surplus. I think these two principles will be accepted by the hon. the Chief Minister."

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"I second it."

* The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU:—"I am sorry I cannot accept this amendment. In the first instance, it would not be right in a statute to say that the collection should not exceed a certain percentage of the total amount of tax levied. I should think it should be left to the Government to do it. The tax being an item of provincial revenue, the expenditure in connexion with that item would find a place in the budget, and thus that item will come up for discussion in this House at the time the budget is being considered."

"With regard to the second proviso, I do not think that the proposal is one that is clearly intelligible. My point is again that all the revenue collected on account of this tax will form an item of provincial revenue, and any surplus that may be expended also will form a regular demand coming up before this House for being sanctioned, and such a demand when being made will indicate the definite schemes to be taken up. For instance, we have the petrol tax under the road development account, and the particular items of expenditure on that demand come before this House for sanction. So also it will be with this tax. I do not think there should be any other procedure than the budget procedure for items connected with the revenue and expenditure arising from the new tax."

Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—"I withdraw the amendment."

The amendment was by leave withdrawn.

Clause 10, as amended, was then put, passed and added to the Bill.

Clause 11, Sub-clause (1).

4 p.m.

* Mr. A. B. SHETTY:—"I beg to move, Sir—

that the following be added at the end of sub-clause (1):—

"In making any reduction in the rate of tax, the Local Government shall pay special consideration to the amount payable by buses that ply on roads intersected by unbridged rivers or streams."

"Sir, one very important criticism that has been made against this Bill is that it seeks to impose a flat rate on all motor vehicles of the same class. The rate, if it is to be just and equitable, should vary in proportion to the mileage which a motor vehicle traverses and the use

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which it makes of the road. An additional tax on petrol would have been the best for the purpose, but I understand that it is not possible to levy any such tax on petrol. As the result of this Bill buses that ply between ferries and run only short distances will have to pay the same tax as buses that run long distances. So, I am moving this amendment and I hope the hon. the Chief Minister will see his way to accept it."

* Mr. U. C. SURAHMANA BHATT:—"I second the amendment and in doing so I express the hope that the hon. the Chief Minister will have no difficulty in accepting it as the carrying out of this amendment will be left completely in his hands. Such being the case, this amendment, even if it is carried, will be only a sort of recommendation to the Chief Minister to treat the cases of districts like South Kanara with leniency. I am sure the hon. the Chief Minister will have no difficulty in accepting it."

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"Is the hon. Member moving his next amendment also now as it covers almost the same ground?"

* Mr. U. C. SUBRAHMANYA BHATT:—"I am not moving it now, Sir."

Mr. M. S. SRESHTA:—"Sir, in further supporting the amendment, I do not know if it is quite necessary to include this in the Bill; because I understood from the hon. the Chief Minister that he is prepared to make concessions in the case of districts like South Kanara which have unbridged rivers. As the desirability of making this concession has been recognized, I do not want to say anything more."

* The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU:—"Sir, I am sorry here also I have to say that I cannot accept the amendment. Fortunately, the amendment does not mention South Kanara specifically. It simply mentions the districts where there are roads intersected by unbridged rivers or streams. If there are unbridged rivers in some districts, I believe the best thing would be to see that those rivers are bridged as soon as funds permit."

The amendment was put and lost.

Clause 11, sub-clause (1) (ii).

Sriman M. G. PATNAIK Mahasaya:—"Mr. President, I move—

that the following provisos be added:—

"Provided that a person owning more than five motor vehicles shall be entitled to a rebate of 10 per cent on the sum total of the tax payable on all the vehicles owned by him during the quarter.

Provided—

- (1) *that motor vehicles disabled throughout the whole quarter shall be exempt from payment of the entire tax for the quarter;*
- (2) *that such vehicles disabled for not less than two months shall be exempt from payment of half the tax for the quarters."*

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"Sir, it is but right that a man who owns a large number of motor vehicles and does not use all of them at the same time should get some rebate. I think the hon. the Chief Minister has already stated that he would be prepared to give some rebate and therefore there would of course be no difficulty in accepting the first part of my amendment.

"As regards the second proviso in my amendment I wish to say this: There are certain periods when motors are under repairs. I am suggesting that during these periods there should be also some rebate. Of course if the hon. the Chief Minister says that he will make some provision under the rule-making power vested in the Government, I am prepared to withdraw the amendment."

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"In seconding this amendment, I wish only to say that the hon. the Chief Minister will accept this as it comes from his own party member. The hon. the Chief Minister has made some such promise mentioned by the hon. Mover and I hope that he will fulfil it now."

* The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU:—"As I said, the particular cases mentioned in the proviso will certainly be considered in making the rules. Those cases refer to a rebate of 10 per cent in cases where a person owns more than five motor vehicles and also some reduction in cases where throughout a whole quarter or a portion of it a motor has been unfit for use. Both these cases will be provided for under suitable rules under clause 11."

Sriman M. G. PATNAIK Mahasayo:—"If that is so, I withdraw my amendment, Sir."

The amendment was by leave withdrawn.

Clause 11, sub-clause (2).

* The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU:—"I move, Sir—

that for sub-clause (2) the following be substituted:—

"(2) Every modification issued under sub-section (1) shall be laid on the table of the Legislative Council for a period of two months when the Council is in session."

"Sir, in the select committee a provision was made that every notification should be laid on the table of the Legislative Council and until it is modified by the Legislative Council effect should be given to it. Subsequent to that, the point has been examined to what extent a provision of this sort would not be right having regard to the instructions laid down by the Government of India in the matter. They want that the authority to approve of the rules finally should be the local Government and that the Legislative Council should express its opinion. What I propose now in my amendment is to lay the notification on the table of the Legislative Council for a period of two months, the Government giving such opportunity as the Members may require to move any amendment they might choose.

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"The point is this: When an Act is passed, the final authority agreeing to or vetoing it, would be the Governor under the present constitution. When rules similarly are passed the authority that would agree to them are the Local Government. In a Constitution like this, where certain subjects are transferred, the Ministers would be the final authority acting on the vote of the House to effect to the rules. As the section now stands, these rules can by their own force come into effect without even the Minister having to publish them. The result will be that there will be no final authority afterwards to modify them except the Legislative Council itself. And we are advised by the Government of India that that should not be the form in which these provisions should be put. For that purpose I am moving this amendment, Sir, I may say, however, that when these rules are framed they will be laid on the table of the House and suitable opportunities will be given to the Members of the House to move any amendment with regard to them."

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR:—"I second it."

* Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI:—"Sir, the amendment of the hon. Minister raises a very important question. It is with a view to avoid the powers or privileges that might be conferred by an Act being restricted or dissipated by the rules of the Government that the select committee insisted upon the rules being approved by the Legislative Council before they came into effect. Now, the hon. the Chief Minister while agreeing that the consent of the Legislative Council should be obtained to the rules, pleads on his behalf, a constitutional difficulty, namely, that the Government of India would raise a possible objection. I wish to know, Sir, under what section of the Government of India Act are the Government of India justified in raising the objection and whether an authority like this was not taken in other Acts. I wish to know whether, as my hon. Friend Dr. Subbarayan reminds me, the rules under the Local Boards and District Municipalities Acts are not subject to the sanction of the Legislative Council. Apart from that, Sir, if that objection should prevail, namely, that the Government of India would raise objection to power being taken in that behalf, then it becomes necessary for the Legislative Council to incorporate in the enactments themselves what is intended to be conveyed by the rules. I fear if we do not take care to do that, it will be detrimental to the interests of the public. The rules will be simply placed before the Legislative Council for a period of three months, or less, and the effect of any action that may be taken upon the rules thus placed will be nil. Within this period it may not be possible for the Legislative Council Members to table a resolution modifying or altering any of the rules and there is also the chance of the ballot not being in favour of a motion being tabled. Granting that all these obstacles can be overcome, then there is the opposition of the Government with its permanent majority. That will merely be nullifying the object with which this clause was sought to be introduced in this Bill. Sir, I should like therefore to be further enlightened as to whether the threatened Government of India

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objection is really formidable as the hon. the Chief Minister wants us to believe and whether there are not precedents wherein we have provided that the rules are subject to the sanction of Legislative Council in respect of other Acts. Granting that these two things exist in fact, I ask the House to seriously think whether what is intended to be incorporated in the rules should not be incorporated in the provisions of the Bill itself. For this purpose the further progress of the Bill need not be hurried."

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* Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN:—"Mr. President, I am indeed surprised at the attitude of the hon. the Chief Minister and I remember how keen he was during the debate on the Local Boards Act and the District Municipalities Act when he said that such a provision should be inserted in the Bill itself. I remember he quoted Mr. Satyamurti's quotation from Lord Hewart's book entitled 'New Despotism' in which the author describes how the executive in England have been trying to take away the power of the legislature by means of rule-making powers conferred on the Government by legislation passed by Parliament. That is exactly what is now sought to be done. I am surprised that within six months such a transformation has come on the hon. the Chief Minister and he now feels that the impediments of the legislature over the executive should be taken away because the Treasury Bench consists of hon. Gentlemen who are of his persuasion. The provision in the Madras Local Boards Act reads thus:—'A draft of the rules proposed to be made under . . . shall be laid on the table of the Legislative Council and the rules shall not be made unless the Legislative Council approves the draft either without modification or addition or with modifications or additions. But such approval being given, the rules may be made in the form in which they have been approved and such rules on being so made shall be modified and shall thereafter be of full force and effect.' Those words, he himself proposes to use in regard to the rule-making powers under clause 18 of this Bill. I shall be satisfied if the hon. Minister will adopt the words I have read, because the power will still be left in the hands of the Legislative Council by which such rules which are made by the Government will come under the purview of the Legislative Council and shall have the force of law after its approval. I therefore appeal to the hon. Minister not to drop his principles so easily as he has done, that the powers of the legislature should not be taken away from it and that the legislature should have the liberty of saying whether the rule made by the Local Government is in consonance with the spirit of the legislation introduced by this Council."

Mr. C. R. PARTHASARATHI AYYANGAR:—"Sir, I wish to refer only to four clauses, viz., clauses 11 (2), 16 (3), 17 (3) and 18. I would very much like the hon. Minister to explain to us whether all the sub-clauses are the same or whether there is any difference made in the same. If any difference is to be made it should be made only in the Legislative Council. If it is done, then I can understand there is uniformity in all these. I would very much like to know if it is the intention of the hon. the Chief Minister to make any difference in the rules coming into

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operation or the rules being made subject to the approval of the Legislative Council in each one of these sub-clauses. What Mr. Subbarayan read out as clause 18 is the same as is found in the Local Boards Act. It has been copied *in extenso* into this. If the hon. Minister means that the same idea as is found in the Local Boards Act is to be incorporated here also it is better that the same language should be used, but if it is intended that a difference should be made anywhere in the rules as regards each one of these clauses, it is better that they should be clearly made out. I would suggest that there should be uniformity."

* Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR:—"I am really surprised that at this late hour the hon. the Chief Minister should come before this House with a proposal of this sort. We have been fighting ever since the new Council was formed that all these rules ought to be approved specifically by the Council. With reference to every Bill that came before this House such as the Land Revenue Bill, the Irrigation Bill and so on, the same question was raised and it was on account of the fact that Government wanted to introduce provisions of this sort in the Land Revenue Bill, that Bill could not be passed in this Council. The Council of the day insisted and I am sure the present hon. the Chief Minister was not behind anybody in opposing that measure on the ground that nothing should be done by means of executive orders under that Bill. Now, Sir, in the Irrigation Bill also one of the main objections taken by a very large majority in this Council consisting of all sections of this House, the Justices as well as those sitting on this side of the House was to allowing the Government to frame rules and bringing them into force. Having been a party to all these, the Justice party having pledged itself to that position in this Council, it is rather surprising that the hon. the Chief Minister should now come forward with a proposal of this sort. Objection to this course was also taken in the Select Committee. Not only that, he does not seem to understand the difference which the Government themselves wanted to make between Reserved departments and Transferred departments. I am sure he remembers that both with reference to the Land Revenue Bill and the Irrigation Bill the Government had been saying that the rules under those Bills should be framed by the Government as the Government still retained its responsibility in the matter to the Parliament. With reference to the Bill under discussion certainly the Transferred departments are responsible to the people and as such the right of framing rules having the force of law belongs to this Council. The Minister cannot say 'I am not going to be responsible to the British Parliament, because under the existing constitution the administration of the Transferred departments does not owe any responsibility to the Parliament, as for all practical purposes the administration of Transferred departments is entrusted in the hands of the Ministers as representing this Council and at the same time, what he in other words wants to do is this: without coming before the House for approval or disapproval of the rules to be framed, he will frame the rules and they will have the force of law. The only remedy that is open to us is to take our chance in the ballot by means of a resolution and even after our discussion the

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Government may or may not give effect to our resolution. I am sorry that the hon. the Chief Minister has forgotten that he is dealing with a Transferred subject and is now speaking in a fashion which is against all canons of responsibility."

* The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU:—"I am really surprised that so much passion and fury have been bestowed upon this subject, and that I should be criticized as having gone back from my original position within six months from the date I took up my office, or that I am going against a practice existing for the last ten years. My only point is that in the Local Boards and District Municipalities Acts there are two sets of rules. One set of rules which deal with schedules could be framed only after the approval of the Legislative Council is given to the draft rules. The Council has the right to change or modify them and if any modification is made the Local Government issues them only in the form in which the rules have been amended by the Council. That is to say only after the Legislative Council has expressed its opinion, the Local Government has to bring them into force.

"Another set of rules is that the Local Government can make those rules without obtaining the approval of the Legislative Council and issue them. But if a resolution is passed by this Council expressing disapproval of those rules, any responsible Minister will certainly re-issue those rules in the form in which the Legislative Council requires them to be issued. In the latter set of rules the moment the rules are issued they come into force. Both in the Local Boards Act and District Municipalities Act, you will find that rules are framed regarding schedules only after the approval of the Legislative Council is obtained. There is another section in those Acts which provides that the Government shall make rules and place them on the table of the Legislative Council. I am only asking that the latter course may be adopted in the present Bill also. At the time when this question came up before the Select Committee and when it was pointed out that a distinction should be made out clearly between those rules which relate to schedules and others which relate to other matters, it was agreed that only after the Legislative Council had expressed its opinion clearly upon any changes that might be made in the schedules that those schedules would come into force. I would request hon. Members to read rule 18 in this Bill. It reads thus:

'A draft of any rule proposed to be made under Section 17 shall be laid on the table of the Legislative Council and the rule shall not be made unless the Council approves the draft either without modification or addition or with modifications or additions; and upon such approval being given the rule may be made in the form in which it has been approved.'

If the draft is approved, the draft shall not *ipso facto* have the force of law. The Local Government will have to issue it and a responsible Minister will certainly issue the rule on the basis of its acceptance by the Legislative Council. Clause 11 reads thus:

'Every notification issued under sub-section (1) shall be laid on the table of the Legislative Council and shall be in force until disapproved or modified by the Council and if modified the notification shall thereafter take effect as modified.'

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"Now if a rule is modified, it will, as modified, take effect and the Local Government is not required to issue the rule in the form in which the Legislative Council has modified it. I am certainly agreeable even in cases of this sort that draft rules should come up before the Legislative Council for its approval. In the Select Committee it was pointed out that rules under clause 11 should be issued immediately, so that they may come into operation immediately. If these rules also should be issued after they have been approved by the Legislative Council, it would mean that we cannot grant exemptions at once with the result that the present rate would go on. It was as a result of discussion on this in the Select Committee it was decided that the rules should be framed by the Local Government and the moment they are issued they should have the force of law. There can be no objection to the Local Government re-issuing even these rules in the form in which the Legislative Council may modify them.

"Now you will have to make out the difference between two sets of rules and as my hon. Friend the Leader of the Opposition is aware there are rules which may be framed by the Government and there are others which must be issued only after the approval of the Legislative Council. I am simply following the procedure which he has adopted when he was in office. I am simply asking that under Section 11 certain rules may be framed and exemptions given. But if the Legislative Council feel that exemptions have not been properly given it would be given an opportunity to discuss those rules when they are placed on the table of the House. I was careful enough even from the very beginning to say that the Local Government shall take power to frame rules under Section 11 and give an opportunity to the Legislative Council to table a motion if they disapprove of the rules framed by the Government.

"I am therefore only anxious to impress on this House that if this power of granting exemptions, etc., by rules, is not given to the Government, then these exemptions will have to lie over. In reply, perhaps it will be stated 'put off the Bill'. I think that is not a good ground. I think we are proceeding on the basis that the Bill will come into force from 1st April 1931. If you want this and if you want exemptions to be made, I request that my amendment be accepted. As early as possible the rules will be issued; when the Legislative Council next meets, there will be opportunity for any hon. Member to table a resolution and for the opinion of the House being expressed."

* Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI:—"Sir, having regard to the speech of the hon. the Chief Minister, may I ask if the Government will bring it forward as official business for the approval of the Council, instead of giving an opportunity to the Council to table a resolution, for it may mean nothing after all; the hon. the Chief Minister is aware of the many restrictions on the non-official Members for discussing the question."

* The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU:—"As I said, this Council has got an opportunity of discussing the question by a resolution given notice of by any hon. Member."

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* Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED :—" Sir, I think there is some inconsistency in what the hon. the Chief Minister stated. His idea is to make a difference between the two sets of rules, one contemplated in section 11 and the other contemplated in section 18. But, the hon. Minister has given notice that the whole clause—clause 18—should also be omitted. I fail to see him how he can move that amendment and also this. I think, Sir, that we should not go back upon the Select Committee's suggestion which has been incorporated in their report and in their Bill amended by them. If the hon. Minister gives the assurance that he would have the rules placed before the Council before the end of March, there will be no difficulty. If the Bill is passed now, there will be time enough to place the rules on the table of the House."

* Mr. T. S. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" May I know if the hon. the Chief Minister is going to move the amendment that clause 18 should be deleted? It will clear the matter very much."

* The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU :—" Sir, I shall make the point clear. We want to put clause 18 under clause 17 as sub-clause. I propose to move that clause 18 might be omitted and that it might be put as a sub-clause to clause 17."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" The question is: for sub-clause (2), substitute the following :—' (2) Every notification issued under sub-section (1) shall be laid on the table of the Legislative Council for a period of two months when the Council is in session '."

The amendment was carried.

Clause 11 as amended was put, passed and added to the Bill.

New clause after clause 11.

* Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR :—" Sir, I can now propose the insertion of a new clause after clause 11. The amendment I have given notice of, is as follows :—

' After clause 11, add a new clause as follows :—

" Nothing in this Act shall apply to a motor vehicle used solely for the purposes of agriculture.

Explanation.—A motor vehicle used for transporting agricultural produce along a road shall not for the purpose of this section be deemed to be used solely for the purposes of agriculture "

" Sir, as in other countries, in this country also, motor tractors and other machinery are coming to be used for agricultural purposes. If the Government are going to tax these vehicles, as is proposed in the schedule, then the practice of using machinery for agricultural purposes will be suppressed completely. I think that it is not the intention of anybody here. That being so, I want that this point is made very clear in the Act itself and that these provisions should not apply to motor

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vehicles used purely for agricultural purposes. I may say that a provision to the very same effect, finds a place in the Behar Act. I hope the hon. the Chief Minister will accept my amendment."

Mr. T. C. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR :—" I second it."

The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU :—" I accept it."

The new clause was put, passed and added to the Bill.

Clauses 12 and 13 were put, passed and added to the Bill.

Clause 14.

* Sriman M. G. PATNAIK Mahasayo :—" Sir, I move the following amendment :—

' Add the following proviso to clause 14 :—

" Provided that no toll shall be levied in connexion with any such work except when it is undertaken on the recommendation or with an approval of the district board or municipality within whose area such work is to be executed "

" Now, the whole scheme of this Bill is that the local bodies should get some compensation for foregoing the right of levying tolls and the Government should give them compensation; if there is any surplus, it should be spent on roads. Supposing that money is spent upon either roads or bridges, I wish to know how the Government will be justified in re-establishing tolls. The idea of re-establishing tolls is of course, very repulsive. This Bill is intended to abolish all tolls altogether. Still the Government retain this power under clause 14. Perhaps they are following the Indian Tolls Act, 1851. But that Act also could be repealed by this Legislature. If the Government spend any money on any works, let that be done with the consent of the people for whose benefit it is done and from whom the tolls are likely to be collected. I say that the work should be executed only with the consent of the district board or municipality. It is but fair that the Government should not force any work upon the people. Though the Government may think that a certain work may be beneficial to the people, the people may not consider it to be so and they may not be willing to pay tolls. Therefore, what I say, is that they should be consulted. I have used the words 'on the recommendation or with approval.' The proposal may emanate from the local body; or the Government may consider the work necessary; in the latter case, the Government should take the consent of the local body. This provision is quite harmless. If tolls are to be re-established, it is but just that the consent of the local body should be taken in some form or other. I appeal to the hon. the Chief Minister to accept my amendment; I hope he will have no objection. I also request Mr. Hilton Brown not to oppose it."

Mr. M. A. MANIKKAVELU NAYAKAR :—" I second it."

* The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU :—" Sir, I am sorry I cannot accept it. I know the enthusiasm and the good intentions of the hon. Member who wants this provision. The power of the

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Government to levy tolls hereafter, is limited only to cases where, at their cost, the Government undertake big works. My hon. Friend wants that tolls should not be levied in such cases except with the recommendation or the approval of the district board or municipality; if a municipality or a district board does not approve or make recommendation, the Government will not be able to take up the work, and to levy tolls. That will only mean that the Government will be under the sweet will and pleasure of the local bodies, when they have to execute important works. It is necessary that, if a work is undertaken, the Government should have power to levy tolls. I want that an exception should be made in cases of that sort. If the local Government want to levy tolls, it will be only on the ground that their revenue would not permit them to take up a work, and that they will have to incur extra expenditure; in such cases the Government should be compensated by levying tolls. That should be independent of the opinion of the district board or municipality. It must depend upon the work itself. In such cases it is advisable that the local Government which is responsible to the legislature, should have the power of levying tolls. It would be restricting the power of the local Government, if they have to get the approval of the district board or municipality; then the Government would be at the mercy of the local bodies and the general taxpayer would not have the benefit of big works taken up by the Government. This is a matter which should not be dependent upon the wishes of the local bodies. Ministers are directly responsible to the Legislative Council and it is open to every hon. Member of the Council to express his opinion on such matters. I, therefore, think that the imposition of any restriction upon the power of the local Government to undertake works and to levy tolls, is not a step in the right direction. I can very well understand if the hon. Member wants that this local body as representing the taxpayer, should be given an opportunity of expressing its opinion, before tolls are levied. That is not the scope of the amendment. On these grounds, I am sorry, I cannot accept the amendment."

* Sriman M. G. PATNAIK Mahasayo:—"Sir, I press my amendment. If any work is undertaken in an area, it will be under the jurisdiction of a local body, a municipality, or a district board. Is it not right that the body should be consulted and its opinion ascertained? If the Government think that consulting people or taking their opinion is degrading to them, I think, the hon. Minister will have to learn what democratic principles are. I am very very sorry that the hon. the Chief Minister should consider it degrading to consult these local bodies."

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"I think that we must consult those people. Here also the legislature may no doubt be consulted, but then the districts are represented here only by two or three people. But there in the local bodies a large body of members will be present and they will discuss the question whether that work should be undertaken or not and whether it would be useful to the people. There is absolutely no reason why the Government

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should fight shy of such a consultation with local bodies. Really I cannot understand this. I honestly think that the Government must accept this amendment. It is quite harmless and it will give unmistakable proof of the adherence to democratic principles which they ought to adopt."

* The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU:—"I do not object to the consultation, Sir; that is what I said we should do. But I object to recommendation."

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"The question is—

'Add the following proviso to clause 14:—

"Provided that no toll shall be levied in connexion with any such work except when it is undertaken on the recommendation or with an approval of the district board or municipality within whose area such work is to be executed"

The amendment was declared lost.

Sriman M. G. Patnaik Mahasayo demanded a poll which was taken with the following result:—

Ayes.

1. Sriman M. G. Patnaik Mahasayo. | 2. Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar.

Noes.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir Mahomed Usman Sahib Bahadur. | 23. Diwan Bahadur M. Gopalaswami Mudaliyar. |
| 2. " Diwan Bahadur Sir M. Krishnan Nayar. | 24. Mr. B. P. Sessa Reddi. |
| 3. " Mr. A. Y. G. Campbell. | 25. " P. V. Rajagopala Pillai. |
| 4. " Mr. H. G. Stokes. | 26. " C. Indraiah. |
| 5. " Diwan Bahadur B. Muniswami Nayudu. | 27. " A. Kondappa. |
| 6. " Mr. P. T. Rajan. | 28. Rao Sahib V. Dharmalingam Pillai. |
| 7. " Diwan Bahadur S. Kumaraswami Reddiyar. | 29. Rao Bahadur R. K. Venugopala Nayudu. |
| 8. Rao Bahadur G. Jagannadha Raju. | 30. Mr. K. Kesavaramamurti Nayudu. |
| 9. Mr. W. P. A. Soundara Pandian. | 31. " J. A. Davis. |
| 10. " H. R. Pato. | 32. Swami A. S. Sahajanandam. |
| 11. " H. A. Watson. | 33. Rao Sahib C. Jayaram Nayudu. |
| 12. " R. Madanagopal Nayudu. | 34. Mr. D. V. Narasimhaswami. |
| 13. " S. V. Ramamurti. | 35. " H. B. Ari Gowder. |
| 14. " Hilton Brown. | 36. Rao Sahib P. Subrahmanyam Chetti. |
| 15. " T. Sundara Rao Nayudu. | 37. The Zamindar of Mirzapuram. |
| 16. Khan Sahib Syed Tajuddin Sahib Bahadur. | 38. Mr. A. T. Luker. |
| 17. Rao Bahadur A. T. Pannirselvam. | 39. " R. Foulkes. |
| 18. Mr. G. Ranganatha Mudaliyar. | 40. " W. M. Browning. |
| 19. " M. B. Rangaswami Reddi. | 41. " C. Satyanarayana Choudhari. |
| 20. " M. Devadasan. | 42. Rao Bahadur C. Natesa Mudaliyar. |
| 21. Subadar-Major S. A. Nanjappa Bahadur. | 43. " Sir A. P. Patro. |
| 22. Diwan Bahadur C. S. Ratnasabhapati Mudaliyar. | 44. Mr. C. Basu Dev. |
| | 45. Rao Bahadur S. Elappa Chettiar. |
| | 46. Mr. V. T. Arasu. |
| | 47. " G. Sriramulu. |
| | 48. " H. M. Jagannatham. |
| | 49. Rao Sahib V. I. Muniswami Pillai. |
| | 50. Rao Bahadur R. Srinivasan. |

Ayes 2. *Noes* 50.

The amendment was lost.

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Clause 14 (1)—*Proviso.*

The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU:—"I move, Sir,—

'that in the proviso to sub-clause (1), for the word "toll" the word "tolls" be substituted and that the word "any" before "such road or bridge" be omitted.'

These are mere verbal amendments, Sir, and I move them."

The motion was seconded by Mr. Hilton Brown.

The amendments were put and carried.

Sub-clause (2).

The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU:—"I move, Sir,—

'that in sub-clause (2), for the word "toll" the word "tolls" be substituted.'

Mr. T. Sundara Rao Nayudu seconded the amendment.

The amendment was put and carried.

Clause 14 as amended was then put, passed and added to the Bill.

Clause 15 (1).

* The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU:—"I move, Sir,—

'that in sub-clause (1) for the words "as a result of", the words "in consequence of" be substituted.'

"This is also a verbal amendment."

Rao Bahadur G. Jagannadha Raju seconded the amendment.

The amendment was put and carried.

Clause 15 (2).

Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—"Sir, I move—

'that for all the words commencing from the words "and shall not be" at the end of the clause, the following words be substituted:—

"unless the same is questioned in any court of law within a period of three months".'

"In moving this amendment, my object is to limit the time within which any aggrieved party could go to a court of law. Otherwise, it would lead to much difficulty and there must be some time-limit imposed on the remedy that is available to the party aggrieved. I therefore move this amendment."

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Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan seconded the amendment.

The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU:—"I accept the amendment, Sir."

The amendment was put and carried.

New clause 15-A.

* Rao Sahib BADETI VENKATARAMAYYA:—"Mr. President, Sir, I move—

'that after clause 15, a new clause 15-A be added as follows:—

"No court inferior to that of a Second-class Magistrate shall try any offence punishable under this Act".'

"Sir, if this Act is to follow the Indian Motor Vehicles Act, and other special Acts, I think a provision such as this is necessary. Very often complicated cases of interpretation of the provisions of this Act may arise, and they should not be left to be decided by Magistrates inferior to Second-class Magistrates. This is a very salutary provision, and it is desirable that this clause is introduced into the Bill."

The amendment was duly seconded.

The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU:—"I accept the amendment, Sir."

The amendment was put and carried.

New clause 15-B.

* Rao Sahib BADETI VENKATARAMAYYA:—"Sir, I move—

'that the following new clause, clause 15-B, be added after clause 15:—

"Any person aggrieved with regard to the imposition of a tax or the manner in which a tax has been recovered may appeal to the Collector of the district within one month from the date of imposition of the tax or recovery thereof, whose order on appeal shall be final".'

"This is also another amendment which is quite necessary in the interests of the aggrieved parties. We have provisions in this Bill enabling summary recovery of the taxes due under this Act. It is necessary, in my opinion, that there should be some check on the arbitrary methods which may sometimes be adopted by the officers. A similar provision exists in the Punjab Act, and therefore I move this amendment."

The amendment was duly seconded.

* The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU:—"Sir, I am afraid I cannot accept this amendment. The amendment says 'may appeal to the Collector of the district . . . whose order on appeal shall be final.' The appeal may be against the order of the licensing

[Mr. B. Muniswami Nayudu]

[3rd March 1931]

officer or other officer who is invested with the power to collect the tax. It depends in every case as to who the licensing authority is and who the appellate authority is. If the licensing authority is of a higher status than the Collector, then it will not be right to entrust the power of final decision to the Collector. I can only say that under the rule-making power of the Local Government under section 16, when rules are made the question as to who the appellate authority should be in every case, will be considered."

Rao Sahib BADETI VENKATARAMAYYA:—"I withdraw the amendment."

The motion was by leave of the House withdrawn.

Clause 15 as amended and clause 15-A were put, passed and added to the Bill.

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

R. V. KRISHNA AYYAR,
Secretary to the Legislative Council.

3rd March 1931]

APPENDIX I.

[Vide answer to question No. 505 asked by Mr. U. C. Subrahmanya Bhatt at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 3rd March 1931, page 317 supra]

* 161 Q.—Mr. U. C. SUBRAHMANYA BHATT: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the present Additional Subordinate Judge of South Kanara was a practising lawyer at Mangalore with wide practice before he was appointed to the Judicial service;

(b) whether it is a fact that a number of transfer applications were filed in the District Court of South Kanara, within the last four months to transfer suits pending before the said Additional Subordinate Judge, and if so, how many such transfer applications were filed;

(c) whether it is a fact that one of the grounds common to all the said transfer applications is that the said Additional Subordinate Judge was a vakil for one of the parties to the suits sought to be transferred when he was practising as a lawyer in Mangalore?

A.—(a) Mr. Kunhiraman Nayar had moderate practice as a lawyer at Mangalore before his first appointment as a District Munsif in 1914.

(b) Three applications were filed.

(c) Yes. All the three applications were dismissed by the District Judge and the High Court confirmed two of his orders. The earliest order of the District Judge was apparently not taken up by the party.

APPENDIX II.

[Vide answer to question No. 509 asked by Mr. U. C. Subrahmanya Bhatt at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 3rd March 1931, page 319 supra.]

(1)

Statement showing the progress of resettlement operations in the taluk of Kasaragod, South Kanara district, for the quarter ending 31st December 1930.

[South Kanara district—Kasaragod—114 villages (97 non-kumari and 17 kumari villages)—761.87 square miles.]

Items of work.	In the quarter.	Up to the quarter.
1 Number of villages, the records of which have been received from the Survey department for check and scrutiny ...	3	114
Area in square miles.	95.77	761.87
2. Completion of miscel- laneous statements } required for field } inspection. }	By subordinates ... 4 Checked by superior officers. 4	114 114

[3rd March 1931]

Items of work.	In the quarter.	Up to the quarter.
3. Field inspection—		
Completed by Inspectors	6	7
Completed by Special Deputy Tahsildars	4	4
Passed by officers	8	8
4. Preparation of preliminary accounts—		
Completed by subordinates	...	97
Checked by superior officers	...	97
5. Preparation of rough chittas and pattas—		
Completed by subordinates	...	97
Checked by superior officers	...	97
6. Appeal hearing completed	...	97
7. Supplemental field inspection—		
Completed by Inspectors	...	97
Completed by Special Deputy Tahsildars	...	97
Passed by officers	...	97
8. Number of villages, the records of which were handed over to the Survey Department for supplemental survey	...	97
Area in square miles	...	430.07
9. Number of villages, the records of which were finally received back from the Survey Department	...	97
10. Correction of accounts	...	97
11. Tahsildars' accounts—		
Completed by subordinates	...	97
Checked and despatched to Tahsildars	...	97

(2)

Statement showing the progress of resettlement operations in the non-resurveyed portions of the Mangalore taluk, South Kanara district, for the quarter ending 31st December 1930.

Items of work.	Mangalore—153 villages (a) (333 square miles).	
	In the quarter.	Up to the quarter.
1. Preparation of land register—		
Completed by subordinates	16	150
Checked by superior officers	50	150
2. Completion of miscellaneous statements—		
Completed by subordinates	2	150
Checked by superior officers	4	150
3. Field inspection—		
Completed by inspectors	46	108
Completed by additional supervisors	10	32
Passed by officers	25	52 (a)

(a) This includes two villages recently transferred to Puttur taluk.

(e) Of these, 27 villages were directly inspected by Special Assistant Settlement Officer without inspection by additional supervisors.

3rd March 1931]

(3)

Statement showing the taluks in which resettlement work has been completed in progress or has not yet been taken up.

Name of taluk.	Number of villages.	Area in square miles.
(i) Completed.		
South Kanara district—		
Mangalore (Resurveyed)	25	74 } *
Puttur (Resurveyed)	31	159 }
Experimentally resurveyed villages.		
Mangalore	2	5 }
Coondapoor	2	3 }
Puttur	2	12 }
Udipi	2	9 }
(ii) In progress.		
Kasaragod	114	762
Mangalore (non-resurveyed)	151	327
Portions of Mangalore transferred to Puttur	2	6
(iii) Not yet taken up.		
Puttur	149	1,068 }
Udipi	113	348 }
Coondapoor	101	616 }
Karkal	105	629 }

* Fair accounts work, based on resurvey has been completed.

† Resettlement due in 1934-35 }
 Do. 1933-34 }
 Do. 1933-34 } Orders to the effect that no resurvey is neces-
 Do. 1932-33 } sary in these taluks have been received.
 to
 1933-34 }

APPENDIX III.

[Vide item III—Petition to the Council—at page 328 supra.]

Madras, 2nd March 1931.

Petition to the President and Members of the Madras Legislative Council,
 Fort St. George.

From the Toll-gate contractors of the Madras Presidency.

(Presented by Mr. U. C. Subrahmanya Bhatt.)

Sirs,

We, the toll-gate contractors in the Presidency of Madras beg respectfully to submit the following facts for your kind consideration and favourable decision.

If the legislation for abolishing toll-gates in the Presidency, viz., Bill No. II of 1931 is passed into an Act and brought into force from the

[3rd March 1931]

beginning of this official year, we beg to submit that the immediate disastrous effect will be that about 15,000 persons each earning from Rs. 20 to Rs. 30 per month will be thrown out of employment.

Most of us have already taken up contracts for various toll-gates in the Province. We have on that account incurred a large preliminary expenditure which will be a loss to us in case the contracts are not confirmed on account of any decision that may be arrived at to give effect to the Bill from the beginning of this official year.

We further beg to state that most of our employees have been engaged by us on long term agreements and if we terminate their services forthwith without any notice whatsoever we will have to compensate them heavily. This will also involve us in heavy additional financial loss.

If we had been given sufficient time necessary on account of the nature of our business, we would have endeavoured our best to make the required adjustments to meet the new situation that will confront us as a result of the passing of the Motor Vehicle Taxation Bill into an Act.

We beg to assure you that we are in no way opposed to the passing of the Bill if, in your opinion, it is a desirable measure. But our prayer is only to appeal to you that having regard to the above-mentioned circumstances you will be pleased that even if the Bill is passed into an Act, to delay giving effect to the same till 1st of April 1932.

We beg to remain,

Sirs,

Your most obedient servants,

* * *

THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OF THE GOVERNOR OF MADRAS.

Wednesday, the 4th March 1931.

The House met at eleven of the clock, Mr. President (the hon. Mr. B. RAMACHANDRA REDDI) in the Chair.

PRESENT:

Usman Sahib Bahadur, Kt., The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir Mahomed.	Nanjappa Bahadur, Subadar-Major S. A. Narasa Reddi, Mr. T.
Krishnan Nayar, Kt., The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M.	Narasimhaswami, Mr. D. V.
Campbell, C.S.I., C.I.E., C.B.E., V.D., I.C.S., The hon. Mr. A. Y. G.	Narayanan Nambiyar, Mr. V. P.
Stokes, C.S.I., C.I.E., I.C.S., The hon. Mr. H. G.	Natesa Mudaliyar, Rao Bahadur C.
Muniswami Nayudu, The hon. Diwan Bahadur B.	Palat, Mr. R. M.
Rajan, the hon. Mr. P. T.	Pannirselvam, Rao Bahadur A. T.
Kumaraswami Reddiyar, The hon. Diwan Bahadur S.	Pate, I.C.S., Mr. H. R.
Abdu Hammed Khan Sahib Bahadur.	Patnaik Mahasaya, Sriman M. G.
Ahmed qasim Sahib Bahadur.	Poeker Sahib Bahadur, B.
Alamelumanga Thayarammal, Mrs. K.	Premayya, Mr. G. R.
Annamalai Chettiyar, Mr. S. A. A.	Rajagopala Pillai, Mr. P. V.
Aranu, Mr. V. T.	Raja of Bobbili.
Ari Gowder, Mr. H. B.	Ramamurti, I.C.S., Mr. S. V.
Arogyaswami Mudaliyar, Diwan Bahadur K. N.	Ramamurti, Pandit Ganada.
Basbeer Ahmed Sayeed Sahib Bahadur.	Ramaswami Ayyar, Mr. T. S.
Basu Dev, Mr. C.	Ramaswami Mudaliyar, Mr. V. M.
Bayabani Sahib Bahadur, S. M. K.	Ranganatha Mudaliyar, Mr. A.
Birley, Mr. Frank	Ranganatha Mudaliyar, Mr. G.
Browning, Mr. W. M.	Rangaswami Reddi, Mr. M. B.
Dharmalingam Pillai, Rao Sahib V.	Ratnasabhapati Mudaliyar, Diwan Bahadur C. S.
Hilton Brown, I.C.S., Mr.	Sabajanandam Swami A. S.
Indraiah, Mr. C.	Sami Venkatachalam Chetti, Mr.
Jaganmocha Raju, Rao Bahadur G.	Satyanarayana Choudari, Mr. C.
Jagannatham, Mr. H. M.	Seeba Reddi, Mr. B. P.
Jayaram Nayudu, Rao Sahib C.	Shetty, Mr. A. B.
Khalit-ul-Jah Sahib Bahadur, Khan Bahadur P.	Siva Raj, Mr. N.
Kondappa, Mr. A.	Sivasubrahmanya Ayyar, Mr. K. S.
Kumara Raja of Venkatagiri.	Soundara Pandian, Mr. W. P. A.
Luker, Mr. A. T.	Sreshta, Mr. M. S.
Madanagopal Nayudu, Mr. R.	Srinivasan, Rao Bahadur B.
Madhusoodhanan Thangal, Mr.	Sriramulu, Mr. G.
Mahboob Ali Baig Sahib Bahadur.	Subbarayan, Dr. P.
Manikkavelu Nayakar, Mr. M. A.	Subrahmanya Chetti, Rao Sahib P.
Moses, Mr. P. C.	Subrahmanya Bhatt, Mr. U. C.
Muhammad Meera Ravuttar Bahadur, K. P. V. S.	Sundara Rao Nayudu, Mr. T.
Muniswami Pillai, Rao Sahib V. I.	Svee Tajudin Sahib Bahadur, Khan Sahib.
Muthiah Chettiyar, Mr. M. A.	Vasudeva Pillai, Mr. V. G.
Nachiyappa Gounder, Mr. K. A.	Vedachala Mudaliyar, Mr. M.
	Venkataramayya, Rao Sahib Padati.
	Venugopal Nayudu, Rao Bahadur R. K.
	Watson I.C.S., Mr. H. A.
	Yahya Ali Sahib Bahadur.
	Yakub Hasan Sahib Bahadur.
	Zamindar of Mirzapuram.

[4th March 1931]

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS

Registration

Reduction of the registration fee for private attendance.

* 525 Q.—A. M. AHMED MIRAN SAHIB Bahadur: Will the hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) what is the present rate of fee for Registrars and Sub-Registrars for attendance at private residences and for how long it has been in existence;

(b) when the fee was originally raised and for what reasons;

(c) whether it is a fact that the rate of fee for Assistant Registrars, Interpreters and Commissioners of the High Court for attendance at private residence is only Rs. 10;

(d) in how many cases refunds or remissions of attendance fees in the case of parties unable to pay has taken place and what is the total amount refunded or remitted in each of the last five years; and

(e) whether the Government have arrived at any decision regarding the reduction of the present rate of attendance fee to its original amount, namely, Rs. 10?

A.—(a) Rs. 15 if the executant is a man and Rs. 10 if the executant is a woman. This fee has been in force since 1st April 1930.

(b) In 1921. It was reported that the attendances at private residences not only taxed the time of the registering officers but also caused great inconvenience to the registering public. With a view mainly to minimize the calls for such attendance the fee was raised.

(c) The fee for attendance by Assistant Registrars, Interpreters and Commissioners of the High Court at private residences is regulated by items 32 to 34 of Appendix II of the High Court Fees Rules, 1925, which are reproduced below:—

	RS.
(32) For every attendance by the Assistant Registrar or an Interpreter out of the Court House and within two miles thereof in addition to all other fees chargeable	10
(33) Or, if the actual attendance on the party is for more than one hour a further sum of	10
(34) And, for every mile beyond two miles from the High Court a further fee of	2

(d) The Government have no information but have called for it.

(e) The question is not under the consideration of Government.

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—“May I know, Sir, with regard to the question of fees for attendance at residences of registration officers, whether the hon. Minister will consider that in view of the fact that the fee levied is really high, he would reduce it in the case of gosha ladies who are not able to come out of their houses?”

The hon. Mr. P. T. RAJAN:—“The hon. Member's suggestion will be considered.”

4th March 1931]

Irrigation

Silting up of the Ponnani river in South Malabar.

* 526 Q.—Mr. R. M. PALAT: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that since the floods of 1923, the Ponnani river in South Malabar has almost been filled up with sand and silt, so that the surrounding country is flooded and great damage to crops is done even when the rains are very slight; and

(b) whether the Government have under consideration any scheme for remedying this?

A.—(a) The Government have not the information but have called for a report.

(b) No.

Mr. V. P. NARAYANAN NAMBIYAR:—“May I know whether the report called for has been received by the Government?”

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL:—“No, Sir.”

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Minor Irrigation

Supply of water to Cumbum tank.

527 Q.—S. M. K. BAYABANI SAHIB Bahadur: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have investigated any plan to supply water to the Cumbum tank;

(b) if so, what will be the approximate cost of such a plan and what time it will take to complete the work; and

(c) if not, whether the Government will consider the desirability of taking up the investigation work soon?

A.—(a), (b) & (c) The Government have no information regarding any such investigation by officers of the Public Works Department but have called for a report.

Secretariat

Representation of Muslims in the Secretariat staff.

528 Q.—S. M. K. BAYABANI SAHIB Bahadur: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) the present strength of the clerical staff in the Secretariat;

(b) how many of them are in the Upper Division and how many are in the Lower Division;

(c) how many Muslims there are in each grade; and

(d) the number of Muslims occupying temporary posts with the dates of their appointment?

A.—(a), (b), (c) & (d) The hon. Member is referred to the establishment lists of the Secretariat placed in the Legislative Council Library from which the information he seeks can readily be obtained.

[4th March 1931]

[*Note.*—An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.]

II.—THE MADRAS MOTOR VEHICLES TAXATION BILL.

The consideration of the above Bill was resumed.

Clause 16.

Clause 16 was put, passed and added to the Bill.

Clause 17.

* The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU:—“ I move, Sir,—
to omit the word “ made ” occurring after the word “ references ”
and after sub-clause (2), insert the following sub-clause,
namely:—

“(3) A draft of any rule proposed to be made under this section shall be laid on the table of the Legislative Council and the rule shall not be made unless the Council approves the draft either without modification or addition or with modifications or additions; and upon such approval being given, the rule may be made in the form in which it has been approved, and such rule, on being so made, shall be published in the Fort. St. George Gazette, and shall thereafter be of full force and effect.”

“ Sir, the object of this amendment is to bring existing clause 18 as a sub-clause to this clause.”

Mr. HILTON BROWN:—“ I second the amendment, Sir.”

The amendment was put and carried.

Clause 17, as amended, was put, passed and added to the Bill.

Clause 18.

* The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU:—“ Sir, I move—
‘ that clause 18 be omitted ’.”

Mr. HILTON BROWN:—“ I second it, Sir.”

The amendment was put and carried.

Clause 18 was then omitted.

Schedule I.

The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU:—“ I move the following amendment:—

‘ (1) Renumber items (9) to (14) under the Madras District Municipalities Act, 1920, as (11) to (16) respectively and insert the following as items (9) and (10):—

“ 9. In the explanation to section 270-B, after the word ‘ carriages ’, insert the words and figures ‘ including motor vehicles within the meaning of the Indian Motor Vehicles Act, 1914 ’.

[4th March 1931]

[Mr. B. Muniswami Nayudu]

“ 10. For section 270-D, the following section shall be substituted, namely:—

Recovery of
court-land fees,
etc.

‘ 270-D. (1) If the fee leviable under sub-section (1) of section 270-B in respect of a vehicle or animal is not paid on demand, the person appointed to collect such fee may seize and detain such portion of the appurtenances or load of such vehicle or animal as will, in his opinion, suffice to defray the amount due; in the absence of any such appurtenances or load or in the event of their value being insufficient to defray the amount due, he may seize and detain the vehicle or animal.

(2) All property seized under sub-section (1) shall be sent within twenty-four hours to the chairman or to such person as he may have authorized to receive and sell such property and the chairman shall forthwith give notice to the proprietor of the property seized or, if the proprietor is not known, or is not resident within the municipality to the person who was in charge of the said property at the time when it was seized, or if such person cannot be found, publish by beat of drum, that after the expiry of two days, exclusive of Sunday, from the date of service or publication of such notice, the property will be sold by auction at a place to be specified in the notice.

(3) If, at any time before the sale has begun, the amount due on account of the fee, together with a sum of four annas on account of charges incurred in connexion with the seizure and detention, is tendered to the chairman or other person authorized as aforesaid, the property seized shall be forthwith released.

[Mr. B. Muniswami Nayudu] [4th March 1931]

(4) *If no such tender is made, the property may be sold and the proceeds of the sale applied to the payment of—*

- (i) *the amount due on account of the fee;*
- (ii) *such penalty not exceeding the amount of the fee as the chairman may direct; and*
- (iii) *a sum of eight annas on account of charges incurred in connexion with the seizure, detention and sale.*

Sir, Section 270-D of the District Municipalities Act runs thus:—

‘If the fee leviable under sub-section (1) of section 270-B is not paid on demand, it shall be recoverable in the manner laid down in section 112 as if it were an unpaid toll.’

That provides for the recovery of cart-stand fees, etc. Section 270-D, as it stands, refers to section 112. It is proposed to abolish section 112 relating to tolls in the schedule. Therefore the procedure laid down in section 112 is incorporated here to avoid reference to that section. That is why the whole of section 112 has been reproduced here. This was pointed out by Mr. Bhanoji Rao, Chairman, Municipal Council, Vizagapatam. I therefore submit that this amendment may be accepted.”

Mr. HILTON BROWN:—“I second the amendment, Sir.”

The amendment was put and carried.

The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU:—“Sir, I move—

“That in item (13) as renumbered by the above amendment (item 11 of the Bill), in clause (b), after the word, letter and brackets “clause (c)” the following be inserted, namely:—

“and the word ‘and’ at the end of clause (b).”

“This is only a verbal amendment, Sir.”

Mr. HILTON BROWN:—“I second it, Sir.”

The amendment was put and carried.

Sriman M. G. PATNAIK Mahasaya:—“Mr. President, Sir, I beg to move—

“to insert in Schedule I under Madras Local Boards Act, 1920, in column 4 as item (iv) to (2) the following:—

“(iv) *Provided that no recommendation of a panchayat for levy of any tax on carts and animals shall be valid unless it is supported by three-fourths of its sanctioned strength.*”

11-15 a.m. In moving this amendment I have to say this, that the Act will be a boon to the agriculturists who mainly inhabit the villages. Already, Sir, the poor agriculturists are overburdened with taxes, and

4th March 1931] [Sriman M. G. Patnaik]

provision is made in the Local Boards Act that the village panchayat may recommend the levy of a tax on carts provided it has got the support of more than half its strength. I submit that this is not sufficient safeguard inasmuch as it is widely known that in almost every village there is some faction or other and the tax would not affect all classes of people as house-tax and there might be pressure from the executive. And the consequence would be that for any new tax the support of more than half the members of the village panchayat can be very easily obtained. For this reason I maintain that for the word ‘half’ the word ‘three-fourths’ should be inserted.”

Mr. ABDUL HAMMED KHAN:—“Mr. President, Sir, I second the amendment moved by Mr. Patnaik, as it is a very important one. Every hon. Member of this House who comes from the mufassal realizes that it is an important one inasmuch as it enables every cart-owner and cattle-owner to go scot-free without any toll. And now if we are to have half the strength of the panchayat for any proposal to impose a new tax, we are depriving the villagers of the advantage they reap up by this Bill. Further as pointed out by Mr. Patnaik the existing provision is liable to be misused in view of the factions in the villages. Therefore to safeguard the interests of the villagers so that they may reap the advantage they gain by this Bill I strongly support the amendment of Mr. Patnaik.”

* The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU:—“On a point of order, Sir, I don’t think it is open to amend section 75 (2) of the Local Boards Act here. Section 75 (2) of the Act runs thus: ‘The district board may by resolution determine that any tax not being a tax included in sub-section (1) or in section 76 which is recommended by a panchayat as convenient and suitable to the village shall be levied in such village. (b) No recommendation for the levy of any tax shall be submitted by a panchayat under clause (a) unless such levy is sanctioned by a resolution of the panchayat supported by not less than one-half of its sanctioned strength at a meeting specially constituted for the purpose.’ Now I submit clause 75 (2) is not proposed to be amended. What is proposed to be amended is set out in page 12 of the Bill. And it is this: ‘In section 75 (i) at the end of clause (i) of sub-section (1) the word “and” shall be inserted; (ii) the word “and” at the end of clause (ii) and clause (iii) of the same sub-section shall be omitted; (iii) in sub-section (3) the words “and tolls” in clause (a) and the words “or toll” wherever they occur in clause (b) shall be omitted.’ Thus it will be seen that section 75 (2) is not proposed to be amended. Now what is proposed by Mr. Patnaik is to add a new proviso. Hence I submit the amendment is not in order.”

Mr. T. S. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—“Mr. President, Sir, on the point of order raised by the hon. the Chief Minister, I beg to submit this. What we find is that this Act has been trying to change the provisions of various other Acts. As a matter of fact we are trying to change the provisions of the Local Boards Act and the District Municipalities

[Mr. T. S. Ramaswami Ayyar] [4th March 1931]

Act. When that is so I do not see any point in the hon. the Chief Minister's point of order. We are now trying to change a section in the Local Boards Act; we have been changing various sections of various other Acts so far as they affect motor vehicles. If a panchayat can have a right to levy taxes on a motion being made on the support of not less than one-half of its sanctioned strength, there is a special provision now made in respect of tax on buses and carts in that area that three-fourths majority should be insisted. That is the provision which is proposed to be introduced by Mr. Patnaik so as to enable this Act to work to the advantage of the agriculturists. So I don't see the point of order raised by the hon. the Chief Minister."

* Mr. C. SATYANARAYANA CHOUDARI:—"Mr. President, Sir, I am afraid the hon. the Mover as well as the Secunder and my friend Mr. Ramaswami Ayyar seem to be under a misapprehension as to the scope of the Bill. If I have understood the hon. the Chief Minister aright, his contention seems to be this: that it is beyond the scope of this Bill to introduce the amendment proposed by Mr. Patnaik. My friend, Mr. Ramaswami Ayyar, has been saying that this Bill proposes to make certain changes in the provisions of several enactments. It is true it purports to do so; if an amendment is proposed with reference to the provisions of Local Boards Act which this enactment seeks to alter or change, then the amendment will be in order. The scope of the Bill just before the House is about the abolition of tolls and about the ways and means to make up the amount that is going to be lost by the abolition of tolls. So the question whether the panchayats ought to be given power to tax the village carts for purposes of village taxation is not before the House. It is an independent matter under the Local Boards Act which the present Bill does not touch. If the amendment which Mr. Patnaik has proposed is to the effect that there should be no power vested in the panchayat to tax village carts that would be most welcome. But he has not gone so far as that. But he wants only to prescribe the method by which a village panchayat can tax village carts. I say, therefore, that the amendment is not in order."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"On the point of order raised by the hon. the Chief Minister on the discussion of this amendment, I should think that any amendment which is consequential on the provisions of the Bill under consideration, is quite in order, and so the discussion on the amendment may be resumed."

* The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU:—"Sir, the position of Government is this. Section 75 of the Local Boards Act, sub-section (1), says: 'A district board may by resolution determine that any of the following taxes and tolls shall be levied.' And then three items are given; profession tax, house-tax and tolls on carriages, carts, palanquins and animals passing along public roads or persons passing over public bridges. It is proposed by this Bill to abolish item 3. Then sub-section (2) of section 75 refers to the power of panchayats to levy

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certain taxes, and sub-section (3) provides that taxes like tolls may be levied in various ways. Now it is proposed to remove by this Bill only the methods by which the tolls may be levied. So that there still remains the provisions relating to the levy of taxes on animals, etc. Now what the amendment seeks to do is that the panchayat may levy a tax only when that resolution is supported only by not less than three-fourths of the strength of the panchayat.

"I submit, Sir, that in the first instance there is a misapprehension. For the idea that this provision exists only to enable the local bodies, or rather, the panchayats to supplement their income to meet purely their local needs has been ignored by hon. Members who have spoken on this amendment. Sir, I made it perfectly clear when I introduced the Bill as also at other stages that when the tolls are abolished the several local bodies would lose some of their income, but that if they wanted to make up that amount to some extent they could do so not by putting up toll gates again but by levying vehicle tax. Then again, Sir, it must be remembered that whereas a corporation or a municipality represents an urban area so too the panchayat represents a rural area. So in conferring upon the village panchayats certain powers of taxation, which in their opinion may be considered suitable for their needs we did not specify the particular kind of taxes they could levy. But we have provided for two safeguards; one, that the proposal emanating from a panchayat for the levying of a tax should be supported by at least half of its sanctioned strength; and two, that the proposal should be subject to the sanction of the Local Government.

"Now what the present amendment says is, 'We do not believe in these panchayats, we do not believe they will function properly; we believe in their incapacity; we believe in their factions and therefore we want to have three-fourths majority for every proposal for a new tax.' I submit there is absolutely no warrant for this presumption. To prevent any piece of legislation proceeding from faction we have provided for two safeguards, to which I just now adverted, and so I do not see any need for this amendment. Further it must be remembered that we want to give the panchayats as much freedom as possible, and to introduce this amendment will be to strike at the very root of their freedom of action to manage their affairs.

"I may also assure hon. Members that there is no fear of any toll gates being set up by the several local bodies as some members apprehend. As I said the power that is retained in the Local Boards Act and the District Municipalities Act refers only to the power to levy vehicle tax and not to tolls. And this is only to give them a chance of increasing their revenue in case the contribution from the Government is found insufficient to meet their demands.

"To go further and put the panchayats under greater restrictions than it is the case at present in the case of a tax which a panchayat can levy is not right. I may assure, hon. Members, Sir, that there is

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no intention at all that this cart tax and other taxes should be levied by the villagers. If any village in the course of its administration should find any form of taxation necessary, it is our duty to help the village panchayats as units of local administration to set their house in order. The tax on vehicles is not as inconvenient as the tolls. What we are aiming at is the abolition of tolls but not taxes on vehicles. We are continuing the tax on vehicles in municipal areas and in the Corporation, and merely authorize the local body or panchayat to continue the power which it already has. I, therefore, think it is not right, nor safe nor even advisable to restrict the power of the local panchayat if and when it thinks it necessary to levy any such tax. The two safeguards already provided in the Local Boards Act are that there should be support of half the number of the total strength for any resolution on such matter and that such a resolution is also subject to the approval of the Government."

* Mr. T. S. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"Sir, I am surprised to hear the hon. the Chief Minister who is responsible for the introduction of this Bill saying that this Bill is intended to abolish tolls alone and not to restrict the power of levying taxes on vehicles. I thought most of the Members of this House welcomed the Bill because it was expected that under this Bill the agriculturists will be benefited because carts and other vehicles which agriculturists generally use will not be liable to be taxed. It was with that hope, Sir, that this Bill was welcomed. And now we see that at the far end of the Bill, and the hon. the Chief Minister comes and says that the main object of the Bill is that tolls are to be abolished. Now, we come to the root idea that the Bill is intended to help the motorists. Does the hon. the Chief Minister suggest that bullock carts pass along many toll gates and have therefore to pay many tolls. It is not suggested that a cart goes hundreds of miles in a day and will have to pay fees at many toll gates. The intention of the Mover of the Bill now comes out. The Bill is intended merely to help the motorists who have to pass along many toll gates and can avoid paying the tolls. It was said, Sir, that cartmen and other people who use vehicles for agricultural purposes will have the benefit of the Bill and that the main responsibility for maintaining the roads will be on the shoulders of the Government and so on. But it now looks that it is not so, and that it is only the villager that is to pay for it; and the villager is not going to have much benefit by this Act. I thought, Sir, the spirit in which the hon. the Chief Minister spoke in opposing this amendment shows want of sympathy for the agriculturists. I think that this is not the correct attitude to be taken up. After all, as the Mover and the Seconder of the amendment have stated, the idea of this amendment is that it is likely that a local panchayat either probably because of faction or because of pressure from higher quarters may be forced, sometimes against its will, to levy taxes on carts; and it is to prevent that rather than to interfere with the autonomy of the village panchayats that this amendment has been brought forward. I, therefore, strongly support this amendment."

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Mr. YAKUB HASAN:—"Mr. President, Sir, the hon. the Chief Minister has stated that there is already a safeguard for the levy of taxes of this nature, namely, that it should be supported by at least half the number of the panchayat. Now the amendment only suggests that instead of half it should be raised to three-fourths. Therefore, by raising that proportion of voting for a measure of this nature, we are not introducing any new difficulty into it. We only wish to enact that it should not be left to the panchayat to pass a measure of this nature with a small majority, but only with a majority of three-fourths of its members. So, I do not see any reason why this opposition should be raised against this amendment. The right of levying a tax of this nature will continue to remain with the panchayat. The only change recommended is that instead of being supported by half the number of members, it should be by three-fourths."

* Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"I think, Sir, I can support the main contention of the hon. the Chief Minister, although I think there is a certain want of consistency in one of his arguments, namely, his objection to raising the number of supporters from half to three-fourths—there is already provision in the Act for half. In spite of that, as I said, I support his contention because I think we run no risk in giving this privilege to the village panchayat. It is a general feature of this Bill that the vehicle tax should be maintained. It is not a new feature that is introduced now. So that I think the contention of my hon. Friends that the Bill is intended to abolish the vehicle tax is not correct, for we find in the case of municipalities, the vehicle tax is being retained. So, I think we run no risk in giving this privilege to the village panchayats. The village panchayats will consist of people who are themselves agriculturists, and if they require for the purpose of improving the village amenities and if they think that they can raise the condition by levying a vehicle tax, I think there is no harm in allowing them to have this privilege. As I said, we run no risk of unnecessary harassment by the levy of taxation which will not be acceptable, because it is on half the members agreeing to it that it is levied."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"Only one word I want to add, Sir, and it is this. If this amendment is accepted, it will mean raising many impediments in the way of the transaction of business of the panchayats. As rules now stand, any taxation measure has to be supported not by a majority of those present, but by more than half of the sanctioned strength, so that if the number of those present at a particular meeting is less than its full sanctioned strength, say three-fourths of the sanctioned strength, it will happen very often that the people supporting the levy of the tax will be three-fourths of those present at the meeting. But to go further and say, whatever may be the number of members present, three-fourths of the sanctioned strength should be in support of it, would be probably asking for a condition which will not be capable of fulfilment. I may

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also add from my own experience of the working of the panchayats that they are not in a hurry to tax themselves. I would put it to hon. Members to say how many out of the thousands formed are taxing themselves. Very few indeed. And so, I think we can leave the factions and other things to the villagers, and not introduce an amendment like this."

The amendment was then put and lost.

* The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU:—"I move, Sir, the amendment which stands in my name and which runs thus:—

'Re-number items (7) to (12) under the Madras Local Boards Act, 1920, as (9) to (14) respectively and insert the following as items (7) and (8):—

"(7) In the Explanation to section 184, after the word 'carriages', the words and figures 'including motor vehicles within the meaning of the Indian Motor Vehicles Act, 1914', shall be inserted.

"(8) For section 186, the following section shall be substituted, namely:—

Recovery of
cart-stand
fees, etc.

'186. (1) If the fee leviable under sub-section (1) of section 184 in respect of a vehicle or animal is not paid on demand, the person duly authorized to collect the same may seize such vehicle or animal, or any part of its burden, and detain the same in his custody.

(2) If such fee together with the expenses occasioned by such seizure and detention, remains unpaid for twelve hours, the person duly authorized as aforesaid shall forthwith send the vehicle, animal or other property seized as aforesaid to the nearest public officer empowered to sell distrained property under the Madras Rent and Revenue Sales Act, 1839.

(3) Such officer shall forthwith give notice to the owner of the property seized, or, if the owner is not known or is not resident in the neighbourhood, to the person who was in charge of the said property at the time when it was seized, and if he is not found, publish by beat of drum that, after the expiration of two days exclusive of Sunday from the date of service or after the said publication of

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such notice, he will sell the said property by auction at a place to be specified in the notice.

(4) If, at any time before the sale, the person to whom notice has been given or the owner of the property seized tenders to the said officer the amount due on account of the fee and of all the expenses occasioned by the non-payment thereof and by the seizure and detention of the property, the property seized shall be forthwith released.

(5) If no tender is made to such officer, he shall sell the said property or a sufficient portion thereof by auction and apply the proceeds of the sale to the payment of the amount due on account of the fee and the expenses incidental to the seizure, detention and sale of the property and shall return to the person in whose possession the property was at the time of seizure any property or sum which may remain after the sale and the application of the proceeds thereof as aforesaid."

"Sir, this is analogous to the other provision which I moved before with regard to the District Municipalities Act. Here also one of the modifications in the Local Boards Act proposed is that these fees are to be recovered as if they are arrears of tolls. Therefore the whole of it is being incorporated with a view to adopt that procedure to the Local Boards Act also."

Mr. HILTON BROWN:—"I second it."

The amendment was put and carried.

Schedule I, as amended, was then put, passed and added to the Bill.

Schedule II.

Rao Sahib B. VENKATARAMAYYA NAYUDU:—"In view of the statement made by the hon. the Chief Minister, yesterday, I do not move my amendment to this schedule."

* Mr. V. T. ARASU:—"In view of the fact that the hon. the Chief Minister himself has given a substantial amendment to this schedule which will relieve the burden on the bus-owners, I crave leave of the House to withdraw the amendment standing in my name."

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* The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU:—"Sir, I move the amendment standing in my name and which runs thus:

'For item 4 of Schedule II, substitute the following:—

"4. Motor vehicles plying for hire and used for the transport of passengers:—

	RS.	RS.
(a) Vehicles licensed under the Madras Motor Vehicles Rules, 1923, to carry in all not more than four persons	40	60
(b) Vehicles licensed under the Madras Motor Vehicles Rules, 1923, to carry more than four persons—for every person which the vehicle is so licensed to carry	10	15"

"Sir, this is an amendment which I am introducing with a view to lessen the amount which the buses plying for hire will have to pay. This was the result of a discussion with some Members representative of all the groups of the House, though I am sorry to learn from one Member at least yesterday that he misunderstood me as meaning Rs. 10 per person for every half year and not for a quarter.

11-45 a.m. "The amendment will go considerably to reduce the amount fixed in the old schedule. And in view of the statement made yesterday that in giving effect to these provisions in the first year it will be reduced by 25 per cent with regard to the items under this item 4, I hope the House will accept the amendment. It was originally proposed to charge Rs. 75 for all vehicles carrying seven persons and less, Rs. 135 up to 14 and Rs. 215 up to 21 and similar rates above that. It is now proposed not to group them under the seating capacity but apply the distribution of class grouping merely on the number of seats, so that those who have buses of a carrying capacity of 17, 19, 20, 21 will have to pay proportionately and not the lump rate that will be applicable to 21. The experience of the first year with regard to the proceeds will determine the attitude of the Government whether they should raise in the subsequent years or not."

Mr. Hilton Brown seconded the amendment.

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"With regard to this amendment of the hon. the Chief Minister I have to say this much. In the course of the informal talk the Chief Minister was good enough to have with some of the Members of this Council this question was discussed. The first proposal was that the tax levied on the motor vehicles will not be under any circumstances more than 50 per cent of what obtains at present. That was the question we were considering. Then the Chief Minister took hold of a paper in which the schedule was placed before him evidently by the Secretary. He said, Sir, he would charge at the rate of

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Rs. 10. We also made a mistake; we did not ask whether it was for a quarter or half a year. We were under the impression that it was ten rupees for half year. We felt that it was somewhat low, lower than what it should have been. We kept quiet. Just then my hon. Friends who were tired did not want to stay a minute longer thinking that some relief was given. It was a mistaken impression and Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti was one of them. (A voice: 'Not at all'.) Probably he has revised his opinion about himself. I do admit that the relief goes a long way but that it does not go long enough. Therefore I thought the hon. the Chief Minister would have done well if he had reduced it further. This rate will give a large amount of relief to the owners in the mufassal. They are paying a good deal of amount daily at the rate of Rs. 1,200 per month. They will now be called upon to pay only Rs. 600 or so so that they will get a relief of Rs. 600. To that extent they will be benefited. It is not so in the case of the city. They will have to pay much more. There are a large number of vehicles in the city carrying 19 persons. Calculating at Rs. 7-8-0 per passenger it comes to Rs. 285 whereas they are paying only Rs. 200. There is another thing that has come upon them like the bolt from the blue, viz., the new taxation by the Central Government on petrol. That will be Rs. 100 per month more than what they have been paying. In view of the new circumstances that have arisen I think it is necessary that we should give them relief in proportion to the new circumstances and in order also to mitigate the trouble. Even if this tax is levied I am afraid a large number of motor bus-owners and taxi owners will go out of existence and will be crushed. Take it from me that it will go into the hands of the capitalists and concerns like the Tramway Company will be benefited. If that is the object of the Bill let it go on. For the European concerns it may be a benefit. I think the Chief Minister would have considered the question of giving them further relief by a reduction in the rate."

* Mr. V. T. ARASU:—"Mr. President, Sir, I am really surprised at the attitude taken by my hon. Friend from Madras Mr. Hameed Khan. I thought he would be charitable enough to credit the hon. the Chief Minister with some sense. I am afraid he is not. For, if we calculate at the rate of Rs. 7-8-0 per half year, a bus of the average seating capacity will have to pay much less than what it now pays to the Madras Corporation. The Chief Minister could never have suggested such a proposition, nor would we have consented to such a proposition knowing as we do the financial implications of this measure. Mr. Hameed Khan has also made another statement which I very much wish he had not made. The hon. Member said that the intention of the framers of this Bill obviously must have been to help the Madras Tramway Company. I strongly protest against the insinuation which he would have done well if he had not made it on the floor of this House. I am at a loss to know how it is going to help the Tramway Company and crush the bus-owner. My friend in the course of his speech said that the motor buses have become a necessity in the City. If we can believe that statement, then, Sir, I submit that the bus-owner

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can very easily shift the incidence of this taxation on to the consumers and escape it altogether. In these circumstances I cannot see how the Tramway Company can steal a march over the bus-owners and crush them. The rate proposed by the Chief Minister is a very reasonable one, and therefore I have great pleasure in supporting the amendment that has just been moved by the hon. the Chief Minister."

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI:—"I feel bound to support the hon. the Chief Minister in the schedule of rates just now proposed. In doing so I cannot allow myself to be ignored in the attempts we made to get round the Chief Minister to agree to these rates. If we were not obliged to find as huge a sum as 65 to 70 lakhs in order to distribute to the local bodies probably the Chief Minister would not have lagged behind any other person in further reducing the schedule of fees proposed to be levied on these taxis and buses. That he was able to do at least to this extent is certainly a matter on which every member is bound to thank him. I cannot agree with the unwarranted condemnation of my Friend Mr. Hameed Khan. What I wish to say is, whether any hon. Member has any intention of attributing motives or not, the fact is one and the same. But for the fact that the two European Councillors who represent a like trade concern in this Bill have agreed to this measure, I would have also shared the fear which my Friend Mr. Hameed Khan has entertained. To that extent I do not think Mr. Hameed Khan is wrong in fearing such a contingency. We only request the Chief Minister to watch the progress of this Bill and if any such threatened calamity should happen I hope he will come with a revised schedule in order to see that competition is not made such a formidable thing for the bus traffic to go on."

* Mr. YAKUB HASAN:—"Mr. President, Sir, the calculation of the tax per head is no doubt an improvement in the schedule. But it cannot be said that the incidence of the tax thus calculated will be any less than it is now. In the City of Madras, Sir, the present tax on motor buses for less than 15 persons or less is Rs. 150. It means Rs. 10 per head half yearly or Rs. 5 quarterly. In the case of cars carrying 3 to 7 it comes to Rs. 7 per head half yearly or Rs. 3-8-0 quarterly. But in the case of the rates that have been in the original Bill the rate for a bus carrying 14 persons comes to Rs. 9-10-0 per head. If the maximum carrying capacity is seven the rate comes to Rs. 10-8-0 per head. If the maximum is 21 it comes to Rs. 10-4-0. So to make it Rs. 10 is practically no concession whatever in the rates. If they had gone a little further and instead of Rs. 10 if they had fixed the rate at Rs. 8 there would have been some relief. No doubt the car that carries only four persons will now have the concession of paying Rs. 40 only instead of paying Rs. 70 even if the original rate had remained for a bus of 3 to 4 persons capacity. If the maximum is taken as the basis then there is no relief. I would be glad if the hon. the Chief Minister would find his way to reduce it from Rs. 10 to Rs. 8 then he can take credit for having made the rates easy for the bus and taxi owners. But as it stands not much relief is given."

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* Rao Bahadur C. NATESA MUDALIYAR:—"Mr. President, Sir, I am extremely thankful to the hon. the Chief Minister for having carried through this Bill in such a conciliatory way. It was all a give and take method which he followed. But, I strongly support my hon. Friend, Mr. Hameed Khan, in pleading for the taxis and buses in the City of Madras. Of course, the reduction so kindly made by the hon. Minister is beneficial to all the districts except the City of Madras. Here we have no toll-gates to pass through. For vehicles that go through the toll-gates and pay tolls, when they are exempted from the tolls, it will be a benefit. But on the other hand, for the Madras taxis and buses which have not seen a toll-gate, the rates will be high and consequently the people who use the buses and taxis will suffer. They say it will benefit all the ryots. Here, where are the ryots? In fact, this Bill will hit hard the taxi-owner, and the bus-owner in the city. So, as the Chief Minister has been very kind to reduce the originally proposed tax by 25 per cent all round, I hope he will be kind enough to see that the rate for the city taxis and buses is reduced at least by 10 per cent more than the 25 per cent reduction. If not, most of the bus-owners have to sell away their buses and keep quiet. We know that even now some are not able to pay the licence fees and the Madras Corporation is distraining and auctioning their buses. That is the present position. I hope the hon. Minister will take this into consideration. If he is so minded, he can defeat this amendment, because he has a majority on his side; but anyhow, I hope he will bear this in mind, and see, as Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti said, that, if this Bill as it is passed, kills the bus traffic, he revises it very soon and brings in an amendment to this effect."

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"Sir, if you will kindly permit me, I shall move the last amendment that stands in my name, viz.,

'The rate of taxation shall not be more than Rs. 7-8-0 per paying passenger.'

"I wish to say at the outset that I am certainly not unconscious of the reasonable way in which the hon. the Chief Minister is dealing with the matter in regard to the reduction of rates. But, Sir, we have not yet come to the last stage. We are now still struggling with the provisions of the Bill, and in doing so it is our object to see, to the extent to which it is possible for us, that relief is given. Sir, I know that the hon. the Chief Minister has brought down the rate to Rs. 10. I think when the rules will be made he will fix the rate, for six months or one year as the case may be, at Rs. 7-8-0 per seat. That is the object perhaps he has in view, and I am sure he will come out with a statement after the Bill is passed. What my amendment seeks to do is to regularise the procedure. We are going to charge per seat Rs. 7-8-0 according to the hon. Minister's amendment and according to the 25 per cent reduction that he is proposing to give. If we are going to charge at the rate of Rs. 7-8-0 per seat, what justification will there be if we are charging for a seat that will not pay the owner of a taxi or a bus? We shall not

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be justified at all in taxing for a seat which is not going to pay him practically any money. In a bus, Sir, which is licensed to carry 19 persons, it includes accommodation for one driver and one conductor. That means two persons occupying seats in the bus do not pay any fare for the vehicle. Therefore, we will not be justified in taxing that vehicle also on the basis of those two seats which do not bring in any fare. That is the object of my amendment. I suppose it is an object which the Chief Minister and other Members of the House will realize, and if that is done, I am sure we will be giving relief to the people who will be hit hard. But in doing so, we felt also for our Friends from the mufassal. On a question of principle, there is no justification in taxing for a seat which does not pay fare. That is the object, Sir, I have in view in moving this amendment for the acceptance of the House."

B. POCKER SAHIB Bahadur:—"Sir, I rise to second this amendment. In doing so, I wish only to mention that it is conceded by the hon. the Chief Minister that the result of his amendment will be generally to raise the liability of the bus-owners at least by 50 per cent. Even that I say the present bus-owners cannot afford to pay. In the present state of financial stringency which affects not only the bus-owners but one and all, it will be hard to ask the bus-owner to pay 50 per cent more. At any rate, so far as the City of Madras is concerned, where the bus-owners pay no toll at all and where by this measure they do not get any relief at all, if the tax that they now pay is increased by 50 per cent, the only alternative for them will be to close their bus business, and the City of Madras will be deprived of the benefit of the bus service. There is no doubt about it. I am sure that the hon. the Chief Minister himself may deplore the result of this measure and will have to find means later on to rectify the mistake. So far as the mufassal is concerned, as I said yesterday, all of us are absolutely in the dark. We have no statistics to measure the exact extent to which the several classes of bus-owners will be affected by this Bill. In this state of affairs, when the hon. Minister has conceded that for the first year he is going to levy tax only at the rate of Rs. 7-8-0 per seat, it is only reasonable that he should translate his intention by making a provision in the Act itself to that effect to benefit the owners of buses and cars. I do not know why he should reserve with him the power to raise the tax even after a year. If he thinks an increase is necessary, after a year he can certainly come to the House and get the Act amended for raising it. If this amendment is not going to be accepted by the hon. Minister, I shall just make an appeal to him that, so far as the City of Madras is concerned, in the rules that he may make under the powers given by this Act he will provide that as regards persons owning buses which are confined to the City of Madras alone the rate should be fixed at Rs. 5 per seat for the present. Even that will be very heavy. However, so far as the City is concerned he ought to make an exception, and he may levy only Rs. 5 per seat instead of the rate which he may follow with reference to the mufassal. So, I second the motion of my Friend, Mr. Hameed Khan."

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* Diwan Bahadur C. S. RATNASABHAPATI MUDALIYAR:—"I rise to oppose this amendment. In proposing this amendment, I am afraid the Mover has lost sight of the main object of this Bill. The prime object of this Bill, if I have understood it correctly, is to find the revenue which will be equivalent to the toll income that will be forgone by the local bodies consequent on the abolition of tolls. When the Government distributed a statement giving the number of buses and also the revenue that will be derived at the rates of tax which was originally suggested in the Bill, they said that a sum of Rs. 66 lakhs would be realized as against Rs. 60 lakhs which is the average of the last three years that has been realized by the local bodies as toll income. In my opinion, this sum of Rs. 60 lakhs must have been based on a wrong calculation of the number of buses. At those rates, Government cannot expect to realize even 75 per cent of the existing revenue. Now, I charge the hon. Chief Minister for having agreed to a rate of Rs. 10 per seat per quarter sacrificing the interests of the local bodies. In the original Bill, a fee of Rs. 425 per half-year was fixed for a bus intended to carry more than 14 but less than 21 persons irrespective of the number of seats. That is, a 16 seater bus was expected to yield Rs. 425 for a half year. But now according to the agreement which he has arrived at with some Members of this House, he proposes to reduce that sum by nearly 50 per cent, and this will yield only 50 per cent of the Rs. 66 lakhs which is the sum originally expected, and so the local bodies who are made to lose a growing income will be made to forgo even that income which was promised by the original Bill. If that is going to be the case, I appeal to the hon. Minister to withdraw the Bill altogether and allow the local bodies to continue as before. If the local bodies had to agree to this Bill at all, it was because an evil institution had to be abolished. I request the Government to give an assurance that they would give to the local bodies at least 75 per cent of the average income of the last three years fixing the rate of tax as low as possible. I am sure the local bodies will be contented if such an assurance were given by the Government. So, I very strongly oppose this amendment, and again charge the hon. Minister for not fully taking into account the interests of the local bodies and the public in maintaining their roads in a proper condition, while he agrees to a rate of Rs. 10 per seat."

* Mr. A. T. LUKER:—"Sir, perhaps as a man who started this idea of Rs. 10 per seat, I should like just to say one or two words on the rate of taxation suggested in the amendment. No one has more sympathy for the Madras and certain other bus-owners who have hitherto escaped paying toll-gate fees than I, but I have yet to listen to or know any workable scheme which will be fair throughout the Presidency and which would give exception to any one who has hitherto escaped paying tolls."

"Now, a further point has been made about Rs. 10 per seat bringing down the total revenue and also about the estimate of vehicles at present used. Speaking as a man who has been in the motor trade for many years, I know how difficult it is to form an adequate estimate of

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the vehicles in use. I am certainly on the optimistic side in regard to the total collection we should get. I think the scale of Rs. 10 per seat is certainly fair, as it does not jeopardize or harm any one against another man, or one bus-owner against another owner. It gives every one a fair chance to make what profit the various district boards and other people will allow him to make after they collected their high licence fees.

12-15
P.M.

"I have an appeal to make to them and that is not to kill the bus traffic by high licence fees, but rather to help such by levying reasonable fees and allowing the buses at present in use to continue to run on the roads. After all, people have invested money in the business and they are entitled to expect a just return. It is therefore up to the various district boards and municipalities and others in a very large way to see how much of the present tax they are going to get."

The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU:—"Sir, I am sorry I cannot accept the amendment. In this matter we have worked out a rate which will not hit hard any one, and now, to restrict the carrying capacity only to passengers is rather difficult to accept as it would bring down the revenue expected. I am not willing to do so especially in view of the protests made on behalf of the district boards."

* Mr. YAKUB HASAN:—"Sir, I wish to speak on this amendment. I have just now pointed out, Sir, that at present the buses are charged in the City of Madras at the rate of Rs. 3-8-0 per seat for a quarter in the case of the smaller buses or taxis and at Rs. 5 per quarter per seat in the case of the larger ones. At the rate proposed in the Bill they will have to pay Rs. 10 per quarter per seat. It means that the proposed rate is more than double in the case of the smaller buses and taxis and just double in the case of the larger ones. In the case of private cars, I find that at present four-seater cars pay Rs. 35 per half year or Rs. 70 per year to the municipality. Now the private cars are proposed to be charged at the rate of Rs. 25 per quarter or Rs. 100 per annum. In this case the jump is from Rs. 70 to Rs. 100 whereas in the case of the buses it is double in some cases and more than double in others. This jump would show that you have not been guided by any sense of proportion. The increase in the rates at which the buses are proposed to be charged is quite out of proportion to the increase in the rate at which the private cars are proposed to be charged. Under the circumstances, I think, Sir, this amendment to levy the rate at Rs. 7-8-0 per head is a very reasonable one that can be unhesitatingly accepted. Sir, your object is to collect a certain sum from this source so that that money may be paid to the district boards and municipalities to compensate them for the loss of the toll revenue. But in trying to raise this sum, you should also take into consideration the effect it will have on the motor traffic itself. If it will in any way interfere with the traffic and reduce the number of buses that are now available to the public, it will, in another way, reduce your income. If I remember

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right the hon. the Chief Minister said that later on we can reduce the rates if necessary. But I say that instead of reducing the rates later on, it would be much better to start with lower rates and then, if it is found that the income is not sufficient and that the buses are considered able to pay higher rates easily, you can increase them. Let us try this for one year. You may not lose much in that time. On the other hand, if rates are low the traffic might continue to improve in the usual course as other causes are also operating towards the expansion of the motor traffic and you might get larger income in spite of lower rates and then there will be no necessity to increase the rates. Therefore in the interests of the motor traffic which poor people are using to a very large extent in preference to the slow railways and in view of the fact that the motor bus is the only fast conveyance available in places where the locomotive has not yet made its appearance, I should think that we should help rather than hinder the growth of motor traffic. I am afraid that in order to raise a required sum of money, we are doing a thing which will in the end tell on the traffic and the very object of raising a definite amount will be thwarted. If you put the tax at a little lower rate, it will not interfere with the expansion that is going on on account of other causes and you will get the amount you expect by the expansion of the motor traffic. This factor should also be taken into account. Even if our expectations in this direction are not realized and there is a little shortage in the amount eventually realized by this experiment—it is after all an experiment, and we are probing in the dark—you can very well bear the few lakhs diminution in this respect. It will not cripple the Government. I will, Sir, ask the Members of this House to bear in mind the fact that this Bill is being enabled to be passed simply because all of us have adopted in this matter the policy of give and take. In the case of the rates also, let us adopt the policy of give and take. Let not one side insist on taking only. Let it also give in a little. I will appeal to all the Members of the House not to make it a party question. We are all co-operating in the passing of this Bill. If I had persisted in the attitude that I had adopted in the beginning, and if only we had canvassed for the rejection of the Bill we would have very nearly succeeded. But we gave up that attitude and we have co-operated with the hon. the Chief Minister in bringing about a sort of compromise. I appeal to all the Members of the House to carry this amendment and not be carried away by other ideas to support the Chief Minister because he happens to be the leader of the Justice party."

* Mr. T. S. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"In supporting this amendment I desire to draw the attention of the House to the fact that the motorist is taxed not by one authority, but by three authorities. There is the local board which has to grant the licence, then there is the charge for registration and then there is this provincial tax. On top of all this there is the petrol tax which the Central Legislature is levying. It was only yesterday that the price of petrol was raised on account of the announcement by the Central Legislature that it is going to increase the tax on petrol. Motorists therefore have to pay to three authorities and each

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authority is anxious to get out of them as much as possible. Under such circumstances it is not possible for the motor industry to prosper. After all the bus traffic really helps the poor man as it is the poor man's conveyance. I request the House to take this fact into consideration and fix the rate at Rs. 7-8-0 per seat instead of Rs.10. If, after a year we find that the bus-owner is able to pay all these charges and put by something, then it will be possible for us to raise the tax. We need not be in a hurry to get as much out of the bus-owner as possible and make him go under before we realize the tax."

* Mr. M. A. MANIKKAVELU NAYAKAR:—"Sir, the rate agreed to by the Select Committee for a seven-seater bus is Rs. 75; but the amendment proposes that vehicles licensed under the Madras Motor Vehicles Rules, 1923, to carry in all not more than four persons, should pay Rs. 40. No doubt there is a reduction in the rate from Rs. 75 to Rs. 40; but the number has been reduced from 7 to 4. In a taxi, the driver and the conductor are always present. According to this amendment, the driver and conductor will occupy two places and there will be room only for two passengers. I think this is a great hardship. I will have no objection if the hon. Minister would raise the number from 4 to 5 at least."

The amendment of Mr. Hameed Khan was then put and lost.

The hon. the Chief Minister's amendment was then put and carried.

Schedule II, item 5.

12-30 P.M. Mr. V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"I beg to move the amendment that stands in my name and which runs as follows:—

	RS.	RS.
'In Schedule II, item 5—for "(b)" read "weighing more than 15 cwt. but not more than 25 cwt. ...	20	35'

"Sir, my amendment seeks to make this change, viz., that for motor vehicles weighing 15 cwt. but not more than 25 cwt. the tax should be Rs. 20. That is to say it seeks to reduce the tax by a quarter.

"My second amendment reads thus:

	RS.	RS.
'In Schedule II, item 5—for "(c)" read "weighing more than 25 cwt. but not more than 45 cwt. ...	35	50'

"This amendment would increase the tax from Rs. 32-8-0 to Rs. 35.

"I am compelled to bring to the notice of this House the position of the middle class people in this matter. The middle class man has got a tendency of running with the hare and hunting with the hound. He wants to copy the modes and fashions of the rich man but is not in a position to meet the expenses by the adoption of those modes. In this connexion I would also remind the House that just

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now a further strain has been put on the pockets of the middle class people who use motor cars, namely, additional taxation imposed by the Imperial Government budget which levies a surcharge of 2 annas per gallon of petrol. Cars possessed by middle class people cannot be styled as luxury cars. What has been passing in my mind is this: that middle class people are compelled to use cars by their business and not by their choice. The use of the cars by them is therefore in a very large sense forced upon them. If they are to keep pace with the rate at which things are moving in this world, and the work that has been thrust upon them, and in order to eke out their livelihood they are compelled to have cars. The ordinary middle man as a rule goes in for Ford's or Chevrolet's cars. Large number of cars are going on the roads and that is known to hon. Members of this House. I have no doubt that the whole scheme of Schedule II recognizes these facts and that is why they have proposed that greater and greater tax should be placed on vehicles in proportion to the strain they put on the roads. If that principle is conceded the case of the middle class man is not only one of great weight, but may I say of reason. I therefore submit that a moderately weighted vehicle is entitled to some concession at the hands of the Government. In the English Motor Vehicles Taxation Act, I may remind hon. Members of this House, the taxation of motor vehicle is not calculated on the weight of the car, but only on the horse-power. When horse-power is taken into consideration, I am sure that the classification that I am trying to suggest would include the cars possessed by middle class people. Such cars are not intended as luxury cars. I would therefore earnestly appeal to the hon. the Chief Minister that from the point of view of giving relief to the much-taxed middle class men he should accept my amendment which seeks to tax only cars weighing 15 cwt. and not more than 25 cwt.

"It may be argued that the loss of taxation on that head must be met and that is why in the next amendment I propose to reduce the weight from 30 cwt. to 25 cwt. and that the taxes may be raised from Rs. 32-8-0 to Rs. 35. I think if that amendment is carried it will make up for the deficiency. I think it is worth while to give a chance to the middle class man to use this quick means of transport. As another hon. Member who spoke previous to this amendment said the greater the privileges that are given to the motor-using public the greater is the income that could be expected. In this connexion I would appeal to the hon. the Chief Minister that in order to encourage the middle class man to have recourse to this means of quick transport, he will be pleased to accept this amendment."

* Mr. M. A. MANIKKAVELU NAYAKAR:—"I beg to second the amendment. The hon. Minister need not be alarmed at this very reasonable amendment, because he need not even touch or cut the return from the scheduled rates. While this amendment seeks to reduce the taxes on vehicles weighing certain number of hundredweights, by the other amendment my hon. Friend Mr. Ramaswami Mudaliyar has sought to increase the income. Therefore it does not affect the rate or the return.

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Again as my hon. Friend has pointed out if the principle of taxation is that the richer man should be taxed more than the ordinary middle class man, then I think this amendment should be accepted. Moreover the hon. the Chief Minister and my hon. Friend Mr. Luker, the expert Member, if I may so call him, were speaking on this point and I hope they have arrived at some figures by this time. Therefore I do hope that the hon. Minister will have no objection to accept this amendment."

* Mr. V. T. ARASU:—"Mr. President, Sir, I have great pleasure in lending my support to the amendment moved by my hon. Friend from North Arcot particularly the second part of the same. One of the essential principles underlying taxations all the world over is the principle of progression; or what may otherwise be called ability to pay is the nearest test for the imposition of a tax. As my hon. Friend from North Arcot rightly observed cars weighing between 25 cwt. and 40 cwt. are luxury cars owned by people who can afford to pay a higher rate than what is proposed in the schedule. From the point of view of revenue also, the levy of an increased rate, as is suggested by Mr. Ramaswami Mudaliyar, would be productive of an increased return with which the Chief Minister can make good the decrease in the revenue consequent on the adoption of the first part of Mr. Ramaswami Mudaliyar's amendment. I would, therefore, request the hon. the Chief Minister to accept this amendment."

* The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU:—"However much I would like to accept this amendment I am sorry I have to oppose this amendment. It is not a question of any expert Member agreeing to do certain things. It is not so very easy to find what the financial implications are if we accept this amendment. I can only say that if after examination I find that it will not lead to serious financial reduction, I shall consider the issuing of a notification fixing the reduced rate. But, Sir, as I said, the main consideration is to what extent the financial returns will be affected if the proposed amendment is accepted. I therefore earnestly request the hon. Member that the Bill may be left as it is and I shall try to do what I can in the interests of the middle class man."

Mr. V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"In view of the assurance given by the hon. the Chief Minister that he would look after the interests of the middle class man, and also with the permission of the seconder, I beg to withdraw my amendment."

The amendment was by leave withdrawn.

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"What about your second amendment?"

Mr. V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"When I moved my first amendment I also made my remarks with regard to the second. But now I do not press it."

Then Schedule II as amended was put, passed and added to the Bill.

Then the Preamble was put, passed and made part of the Bill.

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The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU:—"I move—
'That the Bill be passed into law'."

Diwan Bahadur C. S. RATNASABHAPATI MUDALIYAR:—"I second it."

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"Before we could achieve the passing of the Bill, I may say that it was the painful duty of some of us on this side of this House as well as on the other, to struggle through item by item to see that, when the Bill is passed, its effects on the persons concerned will not be harsh, and that it will not alter the existing situation in the country. Sir, in the Select Committee and even at the time when the Bill was being considered by this House I must admit that the hon. the Chief Minister has been endeavouring his best to give way to the extent to which he could possibly do. More than that, I must admit that the hon. the Chief Minister realized that the effect of this Bill will not be in the same proportion on the persons concerned throughout the Province. He realized also that the taxi-owners and bus-owners would be affected adversely and it is on that account he assured us that after putting the Act into execution if he comes to realize that it works as a great hardship he will certainly try his best to mitigate its effects on that class of people."

"Under section 11 he has got that power. I have no doubt that he will do his best to help those persons who will be affected adversely when the Act is put into force. In the Bill you cannot find from beginning to end any clause which does not impose any penalty, and I think this will work as a hardship on some people. But I believe these penalties will remain on the Statute Book for the sake of being enforced on the defaulters and that these penal sections will be used rather sparingly. Sir, with regard to Schedule II, I know that it will also work as a hardship on persons who own lorries and who ply them for trade purposes."

"The rates that have been fixed are rather high. They are, in some cases, three or four times the existing rates. We could not tackle that question because the number of people that will be affected at the present moment, is not large. This is a growing industry and in these days when motor vehicles have taken the place of ordinary carts and carriages, it would have been better if, in levying these taxes, we had given facilities and encouragement for the progress of this industry. I hope, Sir, that the hon. Chief Minister will use section 11 to help the people. Now that the Bill will be passed into an Act, I must say that the institution of toll-gates which has been a hindrance for free passage and speedy transportation, will cease to exist. I hope also that the main object, that has been underlying this Bill, of giving relief to the villager will also be achieved. If my hon. Friends, Presidents of District Boards and those connected with Panchayats and Unions will not, the moment the Bill is passed, go back to their places and make up this loss by increasing the licencing fee or levying it in some form

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P. m.

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or other, I have no doubt that the Bill will be a very salutary one. We ought to congratulate the hon. the Chief Minister and my hon. Friend, Mr. Hilton Brown, the Secretary of the Department who has been agreeing with the hon. the Chief Minister in every step which he has taken in arriving at a compromise with some of us who wish to mitigate its effect on the class of people that will be affected by the provisions of this Bill.

"The success of this Bill will entirely depend upon the body that will be constituted, because, otherwise, a large percentage of cars—particularly private cars—will escape this tax, as they have been doing at the present time. If the institution that will be set up will collect the taxes from all classes of people, I have no doubt that the amount that will be collected will be certainly much larger than what is expected. We know that, in the province, at least 20,000 private cars ply. But according to the statistics that have been prepared, there are only 10,000 private cars. If every car is taxed, I have no doubt that the revenue will certainly be much larger than our present estimates. These are some of the points which I wanted to refer to. We are certainly grateful to the hon. the Chief Minister and to Mr. Hilton Brown for the help they have rendered to us and for the compromising spirit with which they went into the details of the Bill, in order to mitigate the hardship that will be experienced by the class of people that will be affected by the passing of this Bill."

* Mr. T. S. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"Sir, I desire to congratulate the hon. the Chief Minister on the passing of this Bill at this session of the House. I know, Sir, that it had to be rushed through, on account of the necessity to bring the Act into force, if possible, on the 1st April. I am afraid that this is responsible for some small errors that have crept into the Bill. There are a few errors in the Bill; the wording in some places might have been better. But these are matters of detail rather than those relating to the general aspects of the Bill. I welcome the measure as one which will really help the agriculturists. I welcome it as a Bill—if it is worked in the spirit in which it has been conceived—which will help the people in getting cheap conveyance. But the one thing about which we have been entertaining some fears—I am not quite sure that our fears are not unfounded—is that the rates which we have fixed in the schedule are perhaps a bit too high.

"As I said in supporting one of the amendments with regard to the schedule, I think that this Bill is likely to affect the motor trade at least in the first year; for, in the current year the Legislative Assembly has put a surcharge tax of two annas on a gallon of petrol. That is going to affect all motor owners irrespective of the fact whether they are people owning private cars or letting them for commercial purposes. We have now levied these rates. Added to all these, there is the licensing fee that is leviable by the local boards. I was wondering how the hon. Member who represents Coimbatore expected that the taxes we are now imposing are likely to affect the revenues of local bodies. I think

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this Bill is not going to affect them adversely. On the other hand, there is the likelihood of the local bodies getting more income by way of registration charges. The grievances of the motorist with regard to registration will have to be remedied if the Bill is to be worked in the spirit in which it has been conceived.

"Another thing that has to be considered in working this Act, is the machinery—the nature of the machinery,—that we have to employ. If you are going to agree to a new machinery, that will mean that the collection charges and the working expenses will be heavy and it will take away a big lot of the amount that we will be able to collect by way of taxes. I would therefore suggest that the machinery that is already working in the districts with regard to motor vehicles, might be utilized even now with good advantage. I am not one of those who are scared away by the policeman stopping the car. If the policeman has to stop it for the purpose of finding out whether the owner has got a licence or whether the car otherwise bears all the requisites, I think, Sir, that the owner is bound to stop the car and help the policeman in discharging his duties. At present it is the police that are checking the registration of motor vehicles. I therefore think that the police or the District Magistrate with the present staff under him, may be asked to work the Act. It will mean less expenditure; we need not incur more expenditure by having a new establishment. If we appoint a new establishment, we will have to spend a large portion of the income on this establishment. With these words I congratulate the hon. the Chief Minister; I also desire to convey the thanks of this House to Mr. Hilton Brown for the indefatigable energy he has been evincing and for getting the Bill through within the requisite time."

* Mr. V. T. ARASU:—"Mr. President, Sir, we are, this day, putting an end to a system of taxation which is perhaps as old as the British connexion itself. I am not wailing over that fact, for as you know, Sir, I am not one of those who have reverence for age for its own sake; nor have I ever been a votary in the shrine where anything and everything that is old, is sought to be preserved and worshipped. Sir, at one stage, I was opposed to this Bill and in fact, I spoke on the floor of this House suggesting that the consideration of the Bill might be postponed; and that was because I was anxious that no slur should be cast on this hon. House by any one whatever. I have heard it said in some quarters that we, in this House, have arrogated to ourselves the right of legislating for the people without giving the people themselves any opportunity whatsoever to make their voices felt. I think it is not an unfair criticism. For the hon. the Chief Minister would remember that this Bill was for the first time published in the *Fort St. George Gazette* on the 20th January 1931; it was introduced in the Council on the 27th January and we are going to pass this measure into law this day, the 4th March. Thus, you will find, Sir, that hardly one month has elapsed between its first reading and the third reading. I would most respectfully submit to this House that this is not a good practice, and that it should avoid such hasty legislation as

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far as possible. Nevertheless, as this Bill would relieve agriculturists and bandy-owners who have hitherto been subjected to great hardships on account of the tolls, I welcome this measure.

"Secondly, there is one point which was raised by my learned friend representing the Madras University, and that is that the Government should exercise very great care in the matter of the constitution of the agency for the collection of the tax. If you are going to spend large sums of money over collection, then the object of the measure would go down, and consequently, the district boards and local bodies who expect some sort of return from this revenue would suffer.

"Thirdly, I should like to remind the hon. the Chief Minister of the assurance he gave us at the informal conference we had on Saturday, that he would see that, whenever any district board asked the Government for permission to raise its present rate of licence fee, he would not grant it. I request the hon. the Chief Minister to reiterate that statement on the floor of this House so that we may be doubly assured of that. With these few remarks I congratulate the hon. the Chief Minister for having successfully piloted this measure through this House; and if I may be permitted to go still further, I should like to congratulate the hon. Leader of the Opposition also for, as some hon. Members observed, he is the grandfather of this measure."

* Mr. A. B. SHETTY:—"Sir, the hon. the Chief Minister and Mr. Hilton Brown no doubt deserve credit for the ability and tact with which they have pushed this Bill through. But I do not venture to congratulate them for this piece of legislation at this stage because the time is not yet come for us to congratulate them. We shall wait and see how this Bill is going to affect the development of motor traffic in this Presidency. Motor traffic has been growing in our province and I understand that our local bodies, district boards have been getting an increased income of nearly Rs. 4 lakhs every year from tolls alone. But motor traffic is still largely confined to passengers. Motor transport for goods is still awaiting development. Bus-owners and taxi-owners in this Presidency are mostly illiterate and unorganized. They have been carrying on their business against heavy odds and with little profit. The rates of taxation and the penal provisions in this Bill together with the enhanced tax on petrol will make the position worse for them. They will have to raise the fares or close their business. The best policy for Government would have been to fix the rates of taxation as low as possible and thus encourage the growth of motor traffic and get more income. I trust, Sir, that at the end of a year, the hon. the Chief Minister will make a survey of the condition of motor traffic in this Presidency and see how this new measure of legislation has affected bus-owners and taxi-owners. I hope he will proceed cautiously and take stock of the position before he proposes to the levy of full rates of taxes proposed in this legislation."

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* Rao Sahib V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—"Mr. President, Sir, I 1 p.m. also rise to support the motion before the House, namely, the passing of the Motor Vehicles Taxation Bill into law. The reasons that prompt me to welcome a measure of this nature are, first of all, the Bill contemplates to do away with the collection of tolls on the ordinary bullock carts. As the bullock carts are generally used by poor men, this measure is really a welcome thing to the poor man. Secondly, the middleman, who has been all along benefiting himself by means of the tolls, has to look to some other avocation and there will consequently be some benefit either to the local bodies or to the general public on account of this measure. Thirdly, Sir, coming as I do from a hilly district, like the Nilgiris, which is at present accessible only by motor, the motor-owners need not pay a large amount of toll. People who have got motors, whether buses or lorries, will really welcome this measure as they need not pay any more tolls hereafter.

"In conclusion, I have to congratulate the hon. the Chief Minister for his maiden attempt, after assuming charge of Chief Ministership, to pilot a difficult Bill of this nature. I know that during the stages of the Select Committee the hon. Minister was very accommodating and was good enough to give a kind ear to the various representations that were made to him in connexion with this Bill. At the same time, I cannot resume my seat without congratulating Mr. Hilton Brown who has taken a great interest in bringing this Bill to a success."

Rao Bahadur A. T. PANNIRSELVAM:—"Mr. President, Sir, I must also join in congratulating the hon. the Chief Minister for bringing forward this Bill which does away with a medieval form of taxation, thereby relieving the villager from the burden laid on him at every 20, 30 or 50 miles on the roads of this province. I wish simply to refer to one remark in the speech of my hon. Friend, Mr. Arasu and that is, as regards the promise which the hon. the Chief Minister is said to have given about refusing to local bodies the authority to raise the licence fees. I have also noticed several hon. Members making charges against district boards of unreasonably levying taxes on motor vehicles. I wish to refer hon. Members of this House only to this fact: That these poor mortals who have been presidents and members of local bodies are no more or no less responsible people than Members of this House and not a whit less representatives of the people. I wish only further to add that there is only this difference, that hon. Members of this House find it easy enough from their place in the Legislative Council to criticize persons who are in charge of the administration of local bodies. There is just this difference also, that we can expect members and presidents of local boards to be more conversant with local conditions and adjust their conduct accordingly; and they will therefore be in a much more advantageous position to look to petty local needs than hon. Members of this House.

"Then, Sir, difference in rates between various districts was quoted as an instance of hardship. I think one hon. Member referred to Rs. 2,000 in Vizagapatam and a thousand rupees in Chingleput. I

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can also quote instances where there are differences not merely between one district and another, but between various roads and various local bodies in the same district. I believe, Sir, that all these things go to show that local board authorities are able to do things with a sense of responsibility and they are aware of the consequences of their action when they fix these rates. These differences themselves show that they consider each road or the conditions in each place on their own merits. If the hon. the Chief Minister whose democratic principles I have always admired and who was till yesterday the president of a local board, has given this unconditional promise that he is going to turn down any proposal from the local boards, then all that I can say is that nothing could surprise me more. Knowing him as I do and having been closely associated with him I can only express the hope and belief that such an assurance would not have been given by him.

"In conclusion, I would once more thank him for the great boon which has been conferred on the people generally and the villagers in particular by the ushering in of this Bill."

* Diwan Bahadur C. S. RATNASABHAPATI MUDALIYAR:—"Mr. President, Sir, as representing local bodies and municipal councils which have come in for a good deal of criticism and abuse by several hon. Members of this Council, I also wish to congratulate the hon. the Chief Minister and his Secretary Mr. Hilton Brown. The Bill has undergone several changes during the Select Committee stage. For instance, in the original Bill, 'licencing officer' was defined to be the registering officer, but that has been changed by the Select Committee and I am sure hon. Members will welcome that change.

"Passing on to clause 10 of the Bill, I may mention that when every one wants local bodies to be relieved from the clutches of the Government and wants them to be made more and more autonomous, according to this clause, Government take the power of distributing the revenue realized by the levy of taxes. Till now, local bodies have been enjoying this power and were having a free hand in the matter of the levy of toll fees, but hereafter the fees realized are going to be distributed at the discretion of the Government. Under this even in the matter of ascertaining the expenses of collection Government take absolute power. With regard to that, I do not suppose Government will exercise that power to the detriment of the local bodies. In this connexion I am sorry that the amendment of my hon. Friend Mr. Basheer Ahmed for fixing half per cent of the revenue for collection charges was not accepted by the hon. the Chief Minister. I hope—I have got confidence in the good sense of the Government—that they will not charge anything above a reasonable percentage.

"Again, with regard to the allotment of the income that would be derived by the operation of this Act, it is stated in this clause that

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'there shall be paid annually to each local body, which at the commencement of this Act was levying tolls, or vehicle-tax on motor vehicles, or both, a sum determined by the Local Government as representing the average annual income of the local body during the three years ending the 31st day of March 1930, etc.' Here again, I do not suppose that Government will distribute this tax in a way detrimental to the local bodies.

"Coming to clause 11 (1), the Local Government have got the power to exempt certain classes of persons and also certain classes of motor vehicles in respect of the tax payable by them. Here again, I hope that Government will not exercise this power to the detriment of the local bodies and that whatever they do will be consistent with the interests of the local bodies concerned.

"Turning now to the Schedule, as I have already observed, the local bodies stand to lose very much on account of the reductions in the rate of taxes to be levied on motor vehicles. Several hon. Members seem to think that only buses in the City of Madras will suffer on account of the passing of this Bill into law, but I may say for the information of the House that there are also several buses in the mufassal which are plying, say within a radius of 10 miles of a municipality and they are also in the same disadvantageous position as buses plying in the City of Madras and they are also going to be taxed like the buses in the City of Madras. Coming to cars owned by private persons, those in the mufassal will be at a greater disadvantage than persons owning pleasure cars in the City of Madras. The tax paid to the Madras Corporation by persons owning pleasure cars is Rs. 70 per year, and, under the Bill it is proposed to increase it to Rs. 100 per year. So, when the owners of motor cars within the city limits have to pay only Rs. 30 in addition to what they are at present paying to the Corporation, those who own motor cars in the mufassal have to pay double of what they are paying at present and those outside the municipal limits have to pay a new tax of Rs. 100. I therefore, say that we in the mufassal stand to lose by this Bill very heavily, but on this account, I assure the hon. Members that we in the local bodies are not going to increase the licence-fees that are collected by them at present. This Bill is deprived of all the qualities which are attributed to 'mercy'. Even though local bodies are going to take all the proceeds of the tax collected under the provisions of this Bill, they are not going to bless this Bill, because they stand to lose very much by this Bill. I am sure even bus-owners who are going to be benefited in view of the abolition of tolls, are not going to bless this Bill, because they will also feel that instead of paying small sums now and then, they will have to pay hereafter a lump sum every quarter. They would feel that even though ultimately this Act is going to benefit them, at the outset this will work a great hardship. But, all the same, this Bill has been blessed by all the sections of this House and I also wish that all the blessings should go to the hon. the Chief Minister and Mr. Hilton Brown."

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* Mr. YAKUB HASAN:—“ Mr. President, Sir, I do not see any occasion for congratulating anybody on this Bill and I fail to see any reasons for congratulations. It is true that the hon. the Chief Minister and his Secretary were able to carry this Bill through at very short notice and within two days of its discussion. If congratulations are only based on the speed with which this Bill has been carried through then there is some justification for doing so. Beyond that I do not see any reason why anyone should be congratulated on this Bill. This Bill is not in any way an achievement which will do real good to any section of the public. I fail to see there is going to be any real benefit to anyone on account of this Bill. Government have been so far collectors of income-tax, they were collectors of the land-tax and other kinds of taxes, and by the passing of this Bill, they have become collectors of motor-taxes also.

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“ Instead of the local bodies collecting this tax Government are going to collect the tax, and instead of using that revenue themselves, as they do in other cases of revenue and see that it is spent for the benefit of the country, they in this case are merely going to hand it over to the local bodies. Sir, I feel Government are now called upon to play a role, which is in my opinion unbecoming of them. They have become a sort of paid agency for the collection of this motor-tax, not caring to see that any corresponding good is derived by the country out of the service the Government is being called upon to render. Sir, till now in the matter of the collection of toll-gate fees we had to deal with the district boards and the municipalities only, and in dealing with them we had not to contend with a mighty power as the Government, with whom hereafter we would have to deal. It is a well-known fact that the tax is payable once in six months and many people did not pay it until some months after it was due, and yet the municipalities and local bodies concerned did not take any action against them. I myself have several times paid the tax sometimes three months and sometimes almost six months after it was due, and the Madras Corporation did not take any action against me. Why? It is only a local body; it is reluctant to make the collection irksome to the tax payer. But hereafter Government will collect this tax in the same way as they collect the other revenues. Till now if anything unpleasant happened between a motor car driver and a toll-gate keeper, if it came to a question of hand to hand struggle, if it so happened that one beat the other, the other party too retaliated and the matter ended there. But hereafter, in the case of the Government collecting and administering the tax, the policeman with his *lathi* will come in and enforce his authority.

“ Sir, when this Bill comes into force, motor cars and buses in the City of Madras will not be asked to pay the tax they were hitherto paying to the Corporation. But in the case of the mufassal, I find that the district boards will continue to levy the licence fee. Therefore those buses which ply in the districts do not get any corresponding relief which buses and taxis in the City of Madras will get. In

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some cases the licence is very exorbitant. I know for a fact it is Rs. 1,000 in Chingleput and I am told that in some districts it is as high as Rs. 2,000. I ask you in all seriousness how you can expect a motor bus to pay Rs. 2,000 every year to a district board and also pay about Rs. 800 by way of this tax. To pay Rs. 2,800 every year means about one-fourth of the value of the bus. I must say this is hitting the trade very hard. No relief is given in respect of the licence-fees in this Bill. In fact to be consistent, this Bill ought to have done away with the licence-fee that is levied by the district boards as it has done away with the licence-fee on motor vehicles in the City of Madras. Hence, I have grave doubts as to whether this Bill will not affect motor transit adversely. I still feel that this measure, if it does not seriously hamper the present traffic, will at any rate seriously affect the expansion of the motor transit, which would have resulted in natural course otherwise.

“ But it has been said that the villagers will not have to pay hereafter the tolls they were hitherto paying on their carts and bullock-carts. That no doubt gives them some relief, and the transport of goods from place to place will be benefited to some extent by this Bill. This relief will perhaps amount to a sum of 30 or 40 lakhs; collectively it is a great relief but in individual cases I fear it will not be an appreciable one. For example, it generally happens that fuel is being brought from a distant place, paying tolls on the way wherever there happens to be a toll-gate. The abolition of the toll will hardly affect the price of fuel for a couple of annas distributed on the load of a cart would hardly work to a pie on a maund, and hence the effect of this Bill will be very very little appreciated as far as the bullock-cart traffic is concerned. But on the other hand the burden that is thrown on the motor transport cars is so heavy that it will work great hardship on that trade. Therefore, I do not think I can congratulate this Council on any great achievement in having passed this Bill and put it on the statute book.”

* Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—“ Mr. President, I feel I should congratulate the hon. the Chief Minister not exactly for the Bill itself, but for the manner in which he has piloted the Bill in this House. (Cries of hear, hear, from all sides of the House.) I think he has set an example for the other members of Government to follow. Sir, from the very beginning when he introduced the Bill, when he found that members from all sides had objections to the measure, both in its original form as well as in the form in which it emerged out of the select committee, he evinced a sincere desire to accommodate every shade of opinion as far as possible, all the while taking care not to deviate from the principle on which the Bill was based. Thus he has set himself as an example for other members on the Treasury Bench, and may I add particularly to the hon. the Third Minister (laughter) who might try to adopt the method of taking the House into his confidence with reference to prohibition. Sir, as I said,

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the hon. the Chief Minister as well as Mr. Hilton Brown have won our approbation, not for the Bill itself, but for the manner in which they have piloted this Bill.

“ With regard to the Bill itself I am not going to refer either to its original provisions or to the alterations. But I may say this that I certainly congratulate the hon. the Chief Minister for the alterations he has made in the Bill. For instance with reference to section 6 and to Schedule II, I think we ought to thank him for the reduction in the rate of tax that he has accepted. As regards the effect of the Bill, I think the hon. the Chief Minister himself is in the dark as to what is going to happen, and also as to how he is going to make up the amount when the tolls are abolished. But that is a matter to be decided at the end of the year when we may be asked to judge the result of the working of the Bill. And I feel sure that, if at the end of the year some of us still feel some dissatisfaction with regard to the Bill, he will listen to us. (Laughter.)

“ Now only to one other matter I wish to refer before I close my remarks, and that is with regard to the licence fees. In the course of our conference the hon. the Chief Minister gave us an assurance that he was going to take up this question of licences also and that he was already collecting information on it. Many members on this side as well as on the other side have referred to this as a source of hardship; and for one thing the scale of licence fees is very unequal. In Bellary it is very low, whereas in Kistna it is very high, and I hope he will give us satisfaction with regard to this also, by making it moderate if not uniform, and be as accommodating in the matter in the same manner in which he has acted with regard to this Bill so far.”

* Mr. HILTON BROWN:—“ Mr. President, Sir, it would be churlish on my part if I did not say a few words of gratitude in respect of the kind remarks which have been made by many hon. Members in regard to my connexion with this Bill. To-day, Sir, represents the close, at any rate, the close of a stage in my part in this Bill's progress; for that matter has been engaging my attention for the last two years. The criticisms that the Bill has been rushed through and that it has proceeded with an amazing speed are criticisms which I can hardly understand; for there were times when it seemed to me that it could hardly have proceeded more slowly or more deliberately. I wish with the hon. Member for South Kanara, that happy land of unbridged rivers where every one owns five buses and nobody pays any tolls (laughter), I wish with Mr. Shetty that I stood here a year hence, and could hear the hon. Members of this House repeat then what they have said to-day. Sir, the proof of the pudding is in the eating of it, and we cannot prophesy what may be said of this Bill a year hence. I, however, am on firm ground. Sir, the Bill as it has emerged out of this House to-day is in many material ways different from the Bill I originally drafted eighteen months ago. Many improvements have been inserted by hon. Members; if the Bill succeeds, as it is bound to succeed, the credit goes to hon. Members, but if it fails, I will be able to say that it failed because of

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the improvements made by hon. Members. (Laughter.) The actual drafting of the Bill was a matter of arithmetical calculation; and its passing has been a matter of adjustment. The calculation was easy, the adjustment very difficult and but for the way in which all parties in this House and all interests have worked on the principle of give and take, it would not have been possible for the Bill to go through the House.

“ Whether the Bill succeeds or whether it fails, I have to acknowledge very gratefully the kind remarks made by various hon. Members 1-30 P. m. who have spoken this morning. And I have to pay my own tribute firstly to the local bodies which have been exceedingly good in the way they had met us in regard to the provisions for compensation. And, secondly, Sir, I must express my gratitude to the two Chief Ministers whom I have succeeded in interesting in the Bill, and to the hon. the Finance Member who has always shown me throughout the kindest consideration and sympathy. Lastly, Sir, I must express my indebtedness to many hon. Members of this House, even those who were most against the provisions of the Bill, for their courtesy and readiness to listen to arguments, which it will always be my abiding pleasure to remember. Now, Sir, the House is eager to hear the hon. the Chief Minister, and I do not want to detain you any longer except to express once again my gratitude for the kind remarks which hon. Members have made.”

* The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU:—“ Sir, I am indeed overwhelmed with the kindness shown to me from all sides of the House and the hearty co-operation which I have received from them, at every stage of the Bill. To be frank, Sir, and without any idea of flattery, I must say that it would have been impossible for me to have gone on with the Bill or even to have hoped that the Bill would be passed at this stage but for the fact that both at the first reading stage, and the select committee stage, and also in the course of the discussions, there has been much enthusiasm manifested on all sides of the House to see that the Bill is given effect to as early as possible. The main consideration that impelled me in trying to introduce this Bill was the relief to be thereby given to the agriculturists. That I consider to be an advantage over and above all other disadvantages which may result from it. At the same time I have to tender my grateful thanks for the way in which the district boards and municipalities have come to appreciate the good results of the Bill and did not raise any objections at any stage except perhaps to-day. Sir, the Bill was not rushed through. The principles of the Bill were circulated to all district boards even as early as a year ago, and I am glad to acknowledge that many of the district boards have agreed to the principles of the Bill, though here and there they suggested certain changes most of which have been embodied in the present Bill just now passed. At the same time, they have made some kind of criticism. If there is one class which stands possibly to lose much by the passing of this Bill, it is the district boards and municipalities, and my thanks are mostly due to them for the way in which they have gallantly come forward to help

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this Bill and to allow it to be passed. I may also refer to the views expressed on behalf of the district boards by my hon. Friends Mr. Pannirselvam and also Mr. Ratnasabhapat Mudaliyar who said that whatever may be the effect of the Bill, they are not going to oppose it or its passage. I also thank the persons who can be said to be the owners of, or other persons who are otherwise interested in motor vehicles, either because they are using them for themselves or as a matter of business. They have also come forward to take up the liabilities of a tax which cannot be said to be low and which, at any rate, is considered to be a little higher than what it should be. That, as I said, was forced upon me because of the practicalities of the situation that here in Madras unlike as in other provinces we have to face a situation by having to compensate the local bodies for the loss of toll income that they have been getting up till now. The co-operation which those who are interested in bus traffic as presidents or are otherwise connected with associations intended to improve that trade and those who are connected with trade in motor vehicles, have extended to me in drafting the Bill and in giving a shape to it particularly in regard to the schedule of rates is one which I gratefully appreciate and acknowledge.

"Sir, there are one or two important points I want to refer to. As I said, this Bill was intended entirely in the interests of the agriculturists and I can assure my Friend Mr. Patnaik and those who think with him that there is absolutely no fear of any local body, much less of a village panchayat voluntarily taxing its own carts. It is the last thing which any body would do. And nobody owning a bullock-cart would like to tax himself, and the representatives of the villagers who form the panchayats would be the last persons to do it. It is only a sort of additional provision which may perhaps never be used. These carts will go practically free for a long time, and that will go a long way to further the interests of the agriculturists.

"Another objection has been raised, and it has been persisted in through all the stages of the Bill; it is that licence fees which are being collected by the district boards in addition to the toll taxes, which they have been levying, and which are already high in some districts, will continue to be collected over and above the tax imposed by this Bill, and this might have the effect of discouraging the bus traffic; and that these rates, at any rate, would prejudicially affect that kind of trade. I may say, Sir, that I am as alive as any other to the interaction of the tax that may be levied under this Bill and the licence fees levied by the district boards; and the objection is not in many cases without justification. Knowing the feelings actuating those who are in charge of the district board administration, I am sure they would not raise the licensing fees—which are to be paid over and above the general tax—to such an extent as to prevent in any way or kill or prejudicially affect the traffic. If in any case, the rates are heavy, the Government will consider the matter. I am sure, wise men as they are, the district board presidents will not regulate the rates in such a way as to prejudice the bus incomes. At the conference on this Bill, this question was

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raised, and I was pressed to say what my attitude would be. This is what I said, and I want to reiterate it, with a view to relieve any apprehensions that may be present in the minds of my hon. Friends, Messrs. Pannirselvam and Ratnasabhapat Mudaliyar. Under the Acts as they now stand, the licensing fees levied by the district board or municipality have to be approved by the local Government before they can come into force. I stated that, if proposals should come up in future, the same will be examined and the Government will see whether the rates of fees that the local bodies might charge or ask to be raised are such as are likely to very seriously affect the trade. Cases like that of Bellary where they are possibly charging nothing and where for a whole year they got only Rs. 135, are in point where the licence fees may well be raised further. But what I say is this. Suppose owing to some cause the district board president charges very high fees; what the Government will do in such a case is to prevent such licence fees being charged.

"I most earnestly appeal to all sections of this House and those interested in the bus traffic to give this Bill a fair trial. And I appeal also to those who are in charge of the district boards to allow this trial and see wherever the need arises to reduce this fee if it is absolutely necessary in the interests of the bus traffic. I have nothing more to add, Sir, except to express my grateful thanks to all sections of the House and to my Secretary Mr. Hilton Brown for the help that they have given me throughout."

The motion that the Bill be passed into law was then put and carried and the Bill was passed into law.

The House then adjourned for lunch.

After Lunch (2-30 p.m.)

III.—REPORT OF THE MADRAS SERVICES COMMISSION.

When the Council reassembled after lunch, discussion was resumed on the motion^a to consider the report^b of the Madras Services Commission.

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"There is nothing worth saying about this report except what we have represented to the Revenue Member with regard to the draw-backs of the Muslims in regard to the question of age. So there is nothing for me to say much."

The motion was put and carried.

IV.—THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE FOR 1931-32.

The hon. Mr. H. G. STOKES:—"I move—

'That, with a view to the constitution of a committee on Public Accounts for the financial year 1931-32, this Council do proceed, on a date to be fixed by the hon. the President, to elect seven members to be members of the said committee.'"

^a The consideration of the following motion was adjourned on 31st January 1931 (vide page 768 of Volume LIV, No. 8):—"That the report of the Madras Services Commission for the year 1929-30, submitted with reference to section 20 of the Madras Services Commission Act, 1929 (Madras Act XI of 1929), be taken into consideration.

^b Printed as Appendix on pages 435-438 infra.

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The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—"I second it."

The motion was put and carried.

V.—THE FINANCE COMMITTEE FOR 1931-32.

The hon. Mr. H. G. STOKES:—"I move—

'That, in accordance with Resolution No. 2 passed at the meeting of the Legislative Council on the 8th August 1929, regarding the constitution of the Finance Committee, this Council do proceed, on a date to be fixed by the hon. the President, to elect eight members to be members of the Finance Committee for the financial year 1931-32.'"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—"I second it."

The motion was put and carried.

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"In accordance with the regulations framed under Standing Order No. 80 for the election of members of the Public Accounts Committee by means of the single transferable vote, I fix 3 p.m. on 12th March 1931 as the time within which notice of nominations should be given to the Secretary.

"If the number of candidates exceeds the number of vacancies, viz., seven, there will be an election between 2-30 p.m. and 4 p.m. on the 13th instant.

"In accordance with the regulations framed under Standing Order No. 80 for the purpose of election by means of the single transferable vote, I fix 3 p.m. on 12th March 1931 as the time within which notice of nominations should be given to the Secretary.

"If the number of candidates nominated exceeds the number of vacancies, viz., eight, there will be an election between 2-30 p.m. and 4 p.m. on the 13th instant."

VI.—DEMANDS FOR EXCESS GRANTS FOR 1928-29.

- (i) GRANT VIII—GENERAL ADMINISTRATION—HEADS OF PROVINCES—RESERVED.

The hon. Mr. H. G. STOKES:—"Sir, I beg to move—

'That an additional sum not exceeding Rs. 5,398 be granted under Grant VIII—General Administration—Heads of Provinces—Reserved to make good the excess expenditure incurred in the year 1928-29.'"

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI:—"May I know, Sir, why the expenditure incurred in 1928-29 should come up now in the shape of supplementary demand or excess demand? May I know whether it is as a result of the recommendations or findings of the Public Accounts Committee or any other committee?"

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The hon. Mr. H. G. STOKES:—"This is the result of the final settlement of accounts of that year. It is not a supplementary grant but an excess grant. It has been put forward in pursuance of the Public Accounts Committee's recommendation. I thought a note had been circulated."

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI:—"I apologise to you for not having read it."

The demand was put and carried and the grant was made.

- (ii) GRANT XI—GENERAL ADMINISTRATION—MISCELLANEOUS—RESERVED.

The hon. Mr. H. G. STOKES:—"I move—

'That an additional sum not exceeding Rs. 2,742 be granted under Grant XI—General Administration—Miscellaneous—Reserved to make good the excess expenditure incurred in the year 1928-29.'"

"This is also in pursuance of the recommendations of the committee."

The demand was put and carried and the grant was made.

- (iii) GRANT XXXIII—STATIONERY AND PRINTING TRANSFERRED.

The hon. Mr. H. G. STOKES:—"I move—

'That an additional sum not exceeding Rs. 2,508 be granted under Grant XXXIII—Stationery and Printing—Transferred to make good the excess expenditure incurred in the year 1928-29.'"

"This is also in pursuance of the recommendations of the committee."

The demand was put and carried and the grant was made.

VII.—REPORT OF THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE ON THE APPROPRIATION ACCOUNTS OF THE PROVINCE FOR THE YEAR 1928-29.

The hon. Mr. H. G. STOKES:—"Sir, I beg to move, with reference to rule 34 (2) of the Legislative Council Rules—

'That the Report of the Public Accounts Committee on the Appropriation Accounts of this Province and the Report of the Audit Officer thereon, for the year 1928-29, be taken into consideration.'"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"I second it."

* Diwan Bahadur C. S. RATNASABHAPATI MUDALIYAR:—"Mr. President, Sir, I beg to say a few words on some of the points noted in this report. There are a number of items mentioned there, and it will be physically impossible for any one, in the short space of time allowed especially at the end of the session, to make comments on all

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the points. So, I will restrict my observations to two or three items in the report.

"Coming to section II of the report containing items outstanding from previous reports, I beg to draw the attention of the House to page 11 of the report for 1928-29. In the report of the Public Accounts Committee for 1927-28, several irregularities were brought to the notice of this Council with regard to the Jail administration. For the benefit of this House, I will take them through the report for 1927-28 of the Public Accounts Committee, on page 36 of which we find the following irregularities noticed by the Accountant-General:—

(a) Discrepancies in figures between those entered in the stock statement of rations furnished to the controlling officers and those as worked out in the stock book of rations;

(b) irregularities in the maintenance of registers of manufactured articles, raw materials, rations and convicts' and warders' clothing;

(c) issue of raw materials without necessary indents;

(d) delay in the manufacture of articles after the issue of raw materials;

(e) defective or non-maintenance of register of orders for manufactured articles;

(f) unrealized credit sales to jail officials;

(g) accumulation of old stores of raw materials and manufactured articles ranging from three to five years;

(h) defective pay orders for supplies recovered from suppliers; and

(j) defective procedure in the issue of rations to kitchens."

I submit, Sir, that these are irregularities which will not be considered as light. These are irregularities of a very serious nature. If only such irregularities were observed in any local body, the person responsible will be taken to very serious task, and I do not know what the position of that person will be. With regard to these objections, Sir, Government have grouped them in two categories: first, 'those which disclosed that the rules violated were impracticable and should be amended,' and secondly, 'those which disclosed neglect of jail officers in failing to carry out practicable rules.' With regard to the first set, Government say that 'steps have been taken to amend the rules.' These objections relate to 1927-28, and so late as 1930-31, after a lapse of two years, Government say with regard to such serious irregularities that steps have been taken to amend the rules. With regard to the second set of irregularities, they say that 'explanations were obtained from the officers concerned and disciplinary action has been taken.' Let us pause for a moment and see what disciplinary action has been taken against those officers in respect of the very serious irregularities referred to in 1927-28. I will draw the attention of the House

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to page 61 of the Report wherein the action taken on the first set of irregularities is mentioned. The Government have framed a set of rules and have referred them to the Inspector-General of Prisons and those rules which have been framed are still under consideration. This is what is said at page 62:

'The Inspector-General of Prisons is requested to consider the above suggestions and submit for the approval of Government the necessary amendments to the Madras Jail Manual.'

Though two years have elapsed, still the Inspector-General of Prisons has not framed the necessary amendments and submitted them for the approval of Government. Then, I will draw the attention of the House to page 37 of the Report for 1927-28. This is what the Public Accounts Committee say with regard to those irregularities:

'We view the irregularities which were admitted by the Inspector-General of Prisons to be prevalent in all jails with very grave concern and consider that more direct action on the part of the Inspector-General is necessary than merely drawing the attention of superintendents to the matter.'

In spite of such a strong finding of the Committee, what does the Inspector-General say in 1929-30? This is what is stated in para. 8, page 63 of the Report:

'In his letter No. G. 72, dated the 28th January 1930, the Inspector-General has reiterated his previous opinion that the various irregularities brought to notice by the Accountant-General are not of a serious nature.'

When the Public Accounts Committee consider that the irregularities are of a very serious nature and view them with grave concern, still the Inspector-General, if I may be permitted to say so, has the audacity to say that the various irregularities are not of a serious nature. Not only that, he goes on to say that a perusal of the Jail department establishment list would show that a fairly large number of subordinates are men who have poor educational qualifications, and so on. What has the Government done with regard to the punishment of those officers to whose neglect the irregularities were due? On page 62, Sir, we find:

'Mr. G.—The irregularity of which this officer was charged was in respect of the maintenance of the convict's clothing register and of the register of orders for the manufactured articles, etc.'

The Government say:

'Mr. G. should be informed that the Government view his negligence with grave displeasure and that he will be severely dealt with if the next audit does not disclose improvement.'

That is all the punishment meted out to Mr. G. who was responsible for serious irregularities. The registers must be kept up to date and must disclose a true statement of accounts and the figures must be accurate. Yet, it is all treated in a very light-hearted fashion by the Inspector-General, and still the Government simply view the conduct of the officer concerned with 'grave displeasure.' Then, with regard to another of the jail officers, we find:

'Mr. U.—The irregularity committed by this officer was non-realization of amounts due from officers of the jail for manufactured articles supplied to them from the jail on credit.'

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Some officers employed in the jail purchased certain jail goods, and they do not pay the sale value of the goods. The amounts are not realized, and with regard to this irregularity it is said:

'The Superintendent's explanation in this regard is unsatisfactory and the Government observe that there is no word of regret for his failure to exercise proper supervision.'

For this negligence, he is let off very leniently. Now, what is the punishment meted out in this case? They say:

'The increment of Mr. U. will be withheld for one month from when it next falls due, the stoppage not having the effect of postponing future increments.'

Mark the words 'the stoppage not having the effect of postponing future increments.' If at least the Government had said that he is fined Rs. 5, that would have been a direct punishment. I am sorry Government take a very lenient view of negligences on the part of their subordinates. At this rate, improvements in jail administration cannot at all take place.

"Now, Sir, coming to page 26 of the Report for 1928-29, with regard to the levy of centage charges on works not connected with Government, but which are executed by the Government, the Government have issued orders raising the centage charge from 15 per cent to 16½ per cent from 1st April 1930, and they consider the latter adequate. I consider even the existing rate of 15 per cent, Sir, is somewhat heavy, and without giving an opportunity to those who are affected by the levy of such charges, the Government have raised it from 15 to 16½ per cent. Not only that. They say:

'As regards the charges to be recovered for water-supply and drainage schemes, the matter is under the consideration of Government.'

I may be permitted to say that at least in considering that question, the opinions of local bodies may be taken before any increase in the centage charges is ordered.

"Then as regards forest policy, on page 27 of the Report, we find the following remark of the Accountant-General:

'In the case of teak it is more profitable to sell the wood in the round than to saw it up if there is a market to absorb the logs. During the year the profit from sale of sawn timber was Rs. 54,584 with Rs. 1,500 yet to come from unsold stocks, whereas had the same quantity been sold in the round there would have been a profit of Rs. 1,89,368 on weighted average selling prices.'

There is a very great difference in prices between wood sawn and wrought to sizes and wood sold in logs. Sir, this has been pointed out by the Accountant-General with regard to the accounts relating to 1927-28. On page 28 of the Report, this is what the Committee say:

'We also understand that in regard to the loss to Government in the sawing of higher grade timber instead of selling it in the round in the Nilambur Valley Forests, the explanations of the officers concerned have been received by Government.'

The Committee also observe:

'We await a report as to the action taken by Government on these explanations.'

[4th March 1931] [Mr. C. S. Ratnasabhapati Mudaliyar]

I cannot understand, Sir, why Government should move slowly in regard to matters which require immediate action. In regard to that objection, instead of straightaway ordering the sale of wood in logs, the Government say that a report is being awaited.

"Sir, I do not propose to go into all the items. I only suggest that 3 p.m. the Government should, in future years at least, take prompt action in dealing with the objections raised in the report and also deal adequately with the subordinates who have been negligent in their work on account of which large sums of public money have been wasted."

The hon. Mr. H. G. STOKES:—"Sir, as regards the complaint of delay in taking action on these things, I have not much to say. As various processes have to be gone through, some amount of delay is unavoidable. I may draw the attention of the House to the fact that the explanations of the heads of offices concerned have been received and we find that the action taken by Government has received the approbation of the Public Accounts Committee which had all the facts before it. The Committee held that the people concerned have been adequately punished.

"As regards the centage charges the Committee has said that it considers the rates to be adequate. I have no doubt that if the Committee thought otherwise they would have said so.

"The third complaint of the hon. Member was about selling timber in log instead of sawn. On that matter the Committee has reserved its judgment and is awaiting further information. I suggest that the House should do likewise, and await the Public Accounts Committee's final advice. Now, as a matter of fact, I believe the sale of sawn timber has been put a stop to and the mills have actually been closed.

"I have nothing more to say."

The motion was put and carried.

VIII.—A BILL TO REPEAL THE MADRAS PANCHAYATS ACT, 1840. (BILL No. 3 OF 1931).

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"Sir, I introduce a Bill^a to repeal the Madras Panchayats Act, 1840 (Bill No. 3 of 1931), and move that it be taken into consideration.

"This is a purely formal matter. There was one Regulation called the Madras Village Panchayats Regulation of 1816. As stated in the statement of objects and reasons, that Regulation was supplemented by Act VIII of 1840 called the Madras Panchayats Act, 1840. When Madras Act II of 1920 was passed, the first Regulation, namely, Regulation V of 1816, was formally repealed. So that this Act VIII of 1840 which was enacted for the purpose of supplementing Regulation V of 1816 has now become practically repealed. This measure therefore is a formal one."

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—"I second the motion."

^a Published in the Fort St. George Gazette, dated 3rd February 1931.

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The motion was put and carried and the Bill was taken into consideration.

Clauses 1 and 2 and the Preamble were then put, passed and made part of the Bill.

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"I move—
'that the Bill be passed into law'."

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—"I second it."

The motion was put and carried and the Bill was passed into law.

The Council then adjourned to meet again at 11 a.m. on the 12th March 1931.

R. V. KRISHNA AYYAR,
Secretary to the Legislative Council.

4th March 1931]

APPENDIX.

[Vide item III—Report of the Madras Services Commission—at page 427 supra.]

THE REPORT OF THE MADRAS SERVICES COMMISSION FOR 1929-30.

— —

Letter from the Secretary, Madras Services Commission, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Madras, the 2nd September 1930, No. 424-B/ 0.

I am directed to submit, as required under section 20 of the Madras Services Commission Act (Act XI of 1929), the following report of the proceedings of the Commission for the year 1929-30.

2. The Commission was constituted in G.O. No. 5, Public, dated 3rd January 1930, with
Sir Norman Marjoribanks, K.C.I.E., C.S.I., as the Chairman,
and

Khan Bahadur Muhammad Bazi-ul-lah Sahib Bahadur, C.I.E.,
O.B.E., and

Mr. M. Ratnaswami, C.I.E., as members.

All the Commissioners entered on their duties on 3rd January 1930. They appointed as their Secretary M.R.Ry. Rao Sahib C. P. Karunakara Menon Avargal, who assumed charge of his office on 3rd January 1930.

3. During the three months of the year under report, the Commission were engaged in examining the rules and notifications issued regarding the various public services and considering and framing schemes for the taking over ultimately of all the duties and functions prescribed for the Commission by the Madras Services Commission Act (Act XI of 1929), especially recruitment to services and the conduct of the various special test examinations and departmental tests. They submitted to the Government proposals regarding the conduct of these tests and a scheme for the recruitment by a competitive examination of candidates for clerkships (including typists) in the Government offices in the whole presidency. The Commission also examined the Public Service Notification which prescribes qualifications for appointments in the public services and submitted proposals to the Government for amending the notification so as definitely to authorize the Commission to deal with applications for declaration of eligibility for admission to posts in the superior service,

[4th March 1931]

4. The Commission were requested during the year to select candidates for the following classes of appointments :—

Assistant Inspectors of Excise,
Sergeants of the Madras City Police,
Clerks and typists for the Madras City Offices, and
Assistant Superintendent, School of Arts and Crafts, Madras.
Selection for the first three classes of appointments were made during the year. Detailed statistics of applications, candidates, etc., connected with these selections are given in Appendix A to this report.

The number of applications received for the posts of typist was poor, being 22 out of which only 18 were from candidates who had passed the typewriting examination in the higher grade.

In connexion with the selection of Assistant Inspectors of Excise, the Commission observed, on examining the question of communal representation, that some previous appointments to this class of post had not been made according to the Statutory Rule in this respect which applied the order of communal rotation to admission to each class of post in the Excise Subordinate Service. The Commission brought to the notice of the Government this violation of the Statutory Rule and the Government proposed to revise the rule so as to bring it into accord with their intention to apply the principle of communal rotation only to first admission to a service in any class and not to admission to each class in a service.

Including references from the Government under the Madras Services Commission Act, 891 references were dealt with by the Commission out of which 12 remained to be disposed of at the end of the year. The references from Government were mostly for advice on—

Draft rules under the Civil Services (Governors' Provinces)
Delegation Rules,

Nominations under section 11 of the Act for admission to Provincial Services by promotion from Subordinate Services,
Appeals to Government and proposals for punishment, under section 15, and

Memorials to Government under section 16.

The Commission dealt with 12 appeals and, in advising the Government as to the orders to be passed on them, brought to their notice the delays made in the various offices in dealing with two of the appeals and the defective procedure in the enquiry in two other cases. In the seven cases in which the Commission's advice was sought on proposals to punish officers, the Commission had to differ

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in three cases from the proposals made by the heads of departments and had to point out in another case the failure to comply with the prescribed procedure in the enquiry.

The recommendations of the Commission were accepted by the Government in all the cases referred to the Commission.

Appendix A.

Selections made by the Commission under section 10 of the Act.

Number of vacancies.	Applications received.	Applicants qualified.	Appeared for interview.	Recommended.
ASSISTANT INSPECTOR OF EXCISE.				
<i>Non-Brahmans.</i>				
1	49	22	16	3
<i>Muhammadans.</i>				
1	8	3	2	2
SERGEANTS.				
<i>Europeans.</i>				
4	55	19	7	4
TYPISTS.				
<i>Brahmans.</i>				
..	16	13	12	10
<i>Non-Brahmans.</i>				
..	4	4	4	4
<i>Indian Christians.</i>				
..	1	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
<i>Others (including depressed classes).</i>				
..	1	1	1	
CLERKSHIPS.				
<i>Brahmans.</i>				
..	3	3	3	3
<i>Non-Brahmans.</i>				
..	4	4	4	3
<i>Muhammadans.</i>				
..	2	2	2	2

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Appendix B.

References to the Commission under other sections of the Act.

			Number of references.
Recruitments by promotion (section 11)	..	..	4
Proposals for punishment (section 15)	..	..	7
Appeals (section 15)	..	..	12
Memorials to Government (section 16)	..	..	2

THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OF THE GOVERNOR
OF MADRAS.

Thursday, the 12th March 1931.

The House met at eleven of the clock, Mr. President (the hon. Mr. B. RAMACHANDRA REDDI) in the Chair.

PRESENT:

Usman Sahib Bahadur, Kt., The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir Mahomed.	Nanjappa Bahadur, Subadar-Major S. A.
Krishnan Nayar, Kt., The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M.	Narasimhaswami, Mr. D. V.
Campbell, C.S.I., C.I.E., C.B.E., V.D., I.C.S., The hon. Mr. A. Y. G.	Narayanan Nambiyar, Mr. V. P.
Stokes, C.S.I., C.I.E., The hon. Mr. H. G.	Natesa Mudaliyar, Rao Bahadur C.
Muniswami Nayudu, The hon. Diwan Bahadur B.	Palat, Mr. R. M.
Rajan, The hon. Mr. P. T.	Pannirselvam, Rao Bahadur A. T.
Kumaraswami Reddiyar, The hon. Diwan Bahadur S.	Parthasarathi Ayyangar, Mr. C. R.
Abdul Hameed Khan Sahib Bahadur.	Pate, I.C.S., Mr. H. R.
Alamelumanga Thayararnmal, Mrs. K.	Pocker Sahib Bahadur, B.
Annamalai Chettiyar, Mr. S. A. A.	Premayya, Mr. G. R.
Arasu, Mr. V. T.	Raja of Bobbili.
Ari Gowder, Mr. H. B.	Rajagopala Pillai, Mr. P. V.
Arogyaswami Mudaliyar, Diwan Bahadur R. N.	Ramaachandra Padayachi, Mr. P. K.
Basheer Ahmed Sayeed Sahib Bahadur.	Ramalinga Chettiyar, Rao Bahadur T. A.
Bayabani Sahib Bahadur, S. M. K.	Ramamurti, Pandit Ganala.
Bhanoji Rao, Mr. A. V.	Ramaswami Ayyar, Mr. T. S.
Browning, Mr. W. M.	Ramaswami Mudaliyar, Mr. V. M.
Devalason, Mr. M.	Ranganatha Mudaliyar, Mr. A.
Dharmalingam Pillai, Rao Sahib V.	Ranganatha Mudaliyar, Mr. G.
Foulkes, Mr. R.	Ranganatha Mudaliyar, Mr. M. D. T.
Hilton Brown, I.C.S., Mr.	Rangaswami Reddi, Mr. B.
Jagannatham, Mr. H. M.	Sahajanandam, Swami A. S.
Jayaraj Nayudu, Rao Sahib C.	Sami Venkatachalam Chetti, Mr.
Kesava Ramamurti Nayudu, Mr. K.	Satyanarayana Choudari, Mr. C.
Kondappa, Mr. A.	Sesha Reddi, Mr. B. P.
Koti Reddi, Mr. C.	Shetty, Mr. A. B.
Krishnan, Mr. C.	Siva Raj, Mr. N.
Kumara Raja of Venkatagiri.	Sreshtha, Mr. M. S.
Kuppuswami, Mr. J.	Srinivasan, Rao Bahadur R.
Madanagopal Nayudu, Mr. R.	Sriramulu, Mr. G.
Mahboob Ali Baig Sahib Bahadur.	Subbarayan, Dr. P.
Mahmud Schamnad Sahib Bahadur, Khan Bahadur.	Subrahmanya Bhatt, Mr. U. C.
Manikkavelu Nayakar, Mr. M. A.	Subrahmanyam Chetti, Rao, Sahib P.
Moses, Mr. P. C.	Sundara Rao Nayudu, Mr. T.
Muhammad Meera Ravuttar Bahadur, K. P. V. S.	Syeed Tajudin Sahib Bahadur, Khan Sahib.
Muniswami Pillai, Rao Sahib V. I.	Vasudeva Pillai, Mr. V. G.
Muthiah Chettiyar, Mr. M. A.	Venkataramayya, Rao Sahib Badeti.
Nadimuthu Pillai, Mr. A. P. N. V.	Venugopal Nayudu, Rao Bahadur R. K.
	Waddington, Mr. H.
	Watson, I.C.S., Mr. H. A.
	Wright, Mr. W. O.
	Yahya Ali Sahib Bahadur, Khan Bahadur.
	Yakub Hasan Sahib Bahadur.
	Zamindar of Chemudu.

[12th March 1931]

I.—SWEARING IN OF MEMBERS.

The following Members made the prescribed oath or affirmation of allegiance to the Crown and then took their seats:—

Mr. W. O. WRIGHT.

Mr. H. WADDINGTON.

II.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS

Arms and Explosives

Cancellation of gun licences in Mangalore and other taluks.

* 529 Q.—Mr. U. C. SUBRAHMANYA BHATT: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of gun licences have been cancelled within the last six months in the taluks of Mangalore, Kasaragod, Puttur and Karkal;

(b) if the answer is in the affirmative how many gun licences have been cancelled and for what reasons; and

(c) whether any gun licences have been cancelled because the licence-holders wear khaddar clothes or put on Gandhi caps?

A.—(a), (b) & (c) The Government have no information but have called for it.

Mr. U. C. SUBRAHMANYA BHATT:—"Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to place the information on the table of the House when it is received?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—"The suggestion of the hon. Member will be considered when the information is received."

Government Press

Deduction of dues to the Government Press Party from the salaries of the members.

* 530 Q.—Mr. C. BASU DEV: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that subscriptions and other dues to the Government Press Party are being recovered by the Superintendent from the salaries of the employees of the Government Press, who are members of the party; and

(b) if the answer be in the affirmative, whether there are any orders of the Government under which the Superintendent makes such recoveries and if so, what they are?

A.—(a) Yes. Such recoveries are being made by the pay disbursing officer at the express request of each member in writing.

(b) There is no Government Order dealing with this matter.

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Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"With reference to the answer given in clause (a), may I know who it was that took written orders from these members?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—"What I was given to understand was that these members made a request in writing to the Superintendent that this might be done."

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"Was the order voluntary?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—"Yes, voluntary."

Mr. V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"May I ask the hon. the Home Member to call for a copy of the request made by the Government Press employees and place it on the table of the House?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—"I do not think it is necessary."

Minimum wages and security of service for employees in the Government Press.

* 531 Q.—Mr. C. BASU DEV: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the question of minimum wage for the workmen of the Government Press was discussed by the Superintendent of the Government Press with the Government; if so, what is the result;

(b) whether permanent appointments as piece-work compositors have not been made since October 1929; if so, why;

(c) whether the Government have ordered the reduction of strength of the piece-work establishment; if so, why, to what extent, and on what principle;

(d) whether the Superintendent of the Government Press is sending away men of service without notice; and

(e) what provision has been made for the flow of work so as to enable the piece-work compositors to earn the barest minimum living wage and increased wages as they advance in age and service?

A.—(a) Yes. It was found that the employees in the Government Press were getting, on the whole, higher wages than employees in private presses besides working shorter hours and being more generously treated as regards leave and pension.

(b) Yes. The question of introducing a Contributory Provident Fund system for the technical employees of the Press is under the consideration of Government. Pending a final decision on the question, Government have considered it unnecessary to increase the number of pensionable appointments.

(c) No.

(d) Twenty-five temporary compositors, who are appointed on the understanding that they will be sent away without notice when work becomes slack, were discharged by the Superintendent, Government Press, on account of decrease in work.

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- (e) The flow of work is so regulated as to give an equal share of work to every man as far as possible. In slack seasons preference is given first to permanent hands and then to temporary hands according to age and service. The earnings of piece-workers depend upon their ability and efficiency; but on occasions, light work at time rates is given to men when they get to the verge of retirement.

Police

Alleged biting of a picketer by a constable.

* 532 Q.—MR. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether one Sidhi Govindan, a picketer, was badly bitten by a constable on the 13th February and had to be removed to the Congress Emergency Hospital for treatment;

(b) whether police constables have been authorized to bite picketers also; and

(c) if not, whether the Government will take action against the constable?

A.—(a) The hon. Member is referred to the press communiqué,* dated 24th February 1931.

(b) & (c) Do not arise.

MR. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"In answer to clause (a) it is stated 'The hon. Member is referred to the Press Communiqué, dated 24th February 1931'. May I know whether the Government have made any enquiries subsequent to the issue of the communiqué?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—"No, Sir."

MR. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"May I know whether the Government will call for information from non-official Members who have got some evidence to give and whether according to that fact he will take the necessary action?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—"If the evidence is sent to me, I am prepared to consider the matter."

B. POCKER SAHIB Bahadur:—"What is the information upon which the communiqué was issued by the Government?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—"The Commissioner of Police made enquiries. I may also say that the Commissioner of Police states as follows:—

"There was no picketing or other demonstration in Godown Street from 9 a.m. to 12 noon on the 14th though a patrol was on duty there. In the afternoon there was not even a police patrol in the street."

B. POCKER SAHIB Bahadur:—"Do the Government think that the statement as to the biting is an ingenious lie invented by that picketer with some motive to charge the police?"

* Printed as Appendix I on page 528 infra.

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The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—"I have no information on the point. I have given information from what I have in my possession, viz., the report of the Commissioner of Police."

B. POCKER SAHIB Bahadur:—"May I know if the Police are permitted to bite the people if they think it necessary to disperse an unlawful assembly?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—"My point is that they have not done so."

Prevention of photographers from taking photos of the picketing at Rattan Bazaar road.

* 533 Q.—MR. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the representatives of the Press Photo Bureau were forcibly prevented by the Police from taking photos of the picketing at Rattan Bazaar road on the 7th February 1931 and some other days;

(b) whether the Police had any instructions to prevent by force any individual or company from taking photos of scenes when picketing of foreign cloth shops was going on; and

(c) if no instructions have been given to that effect, what action the Government have taken against the offending policemen?

A.—(a) to (c) The Government have no information.

MR. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"If the Government have no information, will they call for information?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—"I have called for the information and this is what the Commissioner of Police has stated:—

"I have to state that no force was ever used deliberately against members of the Press Photo Bureau. If they were in a crowd ordered to disperse and declining to do so, they may have shared the fate of others. Photographs actually appeared in the *Hindu* on 9th, 13th and 16th February 1931 and in *Swarajya* on 9th and 12th February 1931. I issued no instructions in the matter."

Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"May I know if the hon. Member has perused the report in the newspapers?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—"Yes, Sir."

B. POCKER SAHIB Bahadur:—"Did they consider the whole thing?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—"They considered the question from all the materials available to them."

MR. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"May I know if the proprietors of the Press Photo Bureau also complained about the incident?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—"A complaint was made to me through the telephone and I asked them to do so in writing but this was not done."

[12th March 1931]

Alleged assault on pressmen by the Police in Rattan Bazaar street.

* 534 Q.—MR. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether on Wednesday, February 11th, a press reporter was rudely pushed aside by Inspector Currie near the Flower Bazaar Police station;

(b) whether the reporter said to Mr. Currie, 'Mr. Currie, we are pressmen, you know' and whether Mr. Currie replied, 'I don't care who you are, and I don't want your d—d report';

(c) whether the Government proposes to take any action against Mr. Currie for his conduct;

(d) whether the Government will issue instructions to see that the Police do not roughly handle press reporters; and

(e) whether the Commissioner or Inspector Currie paid a visit to the Hindu office in this connexion and spoke to the Editor about the comments which appeared in that paper?

A.—(a) to (e) The Government have no information.

MR. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"Will the Government call for information?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—"Yes, I have called for the information and this is what the report says:—

'The Inspector denies both these charges. It is quite possible that a reporter was hustled with other members of the crowd. It is impossible to discriminate on these occasions. The report of the *Hindu* on the incident shows that a reporter was standing on the pavement in front of the shops picketed.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Inspector Currie was told not to interfere with press reporters in any way but reporters must take their chance of being dispersed if they are members of a crowd which has been ordered to "move on".

(e) No."

MR. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"May I know, even when the reporter told Mr. Currie that he was there as a reporter representing certain paper, why he was treated in the manner in which he was treated?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—"I said he was not treated in that manner."

MR. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI:—"May I know when Mr. Currie was told not to interfere with the press reporters?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—"After this question was received I sent it to the Commissioner of Police and he told us that he had given instructions to his subordinates not to interfere with the Press Reporters."

MR. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI:—"Did the Commissioner of Police entertain any suspicion?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—"He did not entertain any suspicion."

[12th March 1931]

Alleged assault of pressmen by the Police in Rattan Bazaar street.

* 535 Q.—MR. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that even the pressmen were forcibly pushed by the Police in Rattan Bazaar street on the 11th February 1931; and

(b) if so, what were the reasons for such a behaviour on the part of the Police even towards press people?

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

Reinstatement of Mr. Samuel, probationary Sub-Inspector of Police.

* 536 Q.—RAI SAHIB C. KOLANDA REDDI: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether the probation of nine Police Sub-Inspectors was ceased in November last;

(b) whether on the appeal of one of these nine men, by name Yarlaga Surayya, P.T.S. No. 50, he was reinstated, although he had three black marks and failed in two subjects; and

(c) whether on a similar appeal from P.T.S. No. 34, S. Samuel by name, he was not reinstated although he failed like the former in two subjects, but had no black marks like him?

A.—(a) to (c) The Government have no information.

MR. V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"May I know whether the Government were consulted before the probation was terminated?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—"The Government were not consulted."

MR. V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"May I know what was the special circumstance that distinguished the case of Mr. Samuel from that of Mr. Surayya?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—"I think it is a matter entirely within the discretion of the head of the department."

District Superintendents of Police transferred from Coimbatore district.

* 537 Q.—DIWAN BAHADUR C. S. RATNASABHAPATI MUDALIYAR: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state the number, names and the dates of posting and transfer of District Superintendents of Police to and from the Coimbatore district within the past two years?

A.—The information is given in the following statement:—

Number and name of officer.	Date of joining the district.	Date of leaving the district.
1. Mr. E. L. Skinner	... 13th November 1928.	8th January 1929.
2. „ C. R. Charsley	... 9th January 1929.	28th January 1929.
3. „ E. L. Skinner	... 29th January 1929.	2nd April 1929.

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Number and name of officer.	Date of joining the district.	Date of leaving the district.
4. Mr. J. M. Green ...	3rd April 1929.	1st September 1929.
5. „ E. L. Skinner ...	2nd September 1929.	25th October 1929.
6. „ H. Dawson ...	26th October 1929.	20th April 1930.
7. „ D. C. T. Cameron ..	23rd April 1930.	22nd September 1930.
8. „ J. Elliott ...	23rd September 1930.	31st October 1930.
9. „ A. F. Bulkley ...	1st November 1930.	26th January 1931.
		(Proceeded on leave from 27th January 1931).
10. „ J. Elliott ...	(Posted)	

Mr. V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—“ May I know why there have been frequent transfers of District Superintendents of Police from one place to another, and whether it does not entail a large amount of expenditure by way of travelling allowance ? ”

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—
“ Yes.”

Mr. V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—“ Will the Government call for information in this matter ? ”

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—
“ I do not think there is any necessity.”

Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—“ Is there any special reason for these numerous transfers ? ”

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—
“ In this matter we act upon the advice of the Head of the Department. Any how in view of the suggestions made by hon. Members I shall draw his attention.”

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI :—“ May I know whether these transfers are made on account of the salubrious climate of Coimbatore ? ”

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—“ On account of exigencies of service.”

Transfer of Mr. S. P. Krishna Ayyar and Mr. A. C. Hensman, Deputy Superintendents of Police, from Coimbatore district.

* 538 Q.—Diwan Bahadur C. S. RATNASABHAPATI MUDALIYAR : Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state the date of and the reasons for the transfers of Mr. S. P. Krishna Ayyar and Mr. A. C. Hensman, Deputy Superintendents of Police, from the Coimbatore district ?

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A.—M.R.Ry. S. P. Krishna Ayyar Avargal and Mr. A. C. Hensman were transferred from the Coimbatore district on the 5th February 1931. The transfers were due to the exigencies of the public service.

Alleged police attack on a procession at Coimbatore on 7th December 1930.

* 539 Q.—Diwan Bahadur C. S. RATNASABHAPATI MUDALIYAR : Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that a procession at Coimbatore on 7th December 1930 in honour of Mr. C. P. Subbiah on his release from jail was dispersed by force by the police ;

(b) whether there was any prohibitory order then in force against processions and such like demonstrations ;

(c) on whose authority the procession was dispersed ;

(d) whether the procession was dispersed by the use of lathis or wooden spoons (agappays) ;

(e) if by wooden spoons, whether they were supplied departmentally, or were purchased on the spot or seized from neighbouring shops ;

(f) how many were injured ;

(g) whether all the injured were Congressmen, or whether mere spectators and passers-by were also injured ;

(h) whether the hon. the Home Member would be pleased to lay the report of the authorities in reference to this on the Council table ; and

(i) if no report has been received, whether he would call for it and lay the same on the table ?

A.—(a) to (i) The Government have no information.

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN :—“ Will the Government call for the information ? ”

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—

“ I do not think there is any necessity to call for the information especially in view of the fact that a settlement has been happily arrived at. Let the Government and the opposition engage themselves in promoting friendly feelings in the country.”

Alleged beating of certain persons by the police at Karkal.

* 540 Q.—Mr. U. C. SUBRAHMANYA BHATT : Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that during the days immediately succeeding the promulgation of the order under section 144 of the Criminal Procedure Code in the town of Karkal the police went about beating persons on whom they or their friends had a grudge ; and

(b) what action the Government propose to take in the matter ?

A.—(a) & (b) Unless the hon. Member can be more precise as to the date, the number and names of the persons said to have been beaten, the names or numbers and rank of the police concerned and the nature of the grudge they are alleged to have harboured, the Government are not in a position to furnish any answers to his inquiries.

[12th March 1931]

Exchange of Mufassal and City Police Inspectors.

* 541 Q.—Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) what is the total service of each Inspector now serving in the City Police on the mufassal scale of pay;

(b) whether any steps have been taken by the Government periodically to exchange City Police Inspectors with mufassal Police Inspectors; and

(c) if so, in how many cases such exchange has been made, what are the cases and from which districts?

A.—(a) There are ten Inspectors in the mufassal scale of pay and their total service amounts to 27, 24, 25, 18, 23, 23, 16, 15, 14 and 12 years respectively.

(b) & (c) No, but four of the ten abovementioned Inspectors were drafted in from the mufassal in permanent vacancies.

Civil Justice*Location of Courts at Kurnool.*

* 542 Q.—Mr. A. RAMAKRISHNA REDDI: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether any complaints have been received by the Government that great hardship has been caused to the lawyers and the litigants by the location of the District Court and the Sub-Court at Kurnool in one building and by the location of the District Munsif's Court at Kurnool in another place away from the former building;

(b) whether the local Bar Association at Kurnool made representations to the District Judge, and the Government to locate the District Munsif's Court in the same compound as the District Court and the Sub-Court; and

(c) whether Government intend to do so?

A.—(a) No.

(b) Government have no information whether any representation was made to the District Judge. Government have not received any representation to that effect.

(c) Does not arise.

Letter from the Collector to the District Judge of South Kanara regarding the resignation of Mr. S. B. Bhide from the Municipal Council, Mangalore.

* 543 Q.—Mr. U. C. SUBRAHMANYA BHATT: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether he has received the information called for with reference to clause (a) of question No. 162, dated 28th January 1931, regarding the letter written by the Collector of South Kanara to the District Judge of South Kanara in regard to the resignation of his seat in the Municipal Council, Mangalore, by Mr. S. B. Bhide;

(b) if so, whether the Government will be pleased to place on the table a copy of the said letter; and

(c) what action the Government have taken or propose to take in the matter?

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A.—(a) Yes.

(b) No.

(c) None.

Mr. U. C. SUBRAHMANYA BHATT:—"May I know whether the matter contained in that letter sought to interfere with the discretion of the District Judge and the Judges subordinate to him, and may I know whether the letter will be placed on the table?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"I have said that the letter cannot be placed on the table, but nevertheless, as my friend is very anxious about this, I may say for his information that there has been no interference as contemplated by my hon. Friend."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"May I know whether the letter was written with a view that the District Judge should not give commissions to Mr. S. B. Bhide."

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"I am afraid my Friend wants me to disclose the contents of that letter which, I think, I cannot do in public interests."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"Has the hon. the Law Member taken any action to see that the public interests do not suffer by the interference of Collectors?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"I have satisfied myself by perusing the letter that public interests do not suffer. I do not think that it is necessary for the Government to take any action."

Forests*Alleged unwillingness of people in South Kanara to form panchayats under the forest village system.*

* 544 Q.—Mr. A. B. SHETTY: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) the existing number of panchayats under the forest village system in South Kanara; and

(b) whether the Government have received reports that people are unwilling to form such panchayats and, if so, why they are so unwilling?

A.—(a) Three.

(b) The unwillingness of the people to form such panchayats is reported to be due to the continuance of the concessions permitted in the district in regard to free removal of undergrowth in the reserved forest.

Mr. A. B. SHETTY:—"With reference to the answer given to clause (b) viz., 'the unwillingness of the people to form such panchayats is reported to be due to the continuance of the concession, etc., etc.', may I know whether it is due to this cause or any other cause?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"It is not due to any other cause."

Mr. A. B. SHETTY:—"May I know whether the unwillingness of the people to form panchayats is due to the addition in the agreement of a new condition to which they are unwilling to subscribe."

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The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"I have no knowledge about it. Anyhow, as my Friend is very anxious to know all about it, I request him to give me a separate notice when I shall enquire into the matter."

Mr. A. B. SHETTY :—"May I know from the hon. the Law Member whether the neighbouring people are made to do this work free of charge by the forest subordinates?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"From the information that I have from the head of the department, there was no such instance. If my Friend gives me specific instances I shall certainly enquire into the matter."

Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—"May I know if they are paid lesser rates of wages or are they paid the prevailing wages?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"They are paid the usual wages."

Alleged compulsion of cultivators to fire-trace the exterior lines of the reserves in South Kanara.

* 545 Q.—Mr. A. B. SHETTY : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether forest subordinates in South Kanara compel poor cultivators to clear and fire-trace the exterior lines of the reserves without making any payment for their labour; and

(b) whether the Government pay for this work or whether they expect free labour from the neighbouring people?

A.—(a) The Government are not aware of any such case as is alleged.

(b) The Government pay for such work. They do not expect free labour from the neighbouring people.

Jails

Remission of sentence awarded to Mr. Collett.

* 546 Q.—Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Mr. Collett who was sentenced for two years, was given seven months' remission?

A.—He was granted a remission of five months and thirteen days.

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN :—"May I know why such long term of remission is given to prisoners?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"I believe it was done in the usual course. If my Friend wants more accurate information, I request him to give me notice."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—"May I know what is the maximum term of remission which can be earned by a prisoner for two years?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"Notice, Sir."

[12th March 1981]

Alleged striking of a prisoner by Mr. Howe.

* 547 Q.—Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether Mr. Howe, the Jail Superintendent, struck a prisoner in the presence of the jail visitor, the hon. Mr. G. Narayanaswami Chetti, and whether he made a complaint about it to the Inspector-General of Prisons; and

(b) what action the Government have taken thereon?

A.—(a) The answer to both parts of the question is in the negative.

(b) Does not arise.

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN :—"May I know from the hon. the Law Member whether Mr. Narayanaswami Chetti did not inform the Inspector-General of Police or make a complaint to the hon. the Law Member personally?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"He did not tell me. The Inspector-General of Prisons says that Mr. Narayanaswami Chetti did not tell him."

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN :—"What did Mr. Narayanaswami Chetti tell you?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"He did not tell me anything."

Marine

Increase in the cost of dredging operations.

* 548 Q.—Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state why, while the cost of dredging operations per ton fell from Re. 0-3-2 in 1927-28 and 1928-29 to Re. 0-2-11 in 1929-30, in the case of *Negapatam* Dredger, it rose from Re. 0-3-0 in 1927-28 and Rs. 1-6-1 in 1928-29 to Rs. 4-1-5 in 1929-30, and from Rs. 1-6-11 in 1928-29 to Rs. 5-15-8 in 1929-30 in the case of *Cocanada* and *Gouthami*, respectively?

A.—The hon. Member has presumably taken the figures from the report on the Administration of the Madras Port Department for the year 1929-30 which was placed at the disposal of the Press with G.O. No. 584, Finance (Marine), dated 1st December 1930. On an examination the Government found that the basis on which the figures were worked out was not correct. The correct procedure for arriving at the average cost of dredging operations would be to take the total expenses for the year (for establishment, stores, depreciation, repairs, etc.), and divide that amount by the number of tons of spoil dredged during the year. Calculated on this basis, the working expenses (cost per ton) of the two dredgers are as follows :—

	1927-28			1928-29			1929-30		
	RS.	A.	P.	RS.	A.	P.	RS.	A.	P.
<i>Cocanada</i> ...	0	6	0	0	15	1	0	9	10
<i>Gouthami</i> ...	...	...	...	0	12	6	0	10	7

[12th March 1931]

Reduction of landing and other charges at Madras port.

* 549 Q.—Mr. M. A. MUTHIAH CHETTIYAR: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) what is the consolidated landing charge levied at the Madras port for dutiable cargo and non-dutiable cargo and why different rates are made applicable to the two kinds of cargo;

(b) how much of the landing charge is taken by the Port Trust and how much by the landing agents;

(c) how much of the tonnage handled by the landing agents in 1929-30 was actually boated and how much landed direct on the quay without any service on their part;

(d) why the landing charge on cargo landed on the quay and on cargo boated from the moorings is the same;

(e) what is the charge paid by the exporters for boating one ton of cargo;

(f) why the Port Trust does not charge the same rate for boating import cargo;

(g) whether the Government received any representation from the Southern India Chamber of Commerce in February 1930 for reduction of Port Trust rates, and if so, what action has been taken on it; and

(h) whether Government propose to take any action for reducing landing and other charges levied at the port of Madras?

A.—(a) The rates of consolidated landing charges levied at the port of Madras on import cargo (with certain exceptions) up to one ton in weight or measurement per package, landed from vessels whether lying at quays or at moorings are shown below:—

	RS.	A.	P.	
(i) Foreign and dutiable coasting import cargo.	2	0	0	per ton (to cover landing, crantage, and quay dues).
(ii) Non-dutiable coasting cargo.	2	10	0	per ton (to cover landing, crantage, quay dues and portorage).

Goods (with certain exceptions) over one ton in weight or measurement per package landed over a quay, either directly or by lighters from a vessel at the same quay, have to pay the above consolidated landing charges and crantage in addition.

The higher rate for non-dutiable coasting cargo is due to the fact that the handling of these goods has been relinquished by the Trust to the steamer agents and the consolidated charge consequently includes cost of portorage also. There is however a reduction of 10 annas in the harbour dues on these goods.

(b) The Port Trust take at the rate of 5 annas per ton; the balance is taken by the landing agents.

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(c) The tonnage on which consolidated charges were levied in 1929-30 was as follows:—

Tonnage landed direct on quay	289,361
Tonnage landed by lighters whether from ship at quay or ship at mooring	247,565

(d) Cargo landed on the quay and cargo taken by boat from the moorings are required to pay the same consolidated charge as otherwise the owners of goods discharged at quay will gain an advantage over the other owners and will be able to undersell them.

(e) The Government have no information.

(f) Does not arise.

(g) A representation was received in March 1930 from the Southern India Chamber of Commerce on the administration of the Madras Port Trust generally. This representation is under the consideration of Government.

(h) Under sections 42 to 43-A of the Madras Port Trust Act, 1905, the Trust is primarily responsible for the maintenance of a proper scale of rates. Proposals for the alteration of the existing rates should first be formulated by the Trust. The revision of the present arrangements for handling import cargo is under the consideration of the Port Trust Board. Government will favourably consider any suggestion of the Port Trust Board which is likely to be in the interest of trade.

B. POCKER SAHIB Bahadur:—"May I know why Government charge Rs. 2 and Rs. 2-10-0 for landing charges, while private agencies levy only 8 annas per ton for export for the same kind of work?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"These are all regulated by the rules framed by the Port Trust Board. In fact it is left to their discretion and the powers of Government are limited in this matter."

B. POCKER SAHIB Bahadur:—"Is it not obvious that it is a great injustice done that Rs. 2 and Rs. 2-10-0 should be levied for landing charges by the Government while the market rate charged by private agencies is only 8 annas per ton for export, the work being the same in both cases?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"It is not obvious to me. It is after all a matter of opinion."

MR. YAKUB HASAN:—"Considering the fact that these grievances have been ventilated in the Press and on the floor of this House, will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to look into the matter and see that the grievances are redressed?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"I believe the Port Trust is considering the whole matter and, when I receive the report from the Port Trust, I shall carefully look into the whole matter."

[12th March 1931]

Sarada Act.*Prosecutions under the Sarada Act.*11-15
a.m.

* 550 Q.—Mr. A. B. SHETTY: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) how many prosecutions have so far been made under the Sarada Act and with what result; and

(b) what the intentions of the Government are with regard to enforcing the provisions of this Act?

A.—(a) One up to the end of January 1931. The accused involved were four. Two were fined rupees twenty each and one rupees ten. The charge against the fourth was withdrawn.

(b) As under section 9 of the Act a prosecution cannot be initiated except upon private complaint, the enforcement of its provisions generally is not within the province of Government.

Mr. A. B. SHETTY:—"May I know whether the Government are aware that the Sarada Act is being defied by the people and a large number of early marriages are taking place in spite of the Sarada Act?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"I think that the suggestion conveyed by my hon. Friend is correct."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"May I ask whether the village officers have been instructed not to report any violations of the provisions of this Act, to the superior officers?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"There are no such instructions at all. As my hon. Friend knows, prosecutions can be instituted only when there are complaints from private people. The Government have no option under the Act."

Mr. C. R. PARTHASARATHI AYYANGAR:—"Is not the object of the Sarada Act a public one, to subserve public interests?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"It may be so; or it may not be so."

Mr. C. R. PARTHASARATHI AYYANGAR:—"What steps have the Government taken in the matter?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"The Government have enacted the law."

Mr. C. R. PARTHASARATHI AYYANGAR:—"May I enquire whether the Government have issued instructions to their subordinates to report cases against the Act?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"There is no option for the Government. There is no rule by which the Government can issue instructions. As I have already submitted, prosecution can be launched only on the complaint of private individuals and the Government have no control over private individuals."

[12th March 1931]

Alleged dismissal and reinstatement of a village munsif for transgressing the Sarada Act.

* 551 Q.—Mr. A. B. SHETTY: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether recently the Collector of Tanjore ordered the dismissal of a village munsif for transgressing the provisions of the Sarada Act;

(b) whether the Board of Revenue, on appeal, recommended that the man might be asked to resign instead of being punished with a dismissal; and

(c) whether this matter came up finally before the Government and they ordered the reinstatement of the village munsif?

A.—(a) No. It was the Sub-Collector, Negapatam, who ordered the dismissal.

(b) The Board of Revenue made no such recommendation.

(c) The reference to Government was as to the disposal by the Collector of the appeal from the Sub-Collector's order, and the advice given was that the appeal should be allowed.

Mr. V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"In view of the point that the Government have ordered that the appeal should be allowed, do the Government mean that the village munsif should be reinstated?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"That was the advice given by the Government."

Mr. V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"Do the Government not feel that he is not carrying out the spirit of the Act?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"This matter is not one of prosecution but of a departmental punishment."

Economic Condition*Economic distress in South Kanara.*

* 552 Q.—Mr. U. C. SUBRAHMANYA BHATT: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that there is acute economic distress in the district of South Kanara owing to the fall in the price of produce such as rice, pepper, arecanuts, coconuts, etc.;

(b) what is the percentage of fall in the present year as compared with the prices in the previous three years, in the prices of the above produce in South Kanara;

(c) whether any representations have been made to the District Collector or the Government in the matter; and

(d) whether the Government propose to give any remission to the ryots in the assessment in view of the phenomenal fall in prices or otherwise alleviate their distress?

A.—(a) It is a fact that trade and agriculture in general have been adversely affected by the recent fall of prices; but this condition is not peculiar to the South Kanara district.

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- (b) A statement^a showing the price of rice and coconut in the present year and in the previous three years is annexed. Similar information regarding the prices of pepper and arecanuts is not available.
- (c) The Government have not received any representation; they have no information whether the District Collector has received any.
- (d) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the answer to clause (b) of question No. 388.

Mr. U. C. SUBRAHMANYA BHATT:—"With reference to clause (c), may I know whether the Government will call for the information whether the Collector received any representations?"

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL:—"I do not think it is necessary to call for the information, whether the District Collector received any representation. If he thinks that any action is desirable, he will report the matter to the Board of Revenue."

Irrigation

Action taken on the Cauvery Committee's report.

* 553 Q.—Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased—

(1) to place on the table of the House a statement showing the decisions the Government have come to with reference to the works referred to in paragraph 192 (page 62) of the Cauvery Committee's report; and

(2) to state—

(a) what action in particular has been taken so far with reference to the Committee's proposals concerning the Vennar, the Pamaniyar, the Mulliyar and the Valavanar; and

(b) what budget provision is being made for Vennar drainage in view of the recent devastating floods?

A.—(1) & (2) (a) A statement^b is laid on the table.

(2) (b) There is a provision of Rs. 1,00,000 in the current year and it is proposed to provide Rs. 50,000 in the Budget Estimates for 1931-32.

Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"It is stated in the appendix that the upland drainage of Vennar is not recommended by the Chief Engineer. May I know what is the proposal of the Government in this matter?"

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL:—"The project referred to by the hon. Member will cost several lakhs. As hon. Members are aware, a project is now under execution for the diversion of a great deal of upland drainage into the Cauvery above the Grand Anicut and thence into the Coleroon. The diversion of more drainage into the Coleroon across the Vennar and Cauvery below the Grand Anicut involves very large expenditure and the present financial conditions make it impossible for us to take it up. The Government are therefore concentrating on less expensive projects."

^a Printed as Appendix II on page 528 infra. ^b Printed as Appendix III on pages 529-532 infra.

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Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"May I know whether the Government will consider the possibility of reducing the estimate submitted by the Superintending Engineer? May I know whether the Government cannot carry out the project in some other form?"

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL:—"In any case, it will cost several lakhs to carry out the project."

Repairs to the Mamandoor flood channel.

* 554 Q.—Mr. M. A. MANIKKAVELU NAYAKAR: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the tank in Elacheri (village No. 124), Cheyyar taluk, North Arcot, was classified as under anicut cultivation and the assessment raised;

(b) whether it is a fact that for a number of years past the lands were uncultivated for want of water and that remission of tax was allowed;

(c) whether the Government have considered the advisability of repairing the Mamandoor flood channel that feeds the tank; and, if not, why not;

(d) whether it is a fact that the tank-bund is so low that it cannot contain a large supply of water; and

(e) whether steps would be taken to raise and strengthen the tank-bund; and, if not, why not?

A.—(a) & (b) The tank was originally included in the list of works connected with the Palar anicut system. It was subsequently eliminated from the list as it did not receive supply from the anicut. The question of including it in the list of minor works in charge of the Public Works Department in North Arcot is under the consideration of the Chief Engineer for Irrigation.

The Government have no information as to whether the assessment was raised or whether remission was allowed. They have called for a report.

(c), (d) & (e) The Government have called for a report.

Mr. C. R. PARTHASARATHI AYYANGAR:—"With reference to answer to clauses (a) and (b), may I know whether it was originally included in the list of works connected with the Palar anicut system?"

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL:—"I must ask for notice of the question."

Mr. V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"May I enquire whether the failure of adequate supply to this tank is due to the failure of freshes in the Palar?"

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL:—"I cannot answer that question straightaway."

Mr. V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"If it is due to failure of freshes, may I know whether this point is referred to in the report of the Committee?"

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL:—"I must ask for notice."

[12th March 1931]

Expenditure on irrigation in the Salem district.

* 555 Q.—Mr. K. A. NACHIAPPA GOUNDER: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) the amount spent in each year on irrigation sources in the Salem district for the past ten years; and

(b) what is the percentage when compared with the amount spent in the whole Presidency?

A.—(a) & (b) The Government have not the information.

Supply of water for irrigation to Salem district from the Mettur dam.

* 556 Q.—Mr. K. A. NACHIAPPA GOUNDER: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether the investigation of the possibility of supplying water for irrigation to Salem district from Mettur dam has been completed and if so, with what result;

(b) whether a complete report of the same will be placed on the table; and

(c) whether the Government propose to pursue the question any further?

A.—(a) & (b) The attention of the hon. Member is drawn to G.O. No. 1214 I., dated 14th April 1930, which was placed on the table on 6th November 1930.

(c) No.

Proposed digging of additional canals in Namakkal taluk.

* 557 Q.—Mr. K. A. NACHIAPPA GOUNDER: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether there was any proposal at any time to dig up additional channels in Namakkal taluk of Salem district in order to bring Cauvery water to irrigate some more area; and

(b) if so, what it was and why it was not put into execution?

A.—(a) & (b) The attention of the hon. Member is drawn to G.O. No. 1214 I., dated 14th April 1930, which was placed on the table on 6th November 1930.

Proposed damming of the Malapuzha in Palghat taluk.

* 558 Q.—Mr. R. M. PALAT: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that an estimate was made some years ago about the possibility of damming the Malapuzha in the Palghat taluk for irrigating a part of the Palghat and Walluvanad taluks;

(b) if so,

(i) why the scheme was abandoned;

(ii) what was the extent of land which would have been served by such a scheme; and

(iii) what was the rate of interest expected on the capital invested?

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A.—(a) Yes, a rough estimate was made.

(b) (i) The investigation of this project has been postponed till the requirements of areas more in need of protection have been attended to.

(ii) & (iii) No accurate estimate has been made.

Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"May I know whether the scheme has been abandoned or whether the Government have any intention of further considering it?"

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL:—"It may be considered when the reasonable demands of other areas have been attended to."

Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"May I ask what the hon. Member means?"

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL:—"There is heavier rainfall in these taluks than in other portions of the Presidency. It is more desirable to spend money on irrigation in areas which are in greater need of such protection, than on these two taluks of Palghat and Walluvanad. The amount of money at our disposal is limited and we have to spend it on other projects."

Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"May I know whether this is not a productive scheme?"

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL:—"We have to spend our money on other parts of the Presidency first."

Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"May I ask whether the Government cannot proceed with the scheme with loan funds?"

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL:—"We cannot at present borrow any money from the Government of India; nor can we get money from any other source."

Refusal of water-supply to lands in deltaic areas

* 559 Q.—Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state why Government refuse water to lands in the deltaic areas which are included 'temporarily' under wet ayacut or which though dry according to the classification have, as a rule, never been refused Government water for irrigation till now?

A.—The Government have passed no such orders.

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"Sir, the matter is very serious. May I know whether the hon. Member is not aware that Revenue Divisional Officers have, as a matter of fact, refused water to these lands on political grounds?"

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL:—"I am not aware of that; I can imagine that the ryots might have been informed that water would be withheld if the taxes are not paid."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"May I know whether the Government will issue instructions to the officers concerned, in view of the recent settlement?"

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL:—"I shall consider the suggestion."

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Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"May I ask why the Government should refuse water to these people, when the Government get a return in the shape of cess?"

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL:—"There is no reason why Government should supply water when, there is reason to believe that the ryots have no intention of paying for the water if they get it."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"May I ask whether the Government will enquire whether water was refused on the definite ground that the parties concerned refused to pay taxes or on a mere suspicion that they were sympathisers of the civil disobedience movement?"

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL:—"I shall make enquiries."

Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"May I know whether anybody stated that they were not going to pay taxes?"

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL:—"Last year, suggestions were made to that effect."

Mr. C. R. PARTHASARATHI AYYANGAR:—"May I ask whether the Government are entitled to say that water would not be given to lands under wet ayacut?"

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL:—"The question does not refer to wet lands."

Closure of canals in Godavari Western Delta.

* 560 Q.—Rao Sahib B. VENKATARAMAYYA NAYUDU: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government is aware that the Public Works Department closed the canals in Godavari Western Delta during the current month;

(b) whether the Government sanctioned water for second crop irrigation for the lands in the Godavari Western Delta, and if so, for how many acres;

(c) whether there was any notice or proper notice to the ryots affected and to the owners of boats plying in the canals;

(d) whether the Government have received any representation that the sudden closure of the canals is causing considerable inconvenience and loss to the public and that dislocation of business has taken place as a result thereof;

(e) whether the work of repairing the Vijeyeswaram head sluice has been started; and

(f) if so, why the repairing work was started before summer at such great public inconvenience?

A.—(a) Yes. The Government have been informed that the main canal was closed for a few days, with the approval of the Collector.

(b) The area thrown open for second crop is roughly 134,000 acres.

(c) The ryots were not informed, because irrigation would not be affected, the closure being for a short period between harvesting of the first crop and commencement of the second crop. Boat owners were warned.

(d) No.

(e) Yes.

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(f) The local officers decided that it was in the best interests of the delta that there should be a short closure to enable improvements to the head sluice to be carried out, as the usual hot weather closure would not allow long enough for this.

Rao Sahib B. VENKATARAMAYYA NAYUDU:—"May I know whether 60,000 acres were left uncultivated as a result of closure of the canals?"

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL:—"I have no information."

Rao Sahib B. VENKATARAMAYYA NAYUDU:—"Will the information be called for?"

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL:—"I will make enquiries."

Working of the Potunur Project Canal.

* 561 Q.—Rao Sahib B. VENKATARAMAYYA NAYUDU: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the work of the Potunur Project Channel under Godavari Western Delta has not been commenced as yet though the lands were acquired and handed over to Public Works Department long ago; and

(b) whether it is a fact that the owners of the lands that are proposed to be irrigated under this newly sanctioned channel have already lost about Rs. 25,000 being the interest on the inclusion fees paid by them in the year 1924 owing to the non-execution of the work?

A.—(a) & (b) The Government have no information but have called for a report.

Rao Sahib B. VENKATARAMAYYA NAYUDU:—"May I know, Sir, when the report is expected?"

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL:—"I cannot give any definite date."

Rao Sahib B. VENKATARAMAYYA NAYUDU:—"When was it called for?"

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL:—"On the 2nd March."

Land Revenue

Appointment of Deputy Tahsildars in Ganjam, Vizagapatam and East Godavari districts.

* 562 Q.—MAHBOOB ALI BAIG SAHIB Bahadur: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state whether the Government will be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the members of the several communities recruited as deputy tahsildars in the districts of Ganjam, Vizagapatam and East Godavari since the passing of G.Os. Nos. 712 and 1254, Public, dated 2nd July 1929 and 30th November 1929, respectively, with the dates of appointments of each member in each of the three districts?

A.—A statement^a is annexed.

^a Printed as Appendix IV on page 532 infra.

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Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"May I know if the Government are aware that, from the statement annexed, the officers concerned have not paid any heed to the Government Orders issued on 2nd July 1929 and 30th November 1929?"

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL:—"I shall look into the matter?"

Restoration of the old revenue district of North Arcot.

* 563 Q.—Mr. C. R. PARTHASARATHI AYYANGAR: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) why the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee regarding the restoration of the old revenue district of North Arcot have not been carried into effect;

(b) the departments of administration that have been taken away from the list of duties of Revenue officers and are administered by separate officials and non-officials since 1910;

(c) the amount of additional expenditure incurred in consequence thereof; and

(d) the cost of Revenue establishment in the districts of Chittoor and North Arcot in 1910 and 1928-29, respectively?

A.—(a) In order to counterbalance the creation of a new district in the Northern Circars consequent on the subdivision of the Kistna district, the Retrenchment Committee suggested the possibility of rearranging the Ceded districts and the districts surrounding them so as to reduce their number by one. In that connexion a proposal to dismember the Chittoor district and transfer the areas comprised therein to Chingleput, North Arcot and Anantapur districts was examined. The proposal was dropped as it was found that though geographically feasible, its effect would be to split up the linguistic area.

- (b) (i) Income-tax,
(ii) Local Boards,
(iii) Audit of the accounts of the local boards,
(iv) Political duties rendered by the Collectors of Trichinopoly, Kurnool and Bellary in connexion with the Indian States of Pudukottai, Banganapalle and Sandur respectively.

(c) & (d) The Government have not the information.

Mr. C. R. PARTHASARATHI AYYANGAR:—"May I ask the amount spent on the Revenue establishment in the years 1910 and 1928-29?"

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL:—"It would be extremely difficult to work it out."

Mr. C. R. PARTHASARATHI AYYANGAR:—"Of one district?"

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL:—"Yes, Sir."

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Public Service

Registration of associations of Government servants under the Indian Trade Unions Act of 1926.

* 564 Q.—Mr. C. BASU DEV: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state with reference to the answer to question No. 613 on 26th November 1928—

(a) whether final orders on the question of registration of associations of Government servants under the Indian Trade Unions Act of 1926, and on the revision of the rules governing the formation and conduct of such associations have been received from the Government of India;

(b) if the answer be in the affirmative whether a copy of the orders will be placed on the table of this Council; and

(c) if the answer be in the negative in what stage the matter stands at present?

A.—(a) & (b) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the answer to his question No. 447 at the meeting of the Legislative Council on 27th February 1931.

(c) The Local Government have no information.

Representation of Nambudiris in the public services.

* 565 Q.—Mr. MADHUSOODHANAN THANGAL: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether in the orders relating to communal representation in the public services any special provision has been made for the Nambudiri Brahmins;

(b) whether the Government have recognized that Nambudiris are educationally far behind the other Brahmins in this Presidency;

(c) what the percentage of Nambudiris in the public services is;

(d) what percentage of the members of the community is literate in English;

(e) the name of the community which is nearest to the Nambudiri community in respect of literacy in English;

(f) what the percentage of members of such community in the public services is; and

(g) why no concession has been granted to the Nambudiris in regard to their entertainment in the public service?

A.—(a) & (b) The answer is in the negative.

(c), (d), (e) & (f) The Government have no information.

(g) The Government regret their inability to recognize subdivisions of the main communities for purposes of representation in the public services.

Medical

Accommodation for patients admitted into the hospitals in the City.

* 566 Q.—Mr. V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) the total accommodation (beds) available in the various hospitals in the City of Madras maintained or subsidized by the Government, how

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they are distributed in the various hospitals and what proportions are allotted to men, women and children for surgical and medical cases, giving information for Europeans and Indians separately in each case;

(b) whether the Government are satisfied that the accommodation is sufficient for the total Madras population and for the mufassal immigrants who seek hospital treatment at Madras;

(c) whether any records are maintained to show how many cases seek admission daily into the various hospitals, distributed according to European, Hindu and Muhammadan groups, men, women and children, and medical or surgical, and how many cannot be admitted for want of accommodation;

(d) if no record has been maintained whether a record will be maintained for future guidance;

(e) whether it is a fact that a large number of in-patients are not given beds and have to lie on mats on floors, and if so, whether they are Indians or Europeans;

(f) whether it is a fact that patients get admission into the hospitals on the chits issued by the physicians and surgeons attached to the hospital, irrespective of the Resident Medical Officer's examination and irrespective of the order in which the patients seek admission; and

(g) whether a waiting list is kept for the admission of patients and whether they are admitted according to the order of the date of seeking admission?

A.—The Government have called for the information.

Public Health

Mahanandi water-supply scheme.

* 567 Q.—Mr. A. RAMAKRISHNA REDDI: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government is aware of the strong public feeling against the Mahanandi water-supply scheme for the Nandyal Municipality;

(b) whether Government have passed final orders as regards the scheme; and

(c) if not, why not?

A.—(a) Yes. Government have received representations for and against.

(b) No.

(c) The Government are examining the possibility of an alternative source of supply.

Mr. K. KOTI REDDI:—"May I know if it is a fact that, if the Mahanandi scheme is taken up, the interests of a large number of people will be affected?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU:—"That is the complaint of the agriculturists."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"May I ask whether the Government have not yet made up their mind so far as this Mahanandi scheme is concerned?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU:—"The Government are investigating alternative schemes?"

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Financial assistance to the villagers of Rudravaram for changing their locality.

* 568 Q.—Mr. A. RAMAKRISHNA REDDI: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the village of Rudravaram in the Nandikotkur taluk is highly malarial and that its population has been greatly reduced owing to deaths due to malaria; and

(b) whether Government will consider the question of financial assistance to the villagers to enable them to change the locality?

A.—(a) Rudravaram village in Sirvel taluk (Kurnool) is reputed to be highly malarious. It suffered from a severe outbreak of malaria during 1928. The result of the current census will show whether there has been any reduction in the population of the village.

(b) The Government are not aware of any proposal to shift the village. Any proposal received will be duly considered.

Religious and Charitable Endowments

Expenditure on Judicial proceedings by the Hindu Religious Endowments Board.

* 569 Q.—Mr. U. C. SUBRAHMANYA BHATT: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) in how many proceedings before Civil Courts to which the Hindu Religious Endowments Board was a party in this Presidency, the Board failed;

(b) what was the total amount of costs awarded to the Board for Hindu Religious Endowments out of the funds of religious institutions in each of the years, in the proceedings in which the Board so failed; and

(c) whether the Government propose to amend the section in the Endowments Act relating to costs in such a way as to prevent the Board from backing up frivolous contentions, without fear of any loss or risk to itself?

A.—(a) & (b) Government have no information in the matter.

(c) No.

Mr. U. C. SUBRAHMANYA BHATT:—"May I enquire whether the hon. Minister will call for the information, in view of the fact that a large number of frivolous contentions have been put forward by the Board, they have lost many cases instituted in Civil Courts, and the institutions are asked to be paid their costs incurred by their putting the frivolous contentions?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU:—"The Board is bound under the Act to go to the Court and to recover the contribution payable to it, when it is not paid. It is for the Court to decide whether the allegations are frivolous or not."

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Recovery of contributions from temples in South Kanara.

* 570 Q.—Mr. U. C. SUBRAHMANYA BHATT: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that executions have been filed to recover contributions from the temples in South Kanara having an income of Rs. 10 or Rs. 20;

(b) if so, against how many such petty temples executions have been filed by the Board within the last ten months; and

(c) whether it is a fact that the costs of execution, etc., ordered to be paid by such temples exceed in several cases the annual income of the temples?

A.—Government have no information

Mr. U. C. SUBRAHMANYA BHATT:—“May I ask whether the hon. Minister will call for the information?”

The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU:—“I do not know what purpose will be served.”

Financial position of the Hindu Religious Endowments Board.

* 571 Q.—Mr. U. C. SUBRAHMANYA BHATT: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state what are the liabilities of the Hindu Religious Endowments Board at present, and what the Government propose to do to keep the Board going in the near future?

A.—The Board owes Government a sum of Rs. 3,52,500 exclusive of interest. In order to improve its finances Government are considering the question of amending the Act so as to permit of recovery of the contributions due to the Board as an arrear of land revenue.

Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—“May I know whether the Government expect to get back the amount lent to the Board and, if so, when?”

The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU:—“When the Board is able to collect its arrears.”

Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—“May I know the amount that has to be collected by the Board and whether this amount will cover the loan that has been granted to the Board?”

The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU:—“More than 5 lakhs.”

Agriculture*Agricultural model farms in the Presidency.*

* 572 Q.—Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER: Will the hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state the number of agricultural model farms now existing in this Presidency and the places where they are situated?

A.—There are no agricultural model farms.

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Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—“May I ask whether the Government feel the need for agricultural model farms?”

The hon. Mr. P. T. RAJAN:—“No, Sir.”

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—“May I enquire whether the Government have got farms of their own and whether any portion of them is devoted to the purpose of agricultural model farms?”

The hon. Mr. P. T. RAJAN:—“Research is done on the farms but any practical demonstration is done on the ryots' lands; therefore there is no necessity for model farms.”

Mr. V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—“Am I to understand that the Government make some distinction between agricultural model farms and demonstration farms?”

The hon. Mr. P. T. RAJAN:—“Yes, Sir.”

Mr. V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—“May I enquire how many demonstration farms there are?”

The hon. Mr. P. T. RAJAN:—“Notice, Sir.”

Mr. K. KOTI REDDI:—“May I ask whether demonstration farms are not intended to serve as model to the ryots to copy?”

The hon. Mr. P. T. RAJAN:—“It is so intended.”

Mr. K. KOTI REDDI:—“May I know whether there are no agricultural model farms?”

The hon. Mr. P. T. RAJAN:—“There are no such farms as model farms.”

Registration*Number of Oriya sub-registrars in the office of the Inspector-General of Registration.*

* 573 Q.—Sriman M. G. PATNAIK Mahasayo: Will the hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) how many clerks in the grade of sub-registrars there are in the office of the Inspector-General of Registration, Madras;

(b) how many of them belong to the different communities in the Presidency; and

(c) how many of them are Oriyas?

A.—(a), (b) & (c) The Government have called for information.

Recruitment of sub-registrars in the Registration department.

* 574 Q.—Sriman M. G. PATNAIK Mahasayo: Will the hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) how many reserve sub-registrars there are in the Presidency at present;

(b) how many of them are qualified to be sub-registrars;

(c) how many of the reserve sub-registrars were confirmed as sub-registrars from July 1, 1930, up to date;

(d) how many of them are still in the reserve list and how long since;

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(e) how many people were promoted from clerical staff to the sub-registrars' grade from July 1, 1930, up to date in preference to reserve sub-registrars;

(f) why Messrs. N. Jagannatha Rao and S. Brahmayya, two Brahmans, were appointed as clerks in the two vacancies in the Registration department in the Ganjam district in violation of the rules regulating the recruitment of subordinate services;

(g) whether it is a fact that Messrs. S. Brahmayya and N. Jagannatha Rao, two Brahmans, were confirmed as clerks in the two vacancies in the Ganjam district in spite of the recommendation of the District Registrar of Ganjam that a Brahman and a non-Brahman acting as clerks in the Ganjam district should be confirmed in the two vacancies;

(h) why Mr. S. Brahmayya, a junior acting clerk in the Registration department in the Vizagapatam district, was confirmed in the Ganjam district as clerk in preference to better qualified acting clerks in the Ganjam district;

(i) whether the Government have fixed the percentage of sub-registrars to be recruited from the clerical staff and the percentage to be filled up by direct recruitment; and

(j) if not, whether they propose to do so?

A.—(a) Seventy-seven.

(b) to (h) The Government have called for information.

(i) No.

(j) The question is not under consideration of Government.

Veterinary

Opening of a Veterinary dispensary at Tenkasi.

*575 Q.—A. M. AHMED MIRAN SAHIB Bahadur: Will the hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) whether he is aware that there is no veterinary dispensary at Tenkasi;

(b) whether it is a fact that rinderpest and other cattle diseases have been prevalent in Tenkasi and its surrounding villages during the last five years and more;

(c) what was the total number of cattle that were attacked by such diseases and the number that died during the last five years;

(d) what steps the Government have taken or propose to take to combat the cattle diseases in Tenkasi and its surroundings; and

(e) whether there is any proposal before the Government to open a veterinary dispensary at Tenkasi?

A.—(a) Yes.

(b) The whole of Tenkasi taluk was free from rinderpest till March 1927. It was during the official year 1927-28 that rinderpest broke out in a virulent form in that taluk. The disease was moderately severe in 1928-29. Foot-and-mouth disease prevailed in some of the villages during 1927-28 and 1929-30. No other contagious diseases prevailed in Tenkasi and its surrounding villages within a radius of six miles.

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(c) A statement^a showing the total number of cattle which were affected by the diseases and the number that died during the last five years in the Tenkasi taluk is appended.

(d) About 5,200 inoculations by serum alone method and 511 inoculations by serum simultaneous method were performed against rinderpest in the taluk. Inoculation by serum alone method was undertaken to combat actual outbreaks of rinderpest by running camps in villages during the major part of the official year 1927-28, but towards the close of the year and subsequently, serum simultaneous method was adopted. The ryots were also advised on the measures of segregation of infected animals, disinfection of sheds, burial of carcasses, treatment, etc. Forty-three cases of animals affected with foot-and-mouth disease were treated and advice to ryots regarding preventive measures was also given.

(e) The question of opening a veterinary dispensary at Tenkasi or posting a separate Touring Veterinary Assistant Surgeon with headquarters at the place will be considered.

Education

Better education of the Vellala Gounders in Salem and Coimbatore districts.

*576 Q.—MR. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Excise be pleased to state what steps the Government have taken or propose to take for the better education of the Vellala Gounders in Salem and Coimbatore districts?

A.—None.

Consolidation and concentration of elementary schools.

*577 Q.—MR. A. B. SHETTY: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Excise be pleased to state the measures taken or intended to be taken by the Government for the consolidation and concentration of elementary schools?

A.—The attention of the hon. Member is invited to G.O. No. 740, Education, dated 23rd April 1930, placed at the disposal of the Press and to the answer to his question No. 439.

Prevention of the premature withdrawal of children from school.

*578 Q.—MR. A. B. SHETTY: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Excise be pleased to state—

(a) whether any steps have been taken to prevent the withdrawal of children prematurely from school; and

(b) if so, how far the Government have been successful in lengthening the duration of their school life?

A.—The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the answer given to question No. 284 at the meeting of Legislative Council held on the 30th January 1931.

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Mr. A. B. SHETTY :—" May I know whether the Government have included any provisions in the proposed Elementary Education Bill in regard to this matter ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR :—" The Bill proposed will aim at securing the objects which the hon. Member has in view. "

Mr. K. KOTI REDDI :—" May I know in what way it is proposed to secure this object ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR :—" By providing for the prevention of withdrawal of children prematurely from schools, as mentioned in the hon. Member's question. "

Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" May I know what was the answer of the Government in regard to the question referred to in the answer here ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR :—" The answer to the question referred to in the answer here was that the question of the amendment of the Elementary Education Act was under consideration and that provisions would be made in the amending Act for things like this. "

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION.

Release of Prisoners under Civil Disobedience movement.

* Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI :—" Sir, may I ask, with your permission, a short notice question of the hon. the Law Member, as to why persons who have been convicted to imprisonment under the civil disobedience movement have not yet been released, although orders to that effect seem to have been received from the Government of India so long ago as the 6th of this month ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" With reference to this question, I may say, Sir, that lists were urgently called for and are being examined in the office. As far as I remember now, telegraphic orders have been sent out for the release of prisoners confined in Berhampur, Rajahmundry, Salem, Madura, Cannanore, Vellore, Cuddalore, the Penitentiary here, the Central Jail at Bellary and the Alipuram Jail at Bellary. Most of them must have been released by this time or they will be released in the course of this day. "

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN :—" May I know whether it is a fact that the Government have referred this question to various convicting Magistrates to find out under what sections these prisoners were sentenced ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" In some cases, this had to be done. "

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN :—" What was the reply received from the Magistrates ? "

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The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" I do not remember the replies, because many Magistrates convicted these prisoners and although the information has been received, it is not possible for me to remember all these things. "

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN :—" May I know why the Government of Madras took such a long time for releasing these persons when other provinces took immediate steps in the matter ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" Sir, I repudiate the suggestion made by my friend that the Government of Madras have been guilty of any delay. No delay whatever has taken place and they have been extremely prompt. They called for information at once by telegram; they have been sending out instructions by telegram; and I may tell my friend that in this Presidency, unlike in some other provinces, these civil disobedience prisoners, have been confined in several jails. I believe I am subject to correction that in Bombay most of these prisoners were confined in Poona. The Government have not been guilty of any delay whatever. "

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN :—" May I know what is the cause of the delay if prisoners are confined in several jails instead of in one jail ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" I do not admit that there has been any delay at all. "

B. POCKER SAHIB Bahadur :—" May I know, Sir, how many prisoners have been released so far and how many remain yet to be released ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" It is impossible for me to say that now; but I think the majority have been released already. With reference to the prisoners that are confined in the Alipuram Jail, I understand that there is a large number there, more than about 400; and I believe that my office here has received information that by reason of difficulties in providing accommodation on the railways, they are being released in batches. Even they must have been, by now, released. "

B. POCKER SAHIB Bahadur :—" May I know whether Mr. Annapurnayya has been released ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" So far as I can say now from memory, Mr. Annapurnayya is not one of the civil disobedience prisoners, and even apart from that, he was guilty of strong incitement to violence. So, I believe he will not be released under this order of the Government of India. "

Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" May I know how many civil disobedience prisoners are considered to come under the category of incitement to violence ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" It is with reference to this question that the examination of each case has become necessary. The case of each prisoner will be examined to see whether that prisoner is guilty of violence or not. "

* Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI :—" Is Mr. Annapurnayya's case also under examination ? "

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The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"As far as I remember, his case has been examined. In the first place, he is not a civil disobedience prisoner and so he does not come under the order of the Government of India. I have already given other reasons."

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN :—"May I know if he was not sentenced after the civil disobedience movement was started?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"No."

B. POCKER SAHIB Bahadur :—"How many days more will it take for the Government to complete this enquiry or examination?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"I cannot give any definite promise, but that will be done expeditiously."

Mr. C. SATYANARAYANA CHOUDARI :—"May I know if there is any evidence to show that seditious speeches were delivered by Mr. Annapurnayya?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"Mr. Annapurnayya was guilty of sedition under section 124-A, as I stated. He was not a civil disobedience prisoner. As far as I remember, he was guilty of strong incitement to violence."

Mr. T. S. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"May I know what 'incitement to violence' means? Is it going to be considered under the section under which the person is charged or is it going to be a question apart from the offence with which the prisoner is charged?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"As a matter of fact, I am not bound to consider his case in connexion with this order of the Government of India, because he is not a civil disobedience prisoner."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—"May I ask the hon. the Law Member whether there are many instances similar to that of Mr. Annapurnayya where there had been convictions before the civil disobedience movement started?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"I think there are only very few cases like that."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—"If so, will the Government consider all the cases, so that they can complete the work which has been happily begun elsewhere?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"I am sorry I cannot say anything definitely."

Mr. T. S. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"I am not referring to individuals. I should like to know whether Government as a matter of general policy are going to consider cases with reference to the nature of offences with which people are charged, or on extraneous circumstances as to whether offenders incited people to violence?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"That question does not arise, Sir, in connexion with the present order of the Government of India, as I stated more than once."

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Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—"Is the offence of Mr. Annapurnayya worse than the offence of many other ordinary prisoners under the civil disobedience movement?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"I am afraid that Mr. Annapurnayya's offence is worse than the offence of the ordinary civil disobedience prisoner."

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI :—"Having regard to the instances of prisoners in other provinces who have been released in pursuance of the Government of India order, may I know if the hon. the Law Member will be pleased to review—if identical cases have occurred in other provinces—the case of Mr. Annapurnayya also?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"I do not admit the correctness of the premises of my friend, and so the second part of the question does not arise."

B. POCKER SAHIB Bahadur :—"Is sedition an offence necessarily leading to violence, according to the Government?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"It depends upon the nature of the offence for which each particular person is convicted."

B. POCKER SAHIB Bahadur :—"I ask the question whether sedition under section 124-A of the Penal Code is an offence necessarily involving violence?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"Not necessarily; but sometimes it does."

Mr. C. SATYANARAYANA CHOUDARI :—"May I know whether the Government propose to go behind the judgments of the courts and the contents of such judgments and look into the speeches delivered by the prisoners?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"No, Sir."

Mr. C. SATYANARAYANA CHOUDARI :—"Then, what is the basis, Sir, on which the Government are going to judge whether Mr. Annapurnayya is guilty of inciting people to violence?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"If my friend has been listening to the answers I have been giving, he would have understood that he is not one of the prisoners included in the present category."

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Police

Recruitment of women to the Police department.

579 Q.—Mr. K. KOTI REDDI: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state whether the Government have investigated into the desirability and practicability of entertaining women in the Police department especially with regard to the administration of the Children Act and the Act for the Suppression of Brothels and Immoral Traffic?

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A.—Yes, and are of opinion that the employment of women police in this Presidency is neither expedient nor necessary at present.

Alleged beating of merchants at Gudivada by the police on 15th February 1931.

580 Q.—MR. C. SATYANARAYANA CHAUDARI: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the Circle Inspector of Police at Gudivada entered the houses of some merchants at Gudivada on the 15th instant and beat them for their having closed their shops in memory of the late Pandit Motilal Nehru;

(b) whether it is a fact that this officer has behaved in this way on several occasions in the past; and

(c) whether on 8th February 1931, he beat the under-trial prisoners of Angalur who were arrested in connexion with a procession on the occasion of the death of Pandit Motilal Nehru?

A.—(a) to (c) The Government have no information, but have called for a report.

Civil Justice

Proposed change in the jurisdiction of the Devakottah Sub-court.

581 Q.—DIWAN BAHADUR A. M. M. MURUGAPPA CHETTIYAR: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government are contemplating any change in the jurisdiction of the Devakottah Sub-court by transferring certain portions of it to Sivaganga;

(b) whether they have ascertained the extent to which the people of Devakottah will be inconvenienced by such a transfer;

(c) whether the question of the location of the Sub-court at Karaikudi or Tiruppattur has been considered and why they are considered to be less suitable than Sivaganga; and

(d) whether the views of the District Judge of Ramnad and the local people were obtained on this matter?

A.—(a) & first part of (c) No.

(b) second part of (c) & (d) Do not arise.

Hydro-Electric Schemes

Progress and scope of the Hydro-Electric scheme in Papanasam.

582 Q.—MR. M. D. T. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) what progress has been made in regard to the Hydro-Electric scheme in Papanasam (Tinnevely district) up to now; and

(b) whether the Government have investigated the question as to how far the said scheme will materially improve the irrigation facilities in the Tambraparani area (Tinnevely district) and with what result?

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A.—(a) The hon. Member is referred to the press communiqué issued on 19th June 1928 (G.O. No. 1565 W.) and to the answer given to question No. 92 at the meeting of the Council on the 4th September 1928. No further progress has been made with the scheme.

(b) The question has not yet been investigated.

Floods

Supply of paddy seeds in flood-affected areas in Tanjore district.

583 Q.—MR. A. PL. N. V. NADIMUTHU PILLAI: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have issued instructions to the district revenue officers in the Tanjore district to advance paddy seeds and grant loans to poor mirasidars to facilitate recultivation of their lands in those villages which have been very seriously damaged by the floods;

(b) whether such instructions have been carried out;

(c) if so, in what villages; and

(d) whether the Government will have objection to instruct the seed breeding farms to supply seeds to flood-affected areas in preference to others?

A.—(a), (b) & (c) No. The attention of the hon. Member is invited to paragraph 6 on page 5 of the paper entitled 'A survey of the floods which occurred in the Tanjore, Trichinopoly, Coimbatore and Nilgiri districts in October 1930,' copies of which have been laid on the Council Table.

(d) Instructions to this effect are now being issued to district officers.

Irrigation

Closing of breaches in the Tanjore district.

584 Q.—MR. A. PL. N. V. NADIMUTHU PILLAI: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether all the breaches caused by the floods in the Tanjore district have been completely closed by the Public Works Department authorities;

(b) if not, why not; and

(c) whether the Government will take necessary steps to close the remaining breaches immediately?

A.—(a), (b) & (c) The report^a of the Superintending Engineer, Tanjore Circle, on the subject is laid on the table.

^a Printed as Appendix VI on page 533 infra.

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Repayment of amount spent by mirasidars in repairs to breaches in the Tanjore district.

585 Q.—Mr. A. Pl. N. V. NADIMUTHU PILLAI: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have received any information as to whether the amount spent by some of the mirasidars themselves in the Tanjore district in closing the breaches has been repaid to them by the Public Works Department as already promised; and

(b) whether the Government propose to take steps to order the repayment of the amount to the individuals concerned without further delay?

A.—(a) Claims amounting to Rs. 40,000 had been received up to 23rd February 1931 and Rs. 28,000 had been paid. It is understood that these sums include claims and payment for work done by mirasidars.

(b) The Government see no need to issue special orders.

Action taken on the recommendations of the Cauvery Committee.

586 Q.—Mr. A. Pl. N. V. NADIMUTHU PILLAI: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) what are the several recommendations of the Cauvery Committee that have been carried out; and

(b) what are the recommendations that have not been carried out yet; and what steps the Government propose to take to give effect to such recommendations in the near future?

A.—The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the answer to question No. 553.

Repairs to the Marandai channel in Tinnevely district.

587 Q.—Mr. M. D. T. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) how long the Marandai channel (Tinnevely district) has been in need of extensive repairs and whether, when and how often estimates have been prepared and submitted to the Government for repairs;

(b) whether the Engineering authorities concerned have insisted upon the urgency of taking up the repairs early and whether the Revenue authorities have also informed the Government of valuable crops failing frequently for want of adequate water-supply;

(c) whether the unrepaired and silted up condition of the Marandai channel is a source of danger to the Manur channel (Tinnevely district);

(d) why Marandai channel has not been preferred for repair;

(e) what steps the Government have taken and intend to take to mitigate the water grievances of the ryots supplied by the Marandai channel; and

(f) when the repairs to Marandai channel will be undertaken by the Government and finished?

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4.—(a) The channel is reported to have been in bad order for many years. Estimates for improvements and repairs were prepared in 1905 and 1913, but were not submitted to Government as the Uthumalai estate and the inamdar of Vellegal refused to contribute their share of the expenditure.

(b) The Collector reported in 1928 that repairs were urgently needed.

(c) No.

(d) The estimate for the improvements to Manur channel were submitted first.

(e) & (f) Proposals for improvements and repairs to the ancient and channel are under the consideration of Government.

Straightening of the Nagaram South drain in Repalle taluk.

588 Q.—Mr. C. SATYANARAYANA CHOUDARI: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have received any proposals to straighten the Nagaram South drain in Repalle taluk, Guntur district;

(b) if the answer to clause (a) is in the negative, whether they would be pleased to call for the information and inform the House at what stage the matter stands;

(c) what is the object of this proposal; and

(d) when the Government propose to give effect to this proposal?

A.—(a) No.

(b) The Government have called for a report.

[Note.—An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.]

III.—ACTS ASSENTED TO BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"I have to announce that the under-mentioned Acts received the assent of His Excellency the Governor-General on the dates mentioned against each:—

The Madras Amending Act, 1930 ... 8th January 1931."

The Madras Civil Courts (Amendment) Act. 10th January 1931."

IV.—DRAFT RULE UNDER SECTION 305 (1) OF THE MADRAS DISTRICT MUNICIPALITIES ACT, 1920.

* The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU:—"Sir, I move—

That the following draft of a rule proposed to be made by the Governor acting with Ministers under sub-section (1) of section 305 of the Madras District Municipalities Act, 1920,

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(Madras Act V of 1920), amending Schedule IV to the said Act be approved;—

Draft Rule.

- (i) In rule 18 of the said Schedule (i) in sub-rule (1), for the word 'business' where it occurs for the first time, the words 'any business other than money lending' shall be substituted;
- (ii) in clause (b) of the same sub-rule, for the word 'percentage', the words 'percentage or percentages', for the word 'prescribe' the word 'determine' and for the words 'the business', the words 'such business' shall be substituted;
- (iii) in sub-rule (2);—
 - (a) for the word 'business' where it occurs for the first time, the words 'any business other than money lending' shall be substituted;
 - (b) for the words 'transaction of business' the words 'transaction of such business' and for the words 'turnover of the business' the words 'turnover of such business' shall be substituted; and
 - (c) for the words 'prescribed under' the words 'referred to in' shall be substituted; and
- (iv) in sub-rule (3) for the words 'any other business' in the first paragraph the words 'any other business except money lending' shall be substituted.

"Sir, the District Municipalities Act was amended recently and according to the amendment, the idea was to abolish companies tax and to make companies also liable to profession-tax. Under the old Act, the companies were liable to pay at a certain rate based upon their capital. If the capital of the company was a certain amount, then it had to pay tax at a certain rate, and if it was another amount, the rate was a different rate. That provision was abolished and the companies were classed along with others who were taken to be carrying on a business, as liable to pay a profession-tax on the turnover. Rule 18 (3) of the District Municipalities Act prescribes on what principles the turnover of a company should be calculated. One principle there is that if a company transacted business exclusively in one area and if it is assessed to income-tax in respect of the business carried on in that area, the taxing officer will have to assess on the basis of income adopted for income-tax; but in cases where the company carried on business in more than one area or where the company is not assessed to income-tax, then the turnover has to be ascertained in each case for purposes of profession-tax. The rules provide that on the turnover a certain percentage should be charged, as representing the income which could be said to be the general profits on the business of the company. On the income so ascertained, the company is to be taxed

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according to rates laid down. That is, if the company had an income of Rs. 60,000 then a certain amount is charged; if it was more, then another rate is charged; and so on. Therefore, we have had to examine cases to decide the percentage. The section requires that the percentage shall be prescribed by the Government and should be approved by the Legislative Council. In pursuance of that requirement, I am bringing a second amendment which I propose to move. So far as that is concerned, when we examined the proposals, we found that if we charged a uniform percentage upon all turnover from the lowest to the highest, it would act very hard upon business in which the turnover is more than, say, Rs. 50,000 or Rs. 60,000. Because, there may be a small business for which you may charge two or three per cent, but if there is a big business where the turnover is, say, more than Rs. 1 lakh, the percentage of two or three per cent will be unduly harsh. At any rate, it will be much more than what the old Act provided for. In view of that, the question was examined as to whether in prescribing the percentage, the Government was entitled to prescribe various percentages on a graded scale, so that on small turnover the percentage may be high and in the case of bigger turnover, the percentage may be smaller. We consulted the Advocate-General in this matter and he expressed a doubt that as the word 'percentage' used in the rule, it may not be open to the Government to propose different rates of percentage according to the amount of income. I am taking advantage in this amendment, to introduce the words 'percentage or percentages' in place of the word 'percentage' in the rule, to enable the Government to propose varying percentages according to the amount of turnover. You will also find, Sir, from the next motion that I propose to recommend different percentages for the approval of this Council, having regard to the total turnover. That is one main amendment affected by this draft rule.

"The second amendment is this: The rule provides for 'such percentages as may be prescribed'. The word 'prescribed' is defined to be 'prescribed under the rules made under this Act'. Under the Act, rules have to be made by the Government, they have to be published for public criticism, and after the lapse of six weeks, they have to be confirmed by the Government after taking into consideration any objections or criticisms made by the various local bodies and interests concerned. That is the only course in which the rule-making powers of the Government are to be exercised. But in this respect, it is not the Government that is responsible; the final authority is really the Legislative Council itself, so that the normal procedure applicable to rule-making powers of the Government under other Acts will not strictly apply in the present case. Therefore, the word 'prescribe' in the section is taken away and the word 'determine' is put in. Once the Legislative Council sanctions the rate of percentage, it will no longer be open to the Local Government to vary them; that is why I am proposing this amendment. Otherwise, complications and long delays will occur; for instance, certain percentages may be fixed by the Local Government, they would have to be published for criticism and then perhaps taking into consideration

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any possible objections and criticisms, they will have to be altered, and even then they will not be final, because the voice of the Legislative Council will be the final voice in this matter.

11-45 a.m. "The third point is this. When we examined the proposals with regard to arriving at a percentage; we came across certain difficulties with regard to money-lending. In regard to business firms, where a large amount of grain is stocked, large quantities are bought and large quantities are sold, we tried to find out what is the method we have to adopt in the case of such firms. Usually, we take only one transaction into account in arriving at profits, but we cannot take into consideration the transaction of purchasing and selling twice over. All that is provided in the rules. When we considered this question, it looked as though the principle of turnover could not be applied in the case of money-lending, because if we find there is a business of money-lending where the turnover is more than a lakh, we have to charge one per cent. Secondly, it was also represented on behalf of the money-lenders that the rate of five per cent was even higher, because the actual net income will be much less. They also press that the usual procedure adopted in the case of money-lending transaction was the amount of interest they actually receive and not on the turnover of the amount lent and re-lent during the year. The principal that is lent would not be the proper indication of the actual interest earned by the business; but on the other hand it is the actual interest earned that must be taken into account in such cases. Therefore, it is proposed to exclude money-lending business and the principle of turnover is confined to business in grain and other articles where the turnover will be a suitable method.

"These are the three amendments that I am asking this Council to sanction. The first amendment deals with the turnover of a business, i.e., of any business other than money-lending. The second amendment asks for the substitution of the words 'percentage or percentages' for the word 'percentage' and the third is for the substitution of the word 'determine' for the word 'prescribe'. The other amendments are merely consequential."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"What is the percentage?"

* The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU:—"There is no question of percentage. Under the old Act there was no question of percentage, but it depended upon the total capital of the company. If a company is a registered one, if the capital is one lakh, the amount of tax per half-year was Rs. 110 and if the capital is higher, a certain amount is fixed and so, there is no question of percentage at all, but it depended upon a certain gradation of the amount of capital involved. Now, in place of the capital basis, it is proposed to take the turnover into consideration and then prescribe the percentage of the turnover as representing the income of the company and on that basis to classify incomes as provided in the Act. If the half-yearly income is more Rs. 21,000, the maximum half-yearly tax will be Rs. 275 and if half-yearly income is more than Rs. 18,000, but does not exceed

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Rs. 21,000, the tax will be Rs. 225 and so on it goes. If the half-yearly income is Rs. 150 but does not exceed Rs. 200, the tax will be annas eight. If the turnover is ascertained on the principle I have stated, the particular income will be taken and the particular class under which that income will be determined and the business will be taxed accordingly under rule 16. That is the object of this rule.

"I am making this proposal now because, so far as this half-year is concerned, the taxes are collected under the old provisions of the Act, because the amended Act came into force only in August last and could not be given effect to for the second-half of 1930-31, as the percentage had to be made and the Legislative Council has to approve of the percentage. It is therefore necessary that the Legislative Council should decide this question and make the rule with a view to enable provisions regarding profession-tax to be given effect to from 1st April 1931. If we do not do it in this session of the Council, it will not be possible to collect the taxes. For these reasons, I move that the rule be agreed to by the Council."

Mr. T. SUNDARA RAO NAYUDU:—"I second the motion, Sir."

* Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"Mr. President, Sir, I have no doubt that the rule will be a salutary one, but I think it is not proper to rush the matter through like this. I find that the percentage proposed in this rule is just the reverse of the percentage adopted in the case of income-tax. For instance, in the case of income-tax it is progressive, but in the present case it is the reverse. I do not see any reason why in the case of business also, the rate of taxation should not be progressive and why the rate of taxation should not be increased as the income increases. The hon. the Chief Minister has not made this point quite clear. I therefore think that it would be very reasonable if the hon. the Chief Minister would postpone the question and consider the thing at a later date before the close of the session. If this is accepted, I would suggest that the matter may be referred to a committee which should go into the question and evolve principles which should be satisfactory and acceptable to all sections of the House. I hope the hon. the Chief Minister will accept this suggestion and will take this House into his confidence and will after meeting the members in a conference, arrive at a satisfactory solution of this question and then have it passed before the close of this session. I therefore move—

"that the consideration of the motion be adjourned to the next available day during the present session."

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"I second the motion of my hon. Friend Mr. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar."

* Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"Sir, I think I must support the motion for the adjournment of the consideration of this question. The principle enunciated by the hon. the Chief Minister is a debatable one. I do not think it follows that as capital diminishes the income proportionately increases. It is on that principle he has framed the

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schedule. If a man runs a business with a capital of Rs. 10,000 and a turnover of Rs. 60,000 he is not likely to earn Rs. 3,000—he will, probably earn less; but the man who has got one lakh and makes it do business for six times that amount in a year, I am sure, will earn much more than the percentage for which he is given credit in this amendment. I think the whole matter requires to be looked into carefully before arriving at a decision."

* Mr. V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"Sir, on a point of information. This Legislative Council is the final authority for determining the rules framed under the Local Boards Act. At the same time the gravity of the matter requires careful consideration. I therefore request the hon. the Chief Minister to invite public opinion and the opinion of the business community that will be affected by the Schedule, which the local boards are asked to carry out."

* The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU:—"Sir, I must clear a few misapprehensions as to what is done. I requested some representatives who have business dealings and also some Members of this Council itself who represent Chambers of Commerce to help me in coming to a decision on this question. Mr. Muthiah Chettiyar, a Member of this House, was also invited as representing the money-lending business. We discussed the whole matter and in fact I may say the percentage proposed has met with the approval of the body that met to consider this question. That body was of opinion that the fixing of percentage in regard to money-lending business would be difficult to apply. Anyhow, I am not anxious to avoid any further looking into the matter, but the only anxiety that I have is that we should get this through in this month alone; we have got only the 27th fixed for further demands. At least on that day, this must be passed. I am sure, if the House is so prepared and will agree to see that this question is taken up on that day, I, for my part, have no objection to postpone the consideration of this question. I can only say one or two things with regard to this. The principle of progressive taxation is already provided in the Act. But, it is clear that a man who does business with a small capital of Rs. 1,000 may get a relatively higher percentage of profit than a man who does business in lakhs of rupees, for he will get a lower percentage of profit. It was on that understanding that lower rates are provided in the case of business involving bigger investments, because where the turnover is greater, owing to speedy sales and speedy purchases, the percentage of profits will be less. It is that principle that you find in this amendment. But, I have no objection to leave the consideration of this question to the members and I will be thankful to any member who may suggest a better remedy."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"I will put the motion to the vote of the House. The question is that—

'the consideration of the motion be adjourned to the next available day during the present session.'

The motion was carried.

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V.—DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS FOR 1930-31.

GRANT VI—IRRIGATION—RESERVED.

* The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL:—"Mr. President, Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, I beg to move—

'that Government be granted a further sum not exceeding Rs. 100 under Grant VI—Irrigation—Reserved.'

"Sir, this token grant is to enable the Government to carry out two urgent measures of repair in connexion with the protection of the left bank of the Kistna river. During last year, i.e., 1930, there was considerable erosion of the margin of the river at a place called Lankapalli and the distance between the actual margin of the river and the flood bank was considered to be dangerously small as it was reduced to about 150 feet. At another place also, Papavinasam, it was found that the distance between the margin and the flood bank was about 110 feet. It is therefore proposed to protect the margin to some extent by stone revetment and also to provide immediately a second line of defence by making a flood bank in the rear of the existing flood bank. The estimates for this purpose are expected to come to Rs. 74,000 for the first work, and Rs. 83,000 for the second work, in addition, Rs. 7,000 will be required for acquiring land. The whole cost will therefore be Rs. 1,64,000. Only a small portion of the work will be carried out during the present financial year, but it is necessary to begin work at once and we should acquire the land in order that the work may be completed during the next financial year before the flood season."

* Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"Mr. President, I am afraid 12 noon.
the hon. the Revenue Member has not furnished us with all the information which I think he could have done. He says for instance 'the balance of the estimated cost required for expenditure during 1931-32 will also be found by re-appropriation by postponing less urgent works.' In this connexion he could have said what works he is going to postpone and what works he considers urgent. I hope he will take us into his confidence before he rushes forward with the proposal now in hand, so that he may not find afterwards that those works which he does not consider to be urgent now are really urgent works which ought not to have been delayed."

* Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"Mr. President, Sir, I am not going to oppose the motion; but I think some information is necessary. The hon. the Revenue Member has told us that the margin of land at Lankapalli where the flood bank is to be diverted is about 100 feet and that at Papavinasam it is about 150 feet. If a margin of 100 feet is to be accepted as the minimum, then it will become necessary to undertake diversions in many other places that I know of. At Devarapalli, for instance, the margin is only 30 feet. With heavy and efficient stone revetment, diversions of the flood bank are generally unnecessary. I would suggest that the proposal for diversion of the flood bank may be dropped."

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* The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL:—"Mr. President, Sir, I am afraid I cannot satisfy my friend, Mr. Ranganatha Mudaliyar as to the works which will not be proceeded with in consequence of the execution of this very urgent work. We could not anticipate that this work would be necessary when the budget estimates were prepared. The scheme was adopted after an inspection made by the Superintending Engineer in November 1930; he recommended that very urgent measures must be taken to prevent erosion in the coming flood season.

"As regards Mr. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar's suggestion I may say that in proposing this scheme we are acting only on the advice of our expert advisers; as I have already stated this scheme was brought forward only after personal inspection of the place by the Superintending Engineer. I will however communicate my hon. Friend's remarks to the Chief Engineer."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"The question is Government be granted a further sum not exceeding Rs. 100 under Grant VI—Irrigation—Reserved."

The motion was carried and the grant made.

GRANT XII—GENERAL ADMINISTRATION—MISCELLANEOUS—RESERVED.

* The hon. Mr. H. G. STOKES:—"Mr. President, Sir, I move—

'that the Government be granted a further sum not exceeding Rs. 37,400 under Grant XII—General Administration—Miscellaneous—Reserved.'

"This demand is explained in full in the explanatory note; and it is said there that this sum is required to meet excess expenditure in connexion with refunds of certain claims put forward during the year. I do not think any further explanation is needed from me."

The demand was put and carried and the grant made.

GRANT XXI—MEDICAL—TRANSFERRED.

* The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU:—"Mr. President, Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor I move—

'that Government be granted a further sum not exceeding Rs. 100 under Grant XXI—Medical—Transferred.'

"This is for the purpose of giving the Government of India a sum of Rs. 6,111 towards the cost of the Drugs Enquiry Committee. In 1917 a resolution was passed in the Council of State asking that a committee be appointed to go into the question as to how far the sale of drugs can be controlled, whether drugs cannot be standardized and whether pure articles cannot be obtained. The Government of India

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constituted the committee, and its proposed cost will be one lakh and ten thousand rupees. Of this amount one half is to be met by the Government of India and the other half by the several provincial governments in certain shares. To the share of this province falls the sum of Rs. 6,111; and the Government of India have asked us to place that amount at their disposal even while the committee is working. Hon. Members are aware that the committee have been working and collecting evidence in this province; and this is the amount this Government have to pay for the inquiry. Therefore I move the sum be granted."

* Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"Mr. President, I take this opportunity for asking for some information about the committee. Looking at this note I find that one of the points it is asked to consider is to 'inquire into the extent to which drugs and chemicals of impure quality or defective strength . . . are imported, manufactured and sold in British India.' Now the point is this. If it is a question of testing the quality of made up chemicals to see whether they are up to the standard, I can understand that. I do not know how the committee is going to deal with the preparations of the indigenous system of medicine. If Government are put to a standard, I should request them not to fix it so high as to make it impossible for doctors of indigenous system of medicine to carry on their business. I hope the Committee will consider this matter carefully. This is a matter of some difficulty inasmuch as many of the doctors of the indigenous system of medicine are using only raw drugs. Hence to fix a standard in such a case is very difficult. And I would like the hon. the Minister to tell us how they are going to deal with this case."

* Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI:—"Mr. President, Sir, if the ex-Minister is justified in asking for information, my excuse for calling for more information is surely understandable. Sir, it is a pity that the Legislative Council should be approached only at the time when the amount is to be sanctioned. According to the explanatory note the committee was appointed in 1929; and only two years have passed before we are aware of the progress of the committee appointed by the Government of India. Even now we are not appraised of the actual work done by this committee, how many drugs were examined, what has been the result of their inquiries and whether any suggestion has been made in regard to Indian drugs; and to what extent the inquiry has been useful for the increase of the Indian system of medicine.

"The other day I was reading a note by the Principal of the School of Indian Medicine submitted to the Finance Committee of this Council; and it was also circulated to the Members of the Council. In the note he makes some reference to the tropical school of Indian medicine; and he wants to know whether the researches of the committee I would be of practical benefit to the doctors who have to use these drugs. I do not know whether that school has anything to do with this committee;

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whether the researches carried on under the auspices of Dr. Chopra are different from the researches carried on by the committee. I am not even aware of the technical efficiency of the members of this committee to deal with such questions as these. As my friend Mr. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar has shrewdly suspected, the committee may result in findings most unfavourable to Indian drugs which are in constant use in this country. Whether by contributing towards the cost of the committee we are going to invite criticism of the Unani and Ayurvedic doctors is a point on which I should like to have some light thrown by the hon. Chief Minister. Further I would submit this, that instead of contributing this sum to the Government of India, whether it would not be proper to allocate this money for the doctors who are engaged in the Indian system of medicine to carry on intensive research in our own Presidency and make the results of such researches useful to ourselves."

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"Mr. President, Sir, I do not believe that it will be right for the Government of India to expect Provincial Governments to contribute towards an expenditure, or rather for what might be likely to be a subject of the Central Legislature. It is most likely that a Bill might be brought before that body and passed into law. Sir, I do not believe that it will be right on the part of the Government of India to pass one piece of legislation for various systems of medicine obtaining in different parts of the country.

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"Although the Unani system may be one in certain fundamentals in different parts of the province, I am sure that there are various ways in which this system is practised in various provinces. For instance, Sir, in the Madras Presidency the Unani system that is practised by the various Unani hakims is certainly different from what one finds in Northern India and Delhi; and different materials are used in different parts of India in different ways. If, as has been doubted by Mr. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar, it is the idea of the Government to suppress any indigenous system by means of this investigation and if they pass strictures on the methods adopted in the preparation of these medicines available in this country, what may happen is that medicines that are imported into this country will be given preference and they will have a better sale in this country. Therefore it is necessary that the Government of this province should take particular care with regard to this matter. As I said, I do not know whether it is necessary for a Provincial Government to contribute towards the expenditure to be incurred by the Government of India to prepare any legislation which will be central legislation."

* The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU:—"Sir, so far as the enquiry itself is concerned, it is more a matter for the provinces than one of an all-India concern. But in the Council of State a resolution has been passed which the Government of India have accepted so that the whole matter may be gone into and the enquiry may be made not merely in one province but for all the provinces together. The committee was appointed to go into the question and

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to make recommendations; and whether, consequent on those recommendations, any legislation may be undertaken on an all-India basis or whether the provinces will be left free to undertake their own legislation, it is too early now to say. Therefore, Sir, the Government of India consulted the local Governments even before they took action, as to whether they should constitute a Committee and whether the local Governments will be prepared to bear half the cost if the Central Government bear the other half. This Government had agreed to it as also other local Governments and it was in pursuance of the general unanimity of all the provinces that this Committee has been appointed, and it may not be prudent now to refuse this grant.

"Secondly, Sir, some objections have been raised as to the scope of the enquiry of this Committee in regard to the indigenous drugs and as to whether, after all, their recommendations may not tend more to work adversely than in favour of these indigenous systems which are practised here. I have to say that it is not possible to say what the Committee's recommendations are going to be. Whether the question of indigenous drugs also should be considered is a matter that is left entirely to the Committee itself. The Committee consists of four members and they are authorized to co-opt other members also in various provinces. The members of the Committee are—

- (1) Lieut.-Col. R. N. Chopra, Professor of Pharmacology, School of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, Calcutta, Chairman.
- (2) The Rev. Father J. F. Caius, Pharmacologist at Haffkin's Institute, Bombay.
- (3) Mr. H. Cooper, of Messrs. Stanistreet & Co., Manufacturing Chemists, Calcutta.
- (4) Moulvi Abdul Matin Choudary, M.L.A.

They have also co-opted various members in various provinces, and the Committee, under the terms of reference, is entitled to take evidence on the questions stated and to issue a questionnaire to select persons and bodies and to call as witnesses those who desire to be examined, and so on. I am sure that people who are interested in the various systems of medicine would take trouble to place their views before the Committee. When the recommendations of the Committee are published, whether there is anything for this Council or for the members interested to take action upon separately so far as this province is concerned, is a question which may be considered later on. In these circumstances, Sir, I request that the Council will sanction this grant."

The demand was put and carried and the grant made.

* The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR:—"Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, I move—

'that the Government be granted a further sum not exceeding Rs. 1,01,000 under Grant XXVII—Industries—Transferred.'

[Mr. S. Kumaraswami Reddiyar] [12th March 1931]

This is to provide for additional allotment for adjustment of expenditure incurred by the Industrial Engineering Workshop on behalf of the pumping and boring branch of the Industries department."

* Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR:—"Sir, this is a very large additional grant, and from the explanatory memorandum it would appear that in fact there were more deep borings made and probably more work has been done. The hon. the Minister would have done well to inform us what is the additional income that has been earned by supplying these tools or instruments, and what exactly he expects in the coming years. When a large investment is proposed to be made, we must know whether actually there was a demand for this service, and what is the return he expects in future years, and I hope the hon. Minister for Industries will let us know these particulars."

* Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"I should like to follow my hon. Friend, Sir, with a request for additional information and additional scrutiny. Sir, in the explanatory note furnished to us it is said that a considerable amount of the demand now made is intended to equip with the necessary accessories some of the power drills and pumping sets now in use. I should like the hon. the Minister for Industries to find out, if he will, how many of these instruments which he has at his disposal are generally at work. I think that if he will go into the question, he will find that as a rule very many of these are left idle. If, for example, he has 20 or 30 power drills and as a matter of fact only 10 or 12 are actually at work, I would rather scrap half a dozen of the other drills and with the money saved equip the remaining drills with the absolutely essential parts, so that work which is necessary may not stop. I know as a matter of fact that when steel parts are lost, it takes a long time for the necessary machinery to be brought to the place and the defect to be set right. I would suggest therefore that in choosing these accessories the hon. Minister for Industries will bear in mind that the department should keep a reserve stock with each drill or plant at work, so that if anything goes wrong he may have the necessary material with which to set right the defects. As a matter of fact, out of so many drills and power drills which are supposed to be at his disposal, only a very very limited number are actually at work all through the year."

* The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR:—"Mr. President, Sir, I am sorry I did not make any observations in support of my motion because I thought that the explanatory note that has been circulated contained all the information that might be considered at all relevant for this purpose, and further because, Sir, the demand was not for any fresh allotment of money but was only for adjustment of expenditure that has been already incurred, from one head to another. I thought, Sir, that was a matter which did not require much argument in support of it. However, as my hon. Friends have raised one or two points, I shall just say a word or two in reply. So far as the pumping and boring section is concerned, I am glad

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to say—and I suppose hon. Members who have spoken now will be equally glad—that it is not the purpose of the Government to make any money out of these pumping and boring sets. The pumping and boring sets are intended for use by the agriculturists at a very nominal rate of hire. It is about a fifth of the Government's cost and even less than a fifth of what would be charged by people who keep such pumping and boring instruments and ordinarily give them out for hire. So, I do not think, Sir, it is at all proper to look at the work of this pumping and boring section in terms of profit on the money spent. As a matter of fact, all these apparatus and materials that were furnished from the workshop were required for the purpose of the efficient working of the pumping and boring section. The expenditure has been already incurred. It was not adjusted to the profit and loss account of 1929-30, and in the case of this year also it has not been adjusted. When these amounts are adjusted to the appropriate head, there will remain about Rs. 1,01,000 for which there will be no budget provision. And all that is sought now is that the amount should be adjusted to the appropriate head. I shall certainly bear in mind the observations made by my hon. Friend Mr. Ranganatha Mudaliyar whose remarks on a matter like this are, I am sure, of very great value."

The demand was put and carried and the grant made.

GRANT XXX—CIVIL WORKS—GRANTS-IN-AID—TRANSFERRED.

* The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU:—"Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, I beg to move—

'that the Government be granted a further sum not exceeding Rs. 100 under Grant XXX—Civil Works—Grants-in-aid—Transferred.'

"Sir, the purpose of this grant has been explained at page 6 of the printed note circulated to hon. Members. A large number of works are under construction and they are expected to be completed. From the savings that are expected this year we propose to allot this amount so that by the end of the official year they will be completed. The works are all mentioned in the note. Three of them are in the West Godavari district, others in the South Arcot, Trichinopoly and other districts and some in the Vellore municipality."

* Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"I merely rise, Sir, to ask for some information. We are now in March, the end of the official year and the hon. the Minister is now coming forward with a demand for a grant for a number of these works, and it has also been stated that these works would be completed before the end of the official year. It seems to me that many of these works were started long ago. I want to know whether they were sanctioned in due course, and if so, where was the money for their being carried out. I find in the note that in some cases half of the estimated expenditure and in other the full estimated expenditure is proposed to be asked for. I should like to know why, if the estimates were sanctioned long ago,

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should the Government come now before the House for that money? And I am not quite sure in spite of the assurance that is given that these works for which grant is now asked for would all be completed during the next few days before the official year comes to a close. I would therefore like to have some enlightenment from the hon. the Minister on this question."

12-30 P.M. * The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU:—"Sir, these were considered by the Finance Committee in December 1930. At the same time Government have seen that the amounts are spent by the local bodies. They informed them that they proposed to move a supplementary grant and asked them to go on with the works with this caution that the local bodies should meet the expenditure from their own funds if the Council does not sanction. The Government Order was issued on the 26th November. The works therefore have already been in progress. Government would therefore like this sum sanctioned by the Legislative Council as they have asked local bodies to go on with their works. Further these amounts are very small amounts and range from Rs. 3,000 to Rs. 5,000 and all the works could be finished as early as possible."

The demand was put and carried and the grant made.

GRANT XXXII—PENSIONS—RESERVED.

* The hon. Mr. H. G. STOKES:—"I move—

'that the Government be granted a further sum not exceeding Rs. 4,07,900 under Grant XXXII—Pensions—Reserved.'

"This demand provides for additional appropriation under pensions and commuted value of pensions. The reasons are stated in the explanatory note."

* Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"Sir, I would request the hon. the Finance Member to be so good as to tell us whether he has reached the limit at least this year. Sir, if one observes the amount year after year there is an alarming rate of increase under this provision. I should like to know where we are going, whether we have reached the maximum likely to be incurred under this head or whether he would ask for more and more in the coming years. Let us have some idea of our commitments under this head."

* The hon. Mr. H. G. STOKES:—"On the point which my Friend Mr. Ranganatha Mudaliyar has put me, I am afraid I am not endowed with the power of prophecy. (A voice: By calculations.) No, even then I cannot tell you what the amount is going to be, as it will be based on the scale of pensions which may vary from time to time. I cannot say whether the limit has been reached or when it will be."

* Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"May I make a remark only to explain further what Mr. Ranganatha Mudaliyar had in mind? The point here is that the Finance Member is coming up every year with increased demand for pensions. The point

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raised is because you have sanctioned incremental scales of pay, we have not yet returned the maximum in pensions. At the time of retirement pension is calculated on the average of three years' emoluments. The point that I would like to know is whether we have so far reached anything like a maximum in pensions and if not when we will reach it."

* The hon. Mr. H. G. STOKES:—"I am afraid I cannot give that straightaway. It might be possible to work out some idea by a considerable amount of examination and calculation. If the hon. Member wishes to find it out I could have the matter examined. I cannot on the spur of the moment give him the information he desires."

The demand was put and carried and the grant made.

GRANT XXXVII—LOANS AND ADVANCES BY THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT.

* The hon. Mr. P. T. RAJAN:—"I move—

'that the Government be granted a further sum not exceeding Rs. 100.'

"This token demand provides for short-term loans to central co-operative banks at $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent interest per annum repayable in six months. The Registrar of Co-operative Societies writes to say that loans to the extent of 26 lakhs are awaiting disbursement at the Madras Central Urban Bank while the central banks are unable to grant loans because of shortage of funds. The Madras Central Urban Bank has applied for ten lakhs of loan to the Imperial Bank of India and the matter is under consideration by that Bank. The Registrar suggests that the Government may come to the rescue of these bodies and give a loan of ten lakhs, this amount to be distributed to the central banks direct. The agency would be the Deputy Registrar. The necessity for this loan is made clear because of the fact that in the Northern Circars the movement has come to a stagnation thus necessitating the Government help. That is one reason why Government is prepared to give a short-term loan. Sir, we propose to charge $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent for the reason that the Central Urban Bank are charging 7 per cent. We do not want to compete with any of these banks. That is why we are charging $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent and I hope the House will accept it."

* Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR:—"I move—

'to reduce the token demand of Rs. 100 for loans and advances by the Provincial Government by Re. 1.'

"Sir, this is a very extraordinary grant so far as the co-operative societies are concerned. On account of the very large fall in the price of agricultural produce and on account of other temporary causes mentioned it has become necessary, Sir, for some outside help to come to us. Unfortunately the Government of India has raised its rate for borrowing to 6 per cent. We in the district banks have been getting money by way of deposits at $4\frac{1}{2}$ and 5 per cent. On account of the

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Government we are now offering 6 per cent. The Coimbatore Bank has suffered very severely to the extent of six or seven lakhs and the District Board who have been depositing their money with us have now got Government paper to the extent of $8\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs. That is the result of the action of the Government of India. Mainly on account of the very large fall in the price of agricultural produce we are not able to collect our dues. As a matter of business I would be the last person to say that Government should be the bankers to the co-operative societies. But in an emergency like this when the money available for business is not forthcoming as explained by the hon. Minister most of the banks have stopped their advances. Unfortunately the Imperial Bank has also withdrawn the help they have been giving to the movement. Only last year they began to withdraw the help they have been giving to the movement and they have been gradually decreasing the overdraft to several of these banks. So that to the tune of several tens of lakhs there has been a depletion. It is at this contingency that the help of the Government has been asked for and it is on that account—though ordinarily I am against that—that I support the demand. I do not see why in an emergency like this when help is asked for from Government by the co-operative societies on behalf of the agriculturists they should charge $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent more than the rate at which the Government borrows in the market. Well, Sir, not only that, they are helping the agriculturists directly at the rate of $6\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. For loans under the Agriculturists' Loans Act and the Land Improvement Loans Act they charge $6\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. Why this difference, Sir? It is not a very charitable way of doing things. For the loans the Government give to local bodies they charge $6\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Why this difference between the local bodies and the co-operative societies? There is absolutely no reason why the Government when they come to help the institution which is for the help of the agriculturists, as a special case, should now try to take advantage of this helpless state of things. That I have to submit is wrong. Looking from the other standpoint, viz., the standpoint of view of the district banks, the present proposal is very unfair. They are lending to primary societies at the rate of $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. They are paying $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent for supervision. In addition to that there is the usual administrative expenses which come to $\frac{1}{4}$ or $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Hence they won't be able to get out of this money more than $6\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. So it is not fair from the standpoint of the Government, it is not fair from the standpoint of helping the agriculturist and it is not fair to the co-operative central banks to charge $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

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"I know there are two matters which will be referred to on the other side. One is that the Madras Central Urban Bank which was charging till now only 6 per cent for their loans has raised its rate to 7 per cent. Well, Sir, what does it show? It only shows the difficulty that there is in finding money. That ought not to be the reason for the Government to raise the rate of interest. If anything, the Government should go to their help. The Government should not at all take advantage of this situation and charge a higher percentage.

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They ought to find the money necessary for the central banks at the rate at which they were getting the same. Even the Madras Central Urban Bank was charging them till now only 6 per cent. Government propose to out-Herod Herod and charge $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. It is most unfair. Also, Sir, it will be said that from next year they are going to charge the agriculturists something more than the rate of interest they were charging hitherto. That is a matter about which the Council will probably have to say something later on. There is absolutely no reason why the rate of interest should be raised from $6\frac{1}{4}$ per cent to such a high rate as $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Even the rate of interest which the local Government is paying to the Government of India is only $6\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Such being the case, no case has been made out for raising the rate of interest at which money is being lent to the poor agriculturists. The mere fact that a Government Order has been issued some time ago, which has not been published and which is not yet known to the outside people, should not be taken as the basis for raising the rate of interest to the central banks. That would not be a proper thing at all. As I said already, even on the Government Order raising the rate of interest to the agriculturists, we will have something to say. For all these reasons, I request the hon. the Minister not to be satisfied with the *ipse dixit* of the Finance Department, but to fight and get money at $6\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. I am sure he is there to represent our interests and not the interests of the Finance Department. He is there to fight for us, the co-operators. I hope he realizes the position, and will get us money at $6\frac{1}{2}$ per cent, the rate that was recommended even by the Registrar of Co-operative Societies."

* Mr. A. B. SHETTY:—"Mr. President, Sir, I second the motion moved by Mr. Ramalinga Chettiyar. In the explanatory note on this demand, one of the causes for the shortage of funds is explained as the 'withdrawal of local board and individual deposits from co-operative banks largely owing to the failure to raise deposit rates in time.' Till recently, the central banks have been paying on deposits interest at rates ranging from $3\frac{3}{4}$ to $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent, and they were able to get money at these rates of interest. Now, because the Government of India are borrowing at the rate of 6 per cent, they have in a way entered into competition with these central banks, and this is partly responsible for the fact that the central banks are not able to attract funds as they used to do. By lending money to the central banks at $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent at a time of financial stringency like this Government will not really be helping these banks. The Townsend Committee on Co-operation recommended that the rate of interest on loans to primary societies should be reduced to $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent so that they might have a sufficient margin for working expenses and reserve funds. Accordingly all central banks have reduced their lending rate to $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Now, if they have to borrow at $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent, they have to enhance the rate of interest at which they give money to the primary societies, and, further, as this loan is granted by the Government only for a short period of six months they will have to exercise extra vigilance in giving

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the loans and take care to see that they are recovered in time. That means they will have to incur extra expenditure in seeing that these loans are repaid within the time specified. The Registrar of Co-operative Societies also has recommended that this loan may be given at $6\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. So, I request the Government to consider whether they cannot reduce to $6\frac{1}{2}$ per cent the rate of interest on the loan they propose to give to the Central Banks and thus help them at a time of financial stringency."

* Mr. M. A. MUTHIAH CHETTIYAR:—"Sir, in opposing the amendment, I have only to say this much. It is true that the Central Banks are short of funds, and, as the hon. Member for Coimbatore said, it may be partly due to the Government of India having raised their borrowing rate to 6 per cent, which has taken away some money deposited in these Central Banks previously. Sir, the question of shortage of funds and the question of lower rates cannot go together. They say they are short of funds, and they also want that the rate of interest should be lowered. As a matter of fact, the Imperial Bank rate is 7 per cent to-day, and all banks and bankers that borrow from the Imperial Bank have to pay at bank rate or sometimes at 1 per cent above that rate. All bankers and money-lenders have therefore to charge something more than that rate. Even the Indian Bank is now charging 2 per cent over the bank rate to all bankers and the bankers who are carrying on business in this place have lent crores of money already on a certain understanding, i.e., at a rate which is probably 2 per cent above the bank rate. If these ten lakhs are lent at a cheaper rate to the Central Banks, what will happen is that people will go to the bankers and money-lenders saying that the co-operative societies are lending money at a cheaper rate, and will demand a lesser rate. These bankers will have necessarily to lower their rates while they have to pay a higher rate on their borrowed money. While it may be necessary to help co-operative societies on occasions like this, we should not at the same time enable them to compete against the ordinary banking business. While I am fully in support of the proposal to lend money to the co-operative societies I am not for reducing the rate to anything less than 7 per cent. Now, I understand that the hon. Minister has cooled down a bit and is willing to agree to 7 per cent. Sir, I will have no objection to this loan proposal if the rate is not brought down to anything less than 7 per cent, as otherwise it will be injurious to the banking trade of the country."

* Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"Mr. President, if only my hon. Friend, Mr. Muthiah Chettiyar's advice was available to the Government at the time the co-operative movement was started, I am afraid we shall not have had anything to discuss to-day because there would be no co-operative societies to help. Well, Sir, I think there is a principle involved in this matter. The co-operative movement is in serious straits. They want money very badly and urgently, and I think co-operative banks should be helped by the Government at this

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time in all possible ways. Sir, I do not mind the Government charging a little more than what they have to pay when they borrow money. But to fix it at $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent more than the rate at which they are able to borrow seems to me to be a very unfair arrangement. If I may recall to the House—it is not a secret at all—I think in the year 1927 when Government had to advance money for the co-operative movement for building godowns and structures of that sort, the principle then agreed to was that the Government will advance the money at half per cent more than they were borrowing. If that is the principle once adopted, then, I think it has to be adhered to even now. What is the rate the Government are paying for the amount they borrow now? If that is 6 per cent, they can only charge $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent more than that, i.e., $6\frac{1}{2}$ per cent, just to cover the miscellaneous and contingent expenditure incurred for these transactions. More than that, the Government have no moral right to claim.

"Again, Sir, let the House bear this in mind. It is now proposed to lend ten lakhs to the Central Banks. I have a shrewd suspicion that one of the reasons of the Government for doing so is to recover their own land revenue from the people. Now, people have no money to pay the land revenue, and I am sure much of the money which the Government is going to advance will be distributed to the primary societies and be ultimately lent to the ryots, to enable the Government to recover their land revenue. Sir, in our present circumstances, which are very bad, there is really a case for the remission of land revenue due from ryots. But, on the other hand, the Government deem it the correct thing for them, to lend money at a very high rate of interest, in order to recover an amount which strictly speaking should be remitted at this time. So, I do request the hon. Minister for Co-operation to take up a strong stand in this matter and see that not more than $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent over the rate at which the Government is borrowing is charged for these loans. After all, the recommendation made by their own officer, the Registrar of Co-operative Societies, amounts to what I plead for. He is a man who knows these Central Banks and their needs, and he has gone into the matter thoroughly. In spite of all these things, if the hon. Minister is going to insist on adding another 1 per cent to it, and this House is going to grant it, it must be considered as a tragedy."

* Mr. YAKUB HASAN:—"I would not have been surprised if an ordinary money-lender of the Marwari type had opposed this amendment. But I expected that a banker of the position of Mr. Muthiah Chettiyar would have looked at this matter from the co-operative and industrial point of view and not purely from a money-lender's point of view. Sir, the Government is not asked to lend money to the central banks at the same rate of interest at which they themselves are borrowing. As long as there is a small margin between the Government's borrowing rate and the rate at which they are asked to lend to the co-operative central banks, the Government ought to be satisfied. After all, we have to support these banks at this time, and the Government

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should not look to making any profit out of this lending business but should keep the rate as low as possible. I therefore strongly support this amendment."

* MR. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI:—" Mr. President, it comes to me as a very disagreeable surprise from my hon. Friend, Mr. Rajan, to ask the sanction of this Council to lend a certain amount to the central banks, thereby making some profit in the transaction. Sir, his object is laudable in so far as this money is intended to relieve the distress of the ryots. Granting that my hon. Friend Mr. Ranganatha Mudaliyar's suspicion, namely, that the Government are lending this money in order to recover their own land revenue is true—and I agree with him in the suspicion which he entertains—as generally I do not credit this Government for doing any good except with some ulterior motives—granting that suspicion to be true, that the ryot should be thus charged indirectly by the Government a little more than what he would usually have to pay, if the Government charged the usual rate of interest in consonance with the rate at which they borrow from the Government of India, is simply an irreconcilable position for the hon. Minister in charge of the Co-operative department to take.

1 p.m. " Sir, all over the Presidency, the ryot is dying for money and for the various other necessities needed by him. At this time there are certain institutions which want to finance him to enable him to tide over the difficult times. At such a time it is unconscionable for the Government to charge a higher rate of interest and make a profit out of it. My hon. Friend Mr. Muthiah Chetti's argument is unfortunately not applicable at the present time. Sir, if the Government follow his advice it would perhaps be proper for them to demand a much higher rate of interest than what they propose to do now in view of the fact that there are money-lenders who charge 12 per cent and hundreds of Marwaris who would not be satisfied even with 36 per cent. Sir, if the money-lenders are able to do business by lending at 12 per cent and are able to compete successfully with the Marwaris who charge as much as 36 per cent, why should not the Government also compete with the money-lenders by the Government lending money at a lower rate of interest than that charged by them? Sir, the chances are that if the Government lend at a lower rate of interest, the depression in the money market will diminish and the money-lenders and Marwaris will take the cue from the Government and lower their rates correspondingly. But if the Government do not lower the rate, the money-lender will increase his rate a bit and, seeing this, the Marwari will increase his rate by a hundred per cent and seal the doom of the poor ryot. So, therefore, I am appealing to the hon. Minister to consider this matter in a cool and collected mood and see that this money is lent at a cheaper rate. I believe he is willing to reduce the rate by half per cent. If that is the case, it is clear there is the possibility of further reduction. If the principle is agreed to I do not think he will stick to the half per cent that is left. Surely I think the Finance Member and his department will not insist upon getting the remaining half per cent,

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but will agree to the 6½ per cent suggested by my hon. Friend Mr. Ramalinga Chettiyar. But if the Minister thinks that this motion having come from the Opposition he should not accept it, I am willing to ask my hon. Friend Mr. Ramalinga Chettiyar to withdraw it leaving it to the Minister himself to reduce the rate. I am sure, Sir, that were it not for the party allegiance there would be coming forward Members from the Ministerialist benches urging reduction in the rate of interest. I appeal to Mr. Rajan therefore to accede to our request. Sir, he has a good heart. He has been to a certain extent responsible for the constitution of the Economic Depression Enquiry Committee. It is distressing to see the conditions prevailing in the country. We are getting letters daily from the ryots saying that they are on the brink of ruin. I am afraid if this state of affairs continues, the practice which was said to be once in vogue in China of selling children in times of famine will very soon be adopted in certain parts of the Presidency. Sir, a great part of our population is in distress, at whose suffering, I am sure, the hon. the Minister's heart will be moved although I do not yet know whether I have yet succeeded in moving his heart. My hon. Friend the Third Minister says that my Friend the Second Minister's heart has been considerably moved. I am glad, Sir, I may say in this connexion that it is only very rarely that opportunities for doing good to the ryots are afforded to the Ministers. This is one such opportunity. After all, the difference will not come to more than Rs. 2,500 during the period of six months. Is the Minister going to insist on getting this small sum and alienate the sympathies of those who are sitting behind and opposite to him and also the agricultural population? Surely not. Let not his genial smile cover a hard heart. Let it be in consonance with his smile. Let him say 'I shall accede to the desire of the Members of this House.' The Kumara Raja of Venkatagiri had a talk with the hon. Minister on this matter. Sir, he is a very important member of that party. He knows the distress prevailing in several parts of the province. Surely he will agree with me that it is necessary to accept the motion to reduce the rate of interest. I beg the hon. Minister to do this."

* MR. T. S. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—" Mr. President, Sir, I desire to support the motion that the rate of interest should be reduced. I take it that this demand is an earnest on the part of the Government to help the co-operative movement which is now passing through a financial crisis. We all know that the co-operative movement in this Presidency, after a good start, has been having rather very strenuous days. Now trade conditions are not good and the prices of food-stuffs have gone down. In these circumstances it is necessary that the Government should help the Co-operative department not with this small sum alone but with larger sums to enable it to tide over the crisis and to do its work with renewed vigour. If that should be our object, the rate of interest now proposed is certainly very high. If the present loan is only an earnest of the desire of the Government to help the co-operative movement, I think we should now settle the terms on which we are

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going to help the co-operative department. The Imperial Bank which was helping the co-operative department for years has now decided to withdraw the money it has advanced. This it has done evidently on account of the change of policy of the directors of the Imperial Bank. We also find that local boards have not been giving as much help to the co-operative department as they ought to, evidently because they feel annoyed with a certain resolution passed at a co-operative conference where the rate of interest was fixed. As regards the terms on which this loan is proposed to be given I am surprised to find that this is going to be a short-term loan repayable in six months. I am afraid the co-operative societies which undertook to repay the amount in six months may not find it possible to do so and may find it necessary to apply to the Government for an extension of the period. Further, the amount is so small that it would not be sufficient to give help to all the societies that badly require assistance from the Government. I think the Registrar of Co-operative Societies when he wanted to help the various societies got a list prepared of the societies that will be able to repay the loan within six months. Some of the societies evidently have promised to repay in six months and some have pleaded inability. Those that pleaded inability had to be taken out of the list. But I am afraid that even that list is not exhaustive. More societies will certainly take advantage of the Government's offer if more money is available and better terms are offered. I think it is incumbent on us now to initiate a policy by which the Government will be able to help the co-operative movement for the next two or three years. Otherwise many co-operative societies will go into liquidation and the co-operative department will not be able to tide over the crisis through which it is at present passing."

* Rao Sahib B. VENKATARAMAYYA NAYUDU:—"Sir, if I intervene in this debate it is only to set at rest the anxieties expressed by some Members opposite that we on this side of the House are not as anxious as some of them are on this question of reduction of interest. The position of the hon. Minister when he asked for this grant as explained by him was that this amount was necessary to help the ryot population on account of the stringency of the money market. If this is so, the rate of interest now fixed will not help to ease the situation. It is certainly not the intention of the Government to make a profit out of the sum proposed to be lent to the Central Urban Bank to be distributed to the district banks. If the Government advance money to the Central Urban Bank at this high rate, this bank will certainly in its turn advance the sum at a higher rate to the district banks and the district banks in their turn will raise the rate still further when they lend the sum to the primary societies and lastly the primary societies will further increase the rates when they lend to the individual ryots. Therefore there is no object in the Government granting these loans at the high rate at which they propose to lend. I think elaborate speeches are not necessary to support this contention. My hon. Friends Messrs. Ramalingam Chettiyar and Sami Venkatachalam Chetti have

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fully explained the circumstances under which they feel that there ought to be a reduction in the rate of interest. In this demand they have the support of the Registrar of Co-operative Societies himself. In these circumstances I support the amendment and request all my Friends here to vote for the amendment."

* Mr. K. KOTI REDDI:—"Mr. President, I hope the Government will not take the suggestion of my hon. Friend Mr. Muthiah Chettiyar seriously and make the lending transactions of Government as one of 'remunerative enterprises.' No doubt the times are very hard, but we trust that the Government will not be induced by such suggestions to make money-lending transactions as sources of revenue. I hope the Government will not lend money with that object in view. If our idea in encouraging co-operative societies in this country is to help the ryots and the needy people, then we must see that the rate of interest charged on our loans to co-operative societies is fixed at as low a rate as possible. As such I do not believe the Government will be justified in going in for profit out of these transactions. Even to-day when co-operative societies lend at 9 per cent, most of the ryots prefer to take loans from the sowcars at 11 or 12 per cent because of the various necessary restrictions imposed by the societies and because of the other services rendered by the sowcars, which the societies cannot. When the object of the co-operative societies is to teach thrift, punctuality, etc., to the village people, it is the bounden duty of the Government to see that the rate is fixed as low as possible. Some hon. Members have already explained the fact that if the Government lend at a lower rate of interest, naturally the money-lending agencies such as the sowcars and others will be bound to reduce their rates correspondingly.

"If an attempt is made by the Government to lower the rate of interest naturally the sowcars will also lower their rate of interest. So I request the Government to charge interest as low as possible: and I do believe that it should be possible to reduce the rate of interest proposed by at least one per cent more." 1-15 p.m.

* The hon. Mr. P. T. RAJAN:—"Various hon. Members have suggested that the Government should charge only $6\frac{1}{2}$ per cent and they pointed out that the Registrar of Co-operative Societies himself suggested $6\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. When this recommendation was made the Registrar was not aware that the Madras Central Urban Bank, which is the apex bank for all the central banks, was going to charge 7 per cent. If they were to charge less than 7 per cent it might be said that the Government are competing with the banks. As a special case the Government have now come to the rescue of co-operative societies. In the course of discussion some hon. Members suggested that Government should only charge $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent more than what they are paying by way of interest. The Government are paying $6\frac{1}{2}$ per cent and they in their turn are charging only $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent more. Now it is proposed to reduce the interest from $7\frac{1}{2}$ to 7 per cent. I hope this will meet with the approval of the House and they will be pleased to pass the grant."

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* Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR:—"In view of what has fallen from the lips of the hon. the Minister for Public Works I think it will not be fair to press my motion. We have to thank the Government for small mercies and we have no option in the matter. I therefore beg to withdraw my motion."

The cut motion was by leave withdrawn.

The demand was put and carried and the grant made.

VI.—MOTIONS UNDER RULE 24-A OF THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL RULES

MESSAGE OF JOY AND GRATITUDE TO H.E. THE VICEROY ON PEACE SETTLEMENT

The KUMARA RAJA OF VENKATAGIRI:—"I beg to move the resolution standing against my name which runs as follows:—

'This Council expresses its profound joy and gratitude at the successful termination of the conversations between His Excellency the Viceroy and Mahatma Gandhi and expresses its heartfelt appreciation of the inexhaustible patience, industry and courtesy of His Excellency the Viceroy in bringing about that result.'

'This Council hopes that the spirit and mutual trust which have prevailed so far will enable a dispassionate consideration of the future scheme of constitution and lead to a speedy and satisfactory settlement of the status of India as an equal partner of the British Commonwealth of Nations and the promotion of the most cordial relations between England and India.'

'This Council requests that this message be communicated to His Excellency the Viceroy.'

"I am beholden to you, Sir, and the Government for having provided me with an opportunity to move this resolution which seeks to express profound joy and gratification at the successful termination of the conversations between His Excellency the Viceroy and Mahatma Gandhi and which has created an atmosphere favourable for a dispassionate consideration and amicable, just and enduring settlement of outstanding constitutional problems with a view to enable the country to attain a status of equality with the self-governing dominions and thereby ensuring and promoting an uninterrupted relationship between India and England, contributing in no mean measure towards securing world peace. I seek your permission to refer for a moment to the conclusion of the world war in which India has played a part worthy of her traditions. It was not unnatural that expectations for a very substantial recognition of the country's demands should have been formed and the Montford reforms should cause considerable disappointment which, aggravated by certain unfortunate occurrences, should have made the Congress enter upon a programme

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of non-co-operation. I will be taxing your patience if I were to enumerate in detail all the important events of the period between 1919 and the constitution of the Simon Commission. The sense of dissatisfaction engendered by the exclusive composition of the Commission and the procedure outlined then was mitigated to a degree by subsequent matters which failed to attract co-operation from many parties. It was at this stage that the courageous wisdom and far-sighted statesmanship of Lord Irwin impelled him to proceed to England and perform that noble and difficult task of shaping the opinion in favour of a declaration of India's future as that of a self-governing dominion and also in favour of a conference being held to give effect to this declaration. The claim of Lord Irwin as a sincere friend and great benefactor of this country and a wise custodian of the legitimate interests of Great Britain cannot be disputed. In view of the success that has attended the efforts of the delegates at the Round Table Conference, notwithstanding the grave apprehensions entertained by some at the beginning, His Excellency's nobility of character and the true Christianlike righteousness are amply brought out in his dignified and sagacious efforts made since December 1929 to secure co-operation of all sections of political thought in the noble task of designing and erecting India's political edifice on sure and stable foundations. His decision to release the members of the Working Committee of the Congress was directly responsible for the truce over which we are all rejoicing and which we hope will lead to the happy consummation of the ideal which that thin old Christian gentleman Lord Irwin, the Saint of the Viceroy's House and the Saint of the Sabarmathi Ashramam have before them. Let us all devoutly and fervently pray for the speedy solution of the problems so that India may occupy a place worthy of her glorious past and as a shining jewel of the British Empire.

"With these few words I beg to move the resolution standing against my name and I hope it will be supported by all sections of the House."

At this stage the House adjourned for lunch.

After Lunch (2-30 p m.)

* Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN:—"Mr. President, Sir, I rise to second the motion which was moved by the hon. Member for Nellore. I must first thank the hon. the Revenue Member and the Leader of the House for having given us the opportunity of moving this resolution on this particular day. I am sorry that official intimation with regard to the agreement had not arrived on the day, viz., the 4th March 1931 when I intended to move this motion. I am glad that we have at least been given this opportunity of doing it at the present time. Every one in this Council is aware that His Excellency the Viceroy has taken a great deal of trouble with regard to the initiation of these negotiations and the satisfactory settlement that has been arrived at. As Bishop Ripon said the other day in his address in the Cathedral, it is really the Christian nature of Lord Irwin which has made this consummation possible.

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Of course, as Mahatma Gandhi has explained, this does not mean that we have arrived at a settlement of the question. It is only a truce, an armistice so to say, and the future relations between India and England will depend on the nature of the negotiations that are going hereafter to take place. As Congressmen have made it clear, if the constitution that is going to be given to India, is going to be fenced in by various safeguards, it may be difficult for people who have staked their all and who have sacrificed a great deal to bring about this result, to agree to a settlement. But at the same time I am sure that people in the country are delighted at the conclusion of the truce; I do not mean to say that the country was getting tired of the struggle; but there have always been people in this country who have trusted and believed that the way of negotiations was perhaps a better method of settling this question than by mere sufferings. As Mahatma Gandhi himself said immediately after the signing of this agreement, though peace has come, it does not mean that the struggle is at an end. I am sure that hon. Members of this House will hope that what has been achieved is real peace in every sense of the word and that a settlement would be arrived at by common future efforts which will lead to contentment and prosperity in the land rather than a renewal of all this struggle. One of the important things that the Congress and people of their way of thinking have impressed on the country, is that we must be recognized now as an equal partner in the British Commonwealth of Nations and I am glad that my hon. Friend, the Kumara Raja of Venkatagiri, agreed to this portion of the resolution going in; because that is a matter on which the country is really very keen and I am sure that people realize that the time has arrived when we in India ought to be allowed to manage our own affairs—as Mr. Gandhi himself has pointed out—even to make mistakes in the course of such management; because, as he himself has pointed out, it is the right of every human being to commit mistakes. At the same time I am sure that people realize that there ought to be safeguards in the interests of India. I think that is the reason why Mr. Gandhi himself agreed to that portion going on in the *communiqué* that the Governor-General has recently issued. The great part that His Excellency the Viceroy played in bringing about these negotiations has already been referred to by my hon. Friend who moved this resolution. From the time that Lord Irwin arrived in this country five years ago, he has set his heart on bringing about a settlement of the Indian constitutional problem. I am sure all the hon. Members of the House will be glad that he has advanced it to a stage when this problem will be solved and a satisfactory settlement arrived at. To this end, India owes a deep debt of gratitude to Lord Irwin and the methods he has followed. Some people might have thought that Lord Irwin was weak at times; but even they must realize the great difficulties he had to get through, because I think people are aware that in his own country and in his own party there are men who are opposed to this settlement even to-day and it must have been no small trouble to him to bring about these negotiations to this successful conclusion. I am sure that people in England also will realize that Lord Irwin has

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wrought not only for the welfare of India but also for the welfare of the Empire. Peace between England and India will really mean peace of the world. Two great countries like India and England being in friendly terms will really solve the problem of the East and the West and will make war in the future impossible. In that sense Lord Irwin, by his negotiations and the settlement that he has arrived at, has also made possible a world peace which all nations have at heart. With these few words I second the resolution."

*Mr. YAKUB HASAN:—"The peace just concluded between Mahatma Gandhi and Lord Irwin, if not by itself the greatest event that the world has witnessed in the last decade, deserves to be ranked among the greatest episodes that have revolutionized the world since the termination of the war. I sincerely hope, Sir, that the truce will be soon translated into permanent peace and it will mark the termination of India's unique bloodless struggle for freedom, the boldest experiment in peaceful revolution, the first of its kind that was ever made in the world's history. If India and Great Britain will follow the lead jointly given by the greatest representatives of the two countries—one the beloved uncrowned King of India and the other the most farsighted Viceroy of His Majesty the King of the United Kingdom and Emperor of India—all obstacles are sure to be removed from the passage of India to her legitimate place in the comity of free nations, the attainment of which is essential not only for the permanence of cordial relation to the mutual advantage of India and Great Britain, but also for the good comradeship of the East and the West. Freedom of India would then spell the freedom of the East from the intellectual, moral and material dominance of the West. The world peace will become an accomplished fact only when the only imperial power which has survived the empire-shaking shocks of the war will cease to dominate over the only nation that has continued to remain a subject nation in spite of her great contribution in the war to the forces that have broken the shackles of many a dependent people.

"In conclusion I beg to appeal to the people at the helm of the Congress to give due weight to the fact that the fate of India trembles in the balance at the present moment and it will be decided not in St. James Palace in London but at Karachi. If the great movement which began with the non-co-operation resolution adopted at Calcutta, the late British Capital of India, in which campaign I had the proud privilege of taking humble part under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi, and which movement has, I hope, come to a successful end with the calling off of civil disobedience in the Viceregal lodge of New Delhi, the future capital of Federated India, if this movement has to bear any fruit, the Indian National Congress must give the same free hand to Mahatmaji, who by the by, has now laid aside his Generalship of the National Army and assumed the role of the premier statesman, at the forthcoming Round Table Conference as the Working Committee had given him in his conversations with Lord Irwin.

"One more appeal and I have done. I appeal to my co-religionists throughout India in general and to those in particular who sat in the

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Round Table Conference in London to rise equal to the sublimity of the occasion and demonstrate to the world that the Mussalmans of India are not behind their co-religionists in any part of the world in their love of their mother land, and that their nationalism and not communalism is of the same high order as the nationalism and not mere religious fervour of the Turks or Egyptians, Arabs or Persians or Afghans."

2-45
p.m.

* Rao Bahadur A. T. PANNIRSELVAM:—"Mr. President, Sir, I deem it a privilege to be associated with this resolution. If the decisions of the Round Table Conference had given us matter for satisfaction and even gratification, we could not escape the feeling of uncertainty and doubt as to the sort of reception which they were likely to have in this country, particularly from that section of the public which had thought fit to abstain from attending the Round Table Conference in London. We felt that if those decisions were really to lead us to our ultimate goal, the atmosphere in this country should be such as to enable everybody concerned to consider the decisions in a spirit of friendship, co-operation and good will, and also that those deliberations should be received in a peaceful spirit by the sections belonging to the Congress. And if to-day the atmosphere has cleared up, and every section of the public in this country is in a mood to consider on their merits, the conclusions arrived at there, and if that section of the public which originally decided to abstain from the deliberations of the Conference has now expressed its willingness and desire to take part in the future deliberations, in the further stages of the Round Table Conference, I believe, I will not be oversteering it, when I say that His Excellency the Viceroy is principally responsible for it. When I say this, I do not by any means wish to depreciate the part played by Mahatma Gandhi and the other Congress leaders which is indeed considerable. But we must remember that His Excellency the Viceroy had, in the work he did, to face tremendous odds. He had on the one hand the non-co-operation movement and the civil disobedience campaign in this country while on the other there was criticism, violent criticism and mostly unreasoned criticism, of his own countrymen directed against him. Notwithstanding these two forces working from opposite directions, His Excellency the Viceroy kept steadily before him his one aim, and ideal, to leave behind him, when the time for his departure from the shores of India came, a peaceful and contented India, which will be in a mood to consider on their own merits the questions relating to the future constitution of the country. In that aim, His Excellency the Viceroy has at last succeeded, and while therefore, I would venture to offer him my humble congratulations. I should also most willingly and with the greatest of pleasure, give my support to this resolution, which conveys to him a nation's gratitude."

* Rao Bahadur C. NATESA MUDALIYAR:—"Mr. President, Sir, I rise to support this motion. Gandhi-Irwin agreement is welcomed both by Britain and India and almost all the countries of the world are jubilant over it. Some countries believe that their economic depression will be greatly relieved by this agreement. If there had been a breakdown in

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the negotiations, it might have resulted in serious consequences both to Great Britain and to India. We are extremely thankful to both Mahatma Gandhi and Lord Irwin for having averted such a catastrophe. The life of Mahatma Gandhi as we all know, is a life of sacrifices and nothing else; sacrifices in India and outside it. He dedicated his life for the cause of his country and his countrymen. The one lesson that we learn from his life is this: that truth and character win after all. His life is an object lesson to many of our politicians who believe that hypocrisy and duplicity are necessities in political life. They may be useful for personal aggrandisements, but not for doing any solid good for the country and the people.

"Sir, coming now to Lord Irwin, we can call him Mahatma Irwin. His birth, his education and above all, his character, stood by his side. But for his sagacity, statesmanship and sincerity, this result could not have been achieved. These two great men of character—I see the reflection of Jesus Christ in one and an extraordinarily good Christian in the other—these two great men met, they gave and they took. They lay aside their prestige, sincerity and service to humanity were foremost in their minds, and the outcome was the agreement. Let us not forget that this agreement is only a truce and that peace is yet to come. The peace depends upon the British Government, the Provincial Government, Legislative Councils such as this, and also upon our brothers and sisters outside these councils who have been suffering for the sake of our country, I mean members of the Congress party. It depends not only upon these but also upon the British public. With complete provincial autonomy, central responsible government, Indianization of the army, transferred finance and other items, I think, Indians will be satisfied, because I do not want separation from the British Empire. We want to be a self-respecting nation among the nations of the world, within the British Empire. I believe it will then be twice blessed—blessed will be the British Empire and blessed our India. I want that India should be a member of the Commonwealth of Dominions within the British Empire.

"Sir, as to the British public, I would appeal to them, especially to the Conservative Party, not to be petty-fogging, and not to be stubborn. Let them study back their history and see how dearly their stubbornness cost their ancestors in the past. We want to be permanently united with England. It is our desire to say 'England, with all thy faults, I love thee'. The British public, especially the Conservatives, must realize all these and take part in the Round Table Conference to be held in India.

"Coming now to our Local Government, I crave the indulgence, Sir, to inform His Excellency through you, that he came here not to rule over an aboriginal tribe, an uncivilized people, but to rule over an ancient civilized race who carried their civilization even more than five thousand years ago not only to the other parts of the world, but also to England and Wales. Sir, the national anthem of the Welsh people 'Hen weadfy nadan' my old father land was spoken not of Wales but I believe of South India. Thus we carried our civilization even to England.

[Mr. C. Natesa Mudaliyar] [12th March 1931]

"Then, Sir, the Madras Government is very slow in responding to the terms of the truce in spite of all the explanations offered by the hon. the Law Member this morning. Sir, I request His Excellency, to whom this resolution is to be commended, to see that His Government do not read between the lines or take advantage of loopholes of technicalities and hair-splitting differences and thus mar the present beautiful situation."

* Rao Bahadur R. SRINIVASAN:—"Mr. President, Sir, on behalf of the members of the depressed classes represented in this Council, I rise with great pleasure to support this motion brought forward by the Kumararaja of Venkatagiri and Dr. Subbarayan. I do not want to reflect in detail on the past events; but I would like to say a few words about the recent happenings. The Viceroy and Mr. Gandhi were playing their cards equally well. The depressed classes, particularly women and children, love Lord Irwin and Mr. Gandhi for they brought peace in the country. In the last stage of the political struggle, the part Lord Irwin played was admirable. He allowed Mr. Gandhi a long rope with a view to study the political situation and feelings of the people in the country. He picked out all those who acted against the peace and tranquillity in the country and secluded them. At the same time, he picked out men who could be sober-minded and sent them to the Round Table Conference. There the delegates gained the confidence and goodwill of the British public. The result of the Conference was, to a great extent, satisfactory to the Congressmen and to the country. The constitution has been framed, and the details to be filled in could be done sooner or later.

"Whatever form the constitution might take, unless the depressed classes were recognized as an important factor in the future constitution and an adequate share in the administration and Legislatures and other facilities they claim, were granted to them, the country would be brought by them into a state of convulsion sooner or later.

"Mr. Gandhi advocated that the removal of untouchability should be placed in the forefront of the Congress platform. Then he changed and said 'first Swaraj and then removal of untouchability'. Up to now, not a syllable fell from his lips about the depressed classes. Perhaps he would say now 'first Purna Swaraj and then removal of untouchability'. It remains to be seen what turn he intends to take.

"It is earnestly hoped by the depressed classes that safeguards for their protection in the future constitution of a self-governing India, as schemed out in the memorandum submitted by their representatives to the Round Table Conference, would be sympathetically viewed and granted. With these few words, Sir, I support the motion."

* Mr. V. P. NARAYANAN NAMBIYAR:—"Mr. President, Sir, when the history of the last few years comes to be read, chapter after chapter will relate to the struggle of India for freedom; and two names in those chapters that will arrest the eyes of any reader will be the two great names enshrined to-day in the temple of every Indian's heart. The resolution before the House, though it seeks to express the thanks of

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only this Council really embodies a Nation's joy and gratitude at the Agreement arrived at between His Excellency Lord Irwin and Mahatma Gandhi. India is now on the threshold of a new era full of possibilities for a bright future. Every true servant of humanity, forgetting the bitterness of the struggle up till now and realizing that the noble soul regards the whole wide world as kin, must help in the onward march of our country to take her legitimate place among the nations of the world. Great things are 'wrought by prayer', said Poet Tennyson, and let us, in the name of the glorious past of our country and in the name of unborn millions, lift up our hands to Divine Providence to bring about a state of affairs which cannot be better expressed save in the words of Srimathi Sarojini Devi:—

'Thy future calls thee with a manifold sound,
To crescent honours, splendours, victories vast,
Waken !! O slumbering Mother !! and be crowned,
Who once were empress of the sovereign past'."

* Mr. C. SATEANARAYANA CHODARI:—"Mr. President, Sir, I join in 3 p.m. appreciating the great qualities of Lord Irwin and the great services he has rendered to England and India and to the world at large. But at the same time, I wish to associate with the name of Lord Irwin, the names of Mahatma Gandhi, Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru, Mr. Jayakar and the Right Hon'ble Mr. Srinivasa Sastri to whom also the nation's thanks go forth for the way in which they have tried to restore peace in the country. The truce which I hope is the forerunner of an abiding peace, of an honourable and permanent peace—honourable to both sides—is the result of combined statesmanship of Lord Irwin and Mahatma Gandhi and of the three gentlemen I have just mentioned. There are some who feel that they see nothing in the truce. They say that after all Mahatma Gandhi has yielded and that he might as well have yielded without subjecting the nation to a period of one year's terrible suffering. I am not able to agree with that view. The suffering during the last one year and the events during the last one year have shown that the Indian nation is sleeping and not dead. These events have shown that the Indian nation is only sleeping and that it is waiting for the modern Christ to come and to say 'rise'. Sir, the modern Christ did come; he came and saw, even as Jesus saw, as stated in the Bible, that the child was sleeping and not dead. The modern Christ came and said 'why weep ye! The nation is sleeping and not dead.' He said to the Indian nation 'rise' and the nation rose; he said to the nation 'act' and the nation acted; he said to the nation 'jump into the jails' and the nation jumped into the jails. Now he says 'stop' and the nation stops. Then, Sir, he enters the room of the conference, not as the representative of a sleeping nation, but of a wakeful nation, of a nation that has proved its capacity to suffer. Mahatma Gandhi is now sitting there as the representative of a nation with its sense of dignity roused with the authority, the mandate and strength of a nation which has proved its strength as an equal to England. He is a greater force to-day than he would have been if he had entered the conference without the suffering

[Mr. C. Satyanarayana Choudari] [12th March 1931]

of the country for one year. When I say this, I do not say that the peace has been achieved. What has been achieved is only a truce. Peace can be achieved only by mutual trust and by mutual goodwill. Given honesty of purpose and real honest statesmanship on the part of the British people, I dare say peace is well-nigh certain. But, our experience in the past has been that the British statesmen have not been honest in the pledges they have given from time to time. Pledges they were giving as freely and as freely they were breaking them and as freely again they were trying to explain them away. That has not been the case with the past alone. Even after the struggle began, the same practice has been continued. At one stage we see Mr. Benn making a statement holding out hopes, next Lord Russel comes forward and makes a statement contradicting Mr. Benn; then Lord Irwin seeing that the situation has got out of control makes a statement. In his statement we see nothing of a combination of Mr. Benn and Lord Russel. Then Mr. Churchill comes into the field and throws a bombshell which creates further confusion and then Mr. MacDonald rises and calls for peace. Now, Sir, if this is the sort of peace that we are going to have in this country, let us not have it. But, Lord Irwin in his wisdom and with his sagacity has begun a new chapter and I hope that if Lord Irwin, Mr. Benn and Mr. MacDonald are allowed freedom to do things in their own way, they would certainly do things honestly. But, I am afraid from what appears in the newspapers regarding the attitude of the Conservatives, that all is not going on well. Let us hope that everything will end well.

“Now, having sounded this note of warning, I want to say what exactly is the expectation of the nation to-day and what exactly is it that the nation expects as a result of the peace terms that are going to be discussed at the Round Table Conference. I am not going to talk about the form of the future constitution; I am anxious about the substance of the national demand; the substance of it is that we Indians ought to be able to feel in our own country as an Englishman feels in his own country. Under the new constitution we ought to be able to feel in our own country at least as much free as the hon. Mr. Stokes or the hon. Mr. Campbell feels in this country. That is the nature of the constitution that we want. We want a constitution under which we might be able to call the hon. the Revenue Member, the hon. the Finance Member, the servants of the people and not the masters of the people. That is the substance of the national demand. I am not going to worry myself about the name; call it Swaraj, call it federal type of Government, or unitary type or unicameral or bicameral, or by whatever name you like. That is the sum and substance of the national demand. Nothing short of this would satisfy the people of this country and restore political peace in the country. I would just close with the words of a great thinker, because these words express the demand of Indian nation to-day.

‘Empires must perish to-day as they have perished in the past in order that free peoples may survive and realize their freedom. We have the signal instance of the fallacy of Imperial idea in Italy and Austria in one Empire made Spiritual Unity impossible. The Austrian Empire with its Italian appendage was a monstrosity. But now relations between Italy and Austria have changed.

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Italy has come nobly to the help of Austria in the hour of her greatest distress and a spiritual unity is being found to-day which is obliterating centuries of hate. The truth is that the British Empire with its Indian appendage is a modern monstrosity. If the present unnatural relations between England and India continue, it can only lead, as it has done, at such a rapid pace already to a continually increasing bitterness on both sides. But if the bond of subjection is removed, then mutual trust and mutual respect will ensure both for the good of India and for the good of England.

“Sir, that is the sort of relationship between England and India that we expect as a result of the peace and nothing short of it will satisfy the country as I said. I hope Lord Irwin as representing the British nation and Mahatma Gandhi as representing the Indian nation will bear this in mind in arriving at peace at the Round Table Conference.”

* Mr. W. M. BROWNING:—“Mr. President, Sir, it is with the greatest pleasure that I rise to associate myself and the non-official European community in this city with this motion. The achievement of His Excellency the Viceroy and Mr. Gandhi is unparalleled in the history of arbitration and the result could only have been attained by men whose sincerity of purpose transcends all the other good qualities they possess. I have the very greatest pleasure in supporting this motion, which I hope this House will carry unanimously.”

* Mr. A. V. BHANOJI RAO:—“Mr. President, Sir, I associate myself in offering my humblest and sincerest congratulations to Lord Irwin as well as to Mahatma Gandhi. As we all know, it is a very difficult achievement made by these two great men and it is not a surprise if they have yielded to a compromise, which is purely due to purity of heart. Our thanks are due not only to these two great men, but also to Nawab of Bhopal, Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru, Mr. Jayakar and Mr. Srinivasa Sastri who took a leading part in bringing about this compromise. They were running up and down from the Viceroy's house to Dr. Ansari's house, just to see that they bring about this compromise. I am sure the great task that has been performed by Lord Irwin will make him an immortal Viceroy, as the ideal and most efficient statesman that ever ruled over India. Sir, when the whole country is jubilating over this compromise, we have a bolt from the blue in the shape of the Right Hon'ble Mr. Baldwin going back on his statement. After the Round Table Conference, he said in the House of Commons that if he occupied power or if we were on the Treasury Bench, he would have carried out the policy that has been pursued at the Round Table Conference. But, unfortunately, what happened: It is stated that certain sections of the Conservatives are not in favour of co-operating during the further stages of the Conference. Sir, it is an irony of fate that this party should take into their head not to co-operate with the Round Table Conference in London. I call it an irony of fate, because unless we have the unanimity of all parties as the Conference, the fate of India will not be decided.

“Well, Sir, if we go back to the history of politics, I may say that the discontent in India was first started during the time of Lord Curzon. It is very unkind to say that Lord Curzon had done anything bad to

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India. On the other hand, he was an able man, a man of great industry and ability. What did he do? The first thing he did was the appointment of a University Commission, which awakened the whole of India and made them suspicious that he was going to cut at the very root of the fate of India regarding mass education. Then came the partition of Bengal. In fact, nobody knew and heard about Bande Mataram before. It was only after the partition of Bengal that one first heard of Bande Mataram and the agitation started. It had enhanced the agitation and discontent in the country, but Lord Curzon did not mean that discontent would be created by this act of his, but he thought that he was doing a great service in securing a greater footing for the British Empire by strengthening the foundation laid down by Lord Clive.

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p.m.

"Sir, in this connexion it is worth while to recall to our mind what Lord Morley and Lord Salisbury said about India. Lord Morley said that the agitation in India should be inquired into and the grievances redressed. Lord Salisbury said that it was absolutely necessary that the non-official element should be consulted along with the executive element and that that body should be given more opportunity in all matters of administration.

"Then, Sir, what happened at the time of the constitution of the Simon Commission. Great discontent prevailed in the country as soon as the personnel of the Commission was announced. The people were so much dissatisfied with its constitution that even the moderates refused to co-operate with the Commission. But ultimately it was recognized that Indians must be made a party in the framing of the constitution and the result was the Round Table Conference. The Government have realized the mistake that was committed by them and recognized the real danger and rectified the wrong.

"The conference must bear in mind that it is the problem of the vexed Hindu-Muslim question that is standing in the way for a solution and, Sir, it is a very difficult controversy to be settled easily. In fact it is the crucial point on which the success of the Round Table Conference depends. It is a problem which should engage the attention of the greatest politicians of India. And as was once said by one great statesman, the only way in which that question can be solved is by both communities acting in union with the other, i.e., by each sacrificing to some extent its interest to the other. It is only then a compromise can be effected.

"Then, Sir, coming to the other aspects of the Round Table Conference it is gratifying to note that the Princes have co-operated with the conference and have agreed to the form of Government that will be advantageous to the future of India, that is the Federal Government. They recognized the spirit of the times and to secure their position they took part in the discussions at the conference. And, Sir, this point should be borne in mind; but for the Princes, do you mean to say the Round Table Conference would have been able to achieve what it has attained? But for them the future constitution of India would not have been settled and would have been in the melting pot.

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"Mr. President, Sir, troublous days are ahead of us, and to a certain extent the path of the future Viceroy, Earl Willingdon, has been rendered a little less difficult by Lord Irwin. For one and all here will recognize that Lord Irwin has done a great thing for Earl Willingdon in the shaping and settling of disputes with the Congress by what is commonly called Irwin-Gandhi Peace Pact. Sir, the civil disobedience movement was begun during his regime; and now when he leaves the shores of India that movement has been rendered a thing of the past.

"Sir, this House is aware of the fact how successfully Lord Willingdon worked diarchy in this province; and what is the root cause of this success? Racial equality. And it is with that racial equality that he is concerned to-day, and it is due to this policy that in his regime here, extremists turned into moderates and worked diarchy. I am glad Lord Willingdon bears still this important point in mind, and I hope under his able guidance the Round Table Conference will be a great success."

* Swami A. S. SAHAJANANDAM:—"கனம் தலைவர் அவர்களே! "காங்கிரஸ் மகா சபையானது கடந்த நாற்பது ஆண்டுகளாக உழைத்ததன் பயனாகத் தற்போதுள்ள நிலைமை யேற்பட்டுள்ளது. மான்டேகு-செம்ஸ்போர்டு பிரபுக்கள் கலந்தாலோசித்து இந்தியாவிற்குச் சீர்திருத்தம் வழங்கிய பிறகு தற்போது சட்டசபையில் எங்களில் பத்து பேர்கள்வரை இடம் பெற்றுள்ளோம். மான்டேகு-செம்ஸ்போர்டு திருத்தத்திற்குமுன் இக்கனம் தங்கிய சபையில் ஒரு வர்கூட எங்களில் ஸ்தானம் பெறவில்லை. இனி வரப்போகிற சீர்திருத்தத்தில் எங்கள் பாதுகாப்பும் போதுமான வரையிலிருக்குமென நம்புகிறேன். மான்டேகு சீர்திருத்தத்தின் முடிவாக சைமன் கமிஷன் யாதாஸ்து தோன்றியது. அதின் காரணமாக வட்டமேஜை மகாநாடு கூடியது. அதன் நடவடிக்கை சைமன் கமிஷன் ரிப்போர்ட்டையும் தாண்டிவிட்டது. அதற்காகப் பெரிதும் மகிழ்கின்றேன். இந்த நிலைமையில் சென்ற ஆண்டில் மகாத்மா பூரண சுதந்திரம் பெறுவதற்காக சட்டமறுப்பியக்கம் ஆரம்பித்தார். அதனை அடக்க அரசாங்கத்தாரைக் கொண்ட முறைகள் மிகவும் பயங்கரமாயிருந்தன. அவர்கள் அவ்வாறு அடக்குமுறைகளைக் கையாளாவிட்டால் அரசியல் முறையை நடத்தமுடியாது. மக்களுக்கும் பாதுகாப்பிராது. தலைவர்களும் தேசபக்தர்களும் அளவிறந்த தியாகங்கள் செய்தார்கள். அவர்கள் அவ்வாறு செய்ததன் பலனாக சமரச முயற்சியேற்பட்டது. மகாத்மா காந்தியடிகள் தற்போது சமரச முயற்சி எடுக்காவிட்டால் நாடு எந்த நிலைமைக்கு வராமோவென யாங்கனம் கலங்கினோம். இந்த நிலைமையில் லார்டு இர்வின் பிரபு தீர்க்கமாகச் சீர்திருத்து விட்டுக்கொடுத்தும் அடக்குமுறைகளை வாயில் வாங்கியதும் பாராட்டற்கரியதாகும். மகாத்மாவும் தனது கொள்கைகளைத் தளர்த்தியதும் மனம் மாறுதலடைந்ததும் போற்றற் குரியன. இந்த சமயத்தில் இச்சபையின்முன் தாழ்த்தப்பட்டவர்களின் சார்பாகச் சில சொல்ல விரும்புகிறேன். இந்தியாவிற்குப் பொறுப்பாட்சி நல்கப் பெறும் இக்காலத்தில் அடக்குமுறைகளை வாயில் வாங்கும் காலத்தில் நாங்கள் 144-க்கு இரையாக்கப்பட்டுள்ளோம். தற்போது நாங்கள் பூரண பொறுப்பாட்சி கேட்கவில்லை. தெருவில் நடக்குஞ் சுதந்திரம் கேட்கிறோம். மனுஷரானாக எங்களை நடத்தவேண்டுமென்கிறோம். பொறுப்பாட்சி நல்கும் இக்காலத்தில் அதிகாரிகள் மனம் மாறவில்லை. இரண்டு தினங்களுக்குமுன் சிதம்பரம் தாலுகா மகத்துவாழ்க்கை ஆதிதிராவிடர்கள் கிள்ளை தைக்கால் வழியாகப் பப்ளிக் ரோட்டில் சுவாமி யெடுக்கக்கூடாதென சிதம்பரம் சப்-மாவின்ட்ரேட் 144 போட்டார். நாங்கள்

[Swami A. S. Sahajanandam] [12th March 1931]

அரசாங்கத்திற்கு விரோதமான இயக்கம் ஒன்றும் நடத்தவில்லை. எங்களுக்கு 144 போட நியாயமில்லை. பப்ளிக் ரோட்டில் போகத் தடையுத்தரவு போடப்பட்டுள்ளது. மாண்புமிக் அரசப் பிரதிநிதியவர்களின் உள்ளத்தையும் அரசாங்க போக்கையும் கீழ் உத்தியோகஸ்தர்கள் கவனிக்கவில்லை. இராமநாதபுரம், வள்ளுவகுடி, சிங்கநல்லூர் முதலான விடங்களில் பொது ஜனங்கள் ஆதிதிராவிடர்களுக்குச் செய்துவரும் அக்கிரமங்களை கனம் அங்கத்தினர்கள் அறிவார்கள். வள்ளுவகுடியில் ஆதிதிராவிடர்கள் நல்ல துணி கட்டிக்கொண்டுபோகக்கூடாது. கூடையில் சோறு கொண்டு போகக்கூடாது. இந்தச் சமயத்தில் பொதுப் பாதையில் நடக்கவும் பொதுக் கிணறுகளில் தண்ணீர் எடுக்கவும் நாகரீகமாக பழகிக் கொள்வதைத் தடுக்காதிருக்கவுமே நாங்கள் கேட்டுக்கொள்கிறோம். இந்தப் பொறுப்பைத் தவிர வேறு பொறுப்பாட்சியையும் நாங்கள் விரும்பவில்லை. பொறுப்பாட்சி வேண்டுமென விரும்புவோர் எங்கள் உரிமையை எங்களுக்குக் கொடுப்பதில்லை. எல்லாப் பொறுப்பும் தங்களுக்கே இருக்கவேண்டுமென விரும்புகிறார்கள். இது எல்லாருக்கும் பொறுப்புள்ளதாகுமா? லோகல் போர்டுகளில் மொத்த மெம்பர்களின் தொகையில் நாலில் ஒரு பங்கை ஒதுக்கி அவற்றில் ஆதிதிராவிடர்களுக்கு ஜனத்தொகைக்கேற்றவாறும், இன்றியமையாமையுடையவாறும் ஸ்தானங்கள் கொடுக்கவேண்டுமென ஜி.ஓ. மேல் ஜி.ஓ. பிறப்பித்துள்ளார்கள். அதை ஜில்லா போர்டர்கள் கவனிப்பதில்லை. தென்னாற்காடு ஜில்லாவில் மொத்தம் 23 லட்சம் ஜனங்கள் இருக்கிறார்கள். அவர்களில் ஆதிதிராவிடர் ஆறு லட்சத்தி முப்பதினாயிரம் ஜனங்களிருக்கிறார்கள். ஏறக்குறைய நாலில் ஒரு பங்கிற்கு அதிகமாயிருக்கிறார்கள். இவர்களுக்கும் மூன்று, அறுபதினாயிரம் இருப்பவர்களுக்கும் மூன்றைப் பிறித்துள்ளார்கள். இப்படி சொல்பவர் நாற்பதினாயிரம் ஜனத்தொகையார். இவர்களில் 10 மேலுள்ளாரை ஜி.ஓ. விற்படியும் அரசாங்கத்தின் நோக்கத்தின் படியும் செய்யவேண்டுமென்றேன். ஒருவர் ஜி.ஓ. வோவைப்பற்றி எங்களுக்குக் கவலையில்லை. அதிகாரம் எங்குமிருக்கிறது, எங்கு எங்கு என்னும். என்னொன்றைமட்டும் வாதாடிப்பார்த்துப் பயன்படாமையால் போர்டில் இருப்பதில் சாரமில்லையென்று 1931-ம் ஆண்டு மார்ச்சுமீ 10உ நடந்த மீட்டிங்கில் கூட்டத்தைவிட்டு வெளியேறினேன். நியாயமான உரிமையைக் கொடுக்க மனம் வராதவர்களும் வீதியில் செல்லவொட்டாமல் தடுக்கவல்லவர்களுமாவர்களிடம் பொறுப்பாட்சி வந்தால் அவர்கள் ஆதிதிராவிடர்களை எப்படி நடத்துவார்களோவென மனங்கலங்குகிறது. சர்க்கார் சிப்பந்திகளும் மனமாறு தலையெய்தவில்லை. ஆதலால் எதிர்காலத்தில் பொதுவான உரிமைகளைத் தடுக்கும் 144 உத்தரவு போடாதிருக்க கனம் அரசப்பிரதிநிதியவர்கள் பார்த்துக்கொள்ளவேண்டும். அப்படியே மகாத்மாவையும் அவரது செயலையும் ஆதரிக்கும் பொது ஜனங்கள் எங்களுது முன்னேற்றத்தைத் தடுக்காமலும் எங்களுயுஞ் சகோதரர்களெனக் கருதித் தாங்கள் விரும்பும் சுதந்தரத்தில் யாங்களும் உள்ளவாறே பங்கு பெற்றேனாவாக எங்களுக்கு நம்பிக்கை யுண்டாகும்படி மனம் மாறுதல் அடையும்வண்ணம் மகாத்மா செய்வாரென்றே நம்புகிறோம். மகாத்மாவைப் போற்றும் இச்சபையும் மனமாறுதலடைந்ததைச் செயலில் காட்டுமென நினைக்கிறேன். மகாத்மா ஏற்கனவே தீண்டாமையை ஒழித்தாலன்றி சுயராஜ்யம் கிடைக்காதென சொல்லி வந்தார். ஆனால் தற்போது சுயராஜ்யம் வந்தபிறகு தீண்டாமையை யொழிக்கலாமென்னும் முடிவிற்கு வந்துவிட்டார். ஆனால் இந்து முஸ்லீம் ஒற்றுமைக்காக அவர் மிகவும் பாடுபடுகிறார். முஸ்லீம் எது கேட்டாலும் விட்டுக்கொடுக்கச் சொல்லுகிறார். ஆதிதிராவிடர்கள் விஷயத்தில் அப்படி சொல்ல மனம் வரவில்லை. முஸ்லீம்கள் முரட்டுத்தனமாக நடப்பவர்கள் ஆகையால் அப்படிசொல்ல முன் வந்தார். தாழ்த்தப்பட்டவர்கள் அவ்வாறு முரட்டுத்தனம் செய்யாமையால் கவனத்திற்குக் கொண்டுவரவில்லை. இனியேனும் மகாத்மாவும், அரசப் பிரதிநிதியும் தக்க பாதுகாப்புச் செய்வார்களென நம்புகிறேன். ஆதிதிராவிடர்கள் தற்போது நாடோடத்தானும் ஓடுவோட வேண்டுமென்னுமுறையில் போற்றவேண்டுமே யொழிய உள்ளத்தோடும் பொருந்த ஆமோதிக்கவில்லை. எதிர்காலத்தில் உள்ளன்போடு கலந்து கொள்ளற்கான முயற்சிகள் எடுத்துக்கொள்வார்களென்று அதற்கு இச்சமரச முயற்சி அறிவுறுத்தியாக விருக்கிறதென யாங்களும் இதழீர்மானத்தை ஆமோதிக்கிறோம்.”

12th March 1931]

* Mr. V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—“ Mr. President, Sir, in the name of Labour, I beg to associate myself with the motion so ably moved by the Kumara Raja of Venkatagiri. Labour is always behind nationalism, and even in the programme that Congress has chalked out, barring the law-breaking part of it, Labour is vitally interested in Swadeshi and Prohibition. Swadeshi means more labour, and therefore better conditions of employment. Sir, we have in this a struggle, one, the like of which the world has never seen, excepting perhaps a struggle of this magnitude representing another phase of philosophy which was witnessed some fifteen years ago in the Great War. After that war, I think this is the struggle which has attracted the attention of the world because of the novel method adopted by the participants of the struggle. On the one hand the Congress representing the people at large of the country have for the first time adopted or rather experimented with the philosophy of non-violence. I do not think that anywhere in the world this method, this experiment, has ever been tried except in India. And with what result? This House is aware of that. After the immense volume of suffering that has been witnessed and that has been cheerfully borne by the participants, nay, borne cheerfully by the country at large, now a truce has been arrived at. And the truce is not a day too late. After the change of atmosphere that was evident from the statement made by the Premier of England at the final plenary session of the Round Table Conference and after the speeches made by the leaders of the various political parties on the floor of the House of Parliament we thought the time had come when the struggle ought to be called off; or to use an expression which I think would be inappropriate, this civil disobedience war would be called off. And we are glad to see that the participants of this struggle had snatched at the psychological opportunity in calling for this truce.

“ Speaking for Labour, I always felt that if the struggle were to be continued it would involve Labour also in its scope. And that is why we addressed both Lord Irwin and Mahatma Gandhi to seize this opportunity for a political truce. We should at the same time remember that the settlement arrived at, what is known as the Irwin-Gandhi Peace Pact, is only a truce, a truce to be supplemented by another Round Table Conference where other subjects and details are to be discussed, and that shortly in India itself. But for the time being this truce has given a breathing time for both parties to take stock of the situation. I daresay this truce has given an opportunity to think coolly and collectedly for some time of the issues before the country and also to the people who have suffered and to the people who behind the sufferings of others have always taken an interest and have given a helping hand this gives a pause to think out the future issues. I would also state this, Sir, that recognizing the necessity of such a truce it is also up to us to act up to the spirit in which this truce has been arrived at by Lord Irwin representing Government on one side and Mahatma Gandhi representing the Congress, and may I add representing also the country. Lord Irwin, when he first came out to India

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was known to us as a gentleman who took a large interest in agriculture and as a good Christian. That is what newspapers reported him to be. To-day at the end of his Viceroyalty we are in a position to say that not only is he a good Christian, but he has been a good political Samaritan.

“Sir, it gives some pain to see that of late Mr. Churchill, or rather, I will choose to call, Messrs. Churchill and Company, have been acting, or trying to go back on the statement made by the leader of the Conservative party on the floor of the House of Parliament. I, therefore, while associating myself with the appreciation of the good qualities of the Viceroy and the statesmanlike attitude taken by Mahatma Gandhi on this occasion, I would pray that Messrs. Churchill and Company may go into liquidation and shut down their shop. I would also pray that the time-spirit, which is responsible for this change of attitude, for this change on the complexion of the situation, may grow; I pray that the spirit of democracy may prosper; I pray that the philosophy of non-violence may prosper; and in conclusion specially on behalf of Labour, I would pray that in any democracy or in any future constitution that may be ushered into existence as a result of the deliberations of the Round Table Conference that is going to be held in India, the interests of Labour may be adequately represented and that democracy be made safe to the poor.”

* Mrs. K. ALAMELUMANGA THAYARAMMAL:—“கனம் பொருந்திய சபாநாயகரவர்களே! சிலகாலமாகவே இந்தியாவில் அரசியல் விஷயங்களில் பொது ஜனங்களுக்குள் குழப்பமுண்டாகிக் கொண்டிருந்தது. சுமார் ஓர் வருஷகாலத்திற்கு முன் சட்ட மறுப்பு இயக்கத்தை ஆரம்பித்தார்கள். அவ்விதத்தில் ஆண்மக்கள் மாத்திரம் சேர்ந்து வேலை செய்தார்களென்பதற்கில்லை. இத்தேச பெண்மக்களின் மனமும் தேசாபிமானத்தால் தூண்டப்பெற்று, பொறுமையுடனும், அமைதியுடனும் செய்யவேண்டிய வேலைகள் அநேகமிருப்பினும், அவைகளிற்கு வளஞ் செலுத்துவதற்கின்றி அரசியல் சீர்திருத்தமும், சுதந்திரமும் பெறவேண்டுமென்று துணிந்து வேலைசெய்ய முற்பட்டார்கள். அதிகமாய் ஆவேசத்துடன் பெண்மக்களும் வேலைசெய்ய முற்பட்டதில் இந்தியாவிலும், இங்கிலாந்திலும் உள்ளவர்கள் அநேகருக்கும் கஷ்டமும், கலவரமும், ஆச்சரியமும் உண்டாயிருந்தன. மற்றநாட்டினர்களும் என்ன நிகழப்போகிறதென்று எதிர்பார்த்திருந்தார்கள் என்றே சொல்லவேண்டும். ஆயிரக் கணக்கான பெண்களுக்குப் புதுக்கிளர்ச்சி இப்பொழுதுதான் யுண்டாகிப் புறப்பட்டார்களென்று பலர் நினைத்திருக்கலாம். ஆனால் அது புதுமையல்ல. இந்திய பெண்கள் ஓர் காலத்திலிருந்த சிறப்பின் பெருமையில் ஓர் சிறிது இப்பொழுது ஆரம்பமாயிருக்கிறது. இந்துதேசத்தில் அநேக மாதர்கள் கல்வியறிவோடு கூட அரசியல் முறைகளிலும் நன்கு பயன்வர்களாயிருந்தார்கள் என்பது சரித்திர உண்மை. ஓரங்கல்லில் இராணி ருத்ரம்மா, மதுரை இராணி மங்கம்மா, மைசூர் இராணி லட்சுமம்மணிதேவி, திருவனந்தபுரம் இராணி கௌரிபாய், வடதேசத்து இராணிகள் இராணி பவானி, அகல்யாபாய் முதலியோர் இந்தியாவின் பலவித நன்மைகளுக்காகவும் தங்களுக்காகவும் பிறகுக்காகவும் அரசாட்சி முறைகளை நன்கு நடத்தினார்கள். பெண்ணினங்களின் பெருமையையும், தேசாபிமானத்தையும் பாதுகாத்தார்கள், பாடுபட்டார்கள், பழைய வழியைப் பின்பற்றியே தற்கால மாதர்கலிற் சிலர் தங்கள் தங்கள் பிள்ளைகளையும், புருஷர்களையும் விட்டு சிறைவாசஞ் சென்றார்கள். இது ஆச்சரியமல்ல. தற்கால அரசாங்க சுதந்திரம் பெறுவதில் உண்டான குழப்பமானது இப்போது அடங்காமலிருந்திருப்பின், குடிகளுக்கும், இராஜாங்கத்திற்கும் மாதிரிமே சச்சரவு நடப்பதுமன்றி உள் நாட்டு குழப்பங்களுக்கும் காரணமாகிவிடும்.

12th March 1931] [Srimathi K. Alamelumanga Thayarammal]

தெய்வ சங்கற்பத்தால் அப்படியொன்றும் நேராமல் கவர்ன்மென்டாருக்கும் பிரஜைகளுக்கும் சமாதானமென்பது ஏற்பட்டது யாவருக்கும் பெருமகிழ்ச்சியைத் தருகின்றது. இவ்விஷயத்தில் முதன்மையாய் நின்று, மிகப்பொறுமையோடும், தீர்க்காலோசனையோடும், இராஜநீதியையும் அரசாட்சியையும் நன்கு நடைப்பெறச் செய்யவேண்டுமென்று நினைத்து இராஜப்பிரதிநிதியாகிய இர்வின் பிரபு அவர்கள் கங்கணங் கட்டிக்கொண்டார்கள். இந்தியாவின் முன்னேற்றத்திற்காக நெடுங் காலமாய்ப் பாடுபட்டுவரும் மகாத்மா காந்தி அவர்களையும் அழைத்துச் சென்ற இரண்டு வாரங்களாய் நடத்திய சம்பாஷணைகளின் பயனால் காந்தி அவர்களும் தன் சகாக்களுடன் கலந்து யோசித்து ஓர் விதமான முடிவிற்கு வர காரணமாயிருந்தார். கடைசியாய் மட்டிஷ் அரசாட்சிக்கும் இந்தியாவிற்கும் பின்னும் பலகாலம் அன்பும் ஆட்சிமுறையும் நீடித்திருக்கவே இவ்வளவு சீக்கிரத்தில் சமாதானமெற்பட்டதென்றே சொல்லவேண்டும். இராஜாங்கநல்லமைப்பே குடிகளின் உண்மையான கேட்கும். இச்சபையில் பல சர்க்காரர்கள் வைஸ்ராய் அவர்களுக்கும், காந்தி மகாத்மா அவர்களுக்கும் தங்கள் சந்தொஷத்தை யும், வந்தனத்தையும், அறிவிக்கவென்மென்ற உத்தபற்றப் பெற்றுள்ளனர். பெண்கள் பிரதிநிதியாய் இங்கு நான் நுழைந்தால் என் கடமையையும் நான் செலுத்த வேண்டியவளாயிருக்கிறேன். இராஜப்பிரதிநிதி இர்வின் பிரபு அவர்கள் மஹாமதி யூகி ஆகையால் அரசாங்கத்திற்கும் குடிகளுக்கும் ஒற்றுமையுண்டாகும்படி இராஜ்யை ஏற்படுத்தினார். இவ்விஷயத்தில் பெண்மக்களுக்கும் பெருமகிழ்ச்சியென்று அறிவித்துக்கொள்ளுகின்றேன். சைமன் கமிஷனில் குறிப்பிட்டபடி பெண்களுக்கு எலெக்ஷன் சுதந்திரம் கொடுத்திருப்பதோடு கூட மாகாண சட்ட சபைகளிலும், இந்தியா சட்ட சபையிலும், ஜில்லா போர்ட், தாலுக்கா போர்ட், யூனியன்போர்ட் முதலிய வேறுபல விடங்களிலும் மாதர்களுக்கு இன்னும் அதிக இடங்கள் ஒதுக்கி வைக்கவேண்டுமென்று கவர்ன்மென்டாரைக் கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகின்றேன்.

“அரசுப் பிரதிநிதி அவர்களுக்கும், காந்தி மகாத்மா அவர்களுக்கும், என் மனப்பூர்வமான வந்தனத்தைச் செலுத்த இப்பிரப்பேசையை என் முழுமனதுடன் ஆதரிக்கின்றேன்.”

* Khan Bahadur YANXA ALI SAHIB Bahadur:—“Mr. President, Sir, I have so far refrained from making any speech on the floor of this House and it is a matter of gratification to me that in the maiden attempt that I am making, after I have been returned a second time to this House I should have been afforded a chance to speak on a subject of this momentous character. On an occasion like this, one feels inclined either to grow very versatile as some hon. Members have done or to let one's political imagination extend and cover the vast expanse of humanity. Mr. President, Sir, when we consider the great scope and importance of the pact which is the subject of the resolution moved by the hon. the Mover, one feels it difficult to envisage it in its full perspective because till the thing actually took place one would have been very doubtful whether it would ever take place. It is so unique and unparalleled in history that if it had not taken place and if we had been told such a thing was possible one would have derided the very idea because on the one side there was a fear that the authorities would stand on a feeling of prestige while there was on the other side an untractable determination that we must have either the whole loaf or none at all. Between these two extremes, when a settlement took place; I for one left, Sir, that it was nothing short of a miracle—a miracle I call it, because we believe it only as it has actually taken place, and if it had not taken place, I feel that a situation would have arisen where the relations would have grown increasingly embarrassing

[Yahya Ali Sahib Bahadur] [12th March 1931]

and complicated. Sir, so far as the actual details of the pact are concerned, from various parts of the House there has been a reference to the fact that it is but a truce and it is not an actual peace, and prayers are going forth not only in this House but also throughout the country to the effect that the settlement of the peace may also be effected by a manifestation of the same high character, by the same mutual understanding and by the same breadth of vision and outlook that have characterized the present truce, the settlement of these provisional terms. Sir, we owe, as has been said by the hon. Members who have preceded to-day, this settlement, in no small measure, to the fact that two persons of high character met and talked over the matter in a calm atmosphere of peace and goodwill and mutual understanding laying aside all false notions of prestige and all false ideas of strict and theoretical notions about political doctrines as such. Mahatma Gandhi was prepared in his large heart to realize the difficulties of the administration and even though it was a provisional settlement, he was prepared to create an atmosphere of continued peace even if it be at the sacrifice of a few highly cherished demands, thereby demonstrating a high order of practical sagacity and political wisdom. On the other side we have this great Viceroy whose mission has always been one of peace, determined to achieve it with that indefatigable industry, with that inexhaustible patience and that high character which have been adverted to so well in the speech which the hon. Member the Kumara Raja Sahib made to-day. This happy contact of spiritual forces aided by the powerful personality of the heroes enabled them ultimately to come to a common platform where the pact became a settled fact.

"It has been mentioned on the floor of the house to-day that while the country is rejoicing over this happy result there is a certain note of melancholy struck by the Conservatives having decided not to take part in the Round Table Conference. That is indeed a deplorable feature, but there is one streak of hope, one ray of joy possibly emanating from the fact that we will soon have His Excellency Lord Irwin going back to his own country where I am sure this apostle of peace, who has been able to work such wonders in getting the liberals into the Round Table Conference, who was successful in winning the confidence of the Congress and in achieving such miraculous results—such a powerful and wholesome personality—would succeed in bringing back the Conservatives to participate in the deliberations of the second Round Table Conference or at least in the subsequent discussions that will be held after the second Round Table Conference in London.

"With this hope and inspired by the note of encouragement given expression to by the Mahatmaji himself in the speech made by him while announcing the result, I for myself will wait and watch and pray and hope."

* The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL:—"Mr. President, Sir, speaking on behalf of the whole Government, I wish to say that we heartily associate ourselves with this resolution which has received support from all sides of the House. We particularly associate ourselves with the

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praise which has been bestowed on His Excellency the Viceroy. And, if I may do so without presumption in speaking of one who is my chief, I should like to express my unbounded admiration for His Excellency Lord Irwin and for the manner in which he has dealt with the several difficult situations which have arisen during his term of office. The restoration of co-operation and mutual trust between various classes and parties in India is a fitting close to his momentous Viceroyalty. We appreciate too the important part played by Mr. Gandhi in the recent settlement arising from these negotiations. We realize that he too had his difficulties and that he has had to bring to bear reasonableness and anxious thought on the decision of the question what was the right course for him to adopt in the best interests of India. I do not propose, Sir, I will not follow hon. Members in all that they have said regarding the past history of this matter or regarding what they expect to take place in the near future; but it should not be thought on that account that we do not appreciate the very great services rendered by those ladies and gentlemen who proceeded to England as delegates to the Round Table Conference.

"The present satisfactory situation is very largely due to the labours—to the arduous and anxious labours—which they undertook in that connexion." 2-45 p.m.

"Sir, one point has been raised which calls for a reply. Some mistrust that the Government intend to carry out their undertaking fully was expressed by one or two speakers. And in particular Dr. Natesa Mudaliyar charged the Government with being very slow in carrying out the terms of the settlement which had been arrived at. Well, Sir, I would like to assure hon. Members that the Government have done all they can to carry out these terms as quickly as possible. Hon. Members will remember that the arrangements made were finally settled on the 5th of March. On the previous day, the 4th of March, when it seemed likely that a settlement was imminent the Government wrote to their District Magistrates warning them of the fact and telling them that we should require them to take action as promptly as possible. The terms were actually received by us by telegram late on the fifth evening after the office was closed. On the sixth communications were sent to the principal officers concerned informing them of our intention to give effect as expeditiously as possible and as liberally as possible to the terms which had been detailed in the statement published by the Government. And we issued at once that day several other instructions and took other action. All notifications under the Criminal Law Amendment Act were withdrawn by a Gazette Extraordinary on the 6th of March. We called for a list of prisoners divided into two classes; firstly those in which no violence was involved and secondly those in which violence was involved or in which there was a doubt as to whether there was violence or not in the offence of which the prisoners had been convicted. We issued instructions to District Magistrates to withdraw on their own responsibility at once all pending prosecutions, to remit fines, to restore movable property, to withdraw notifications under section 144 and to

[Mr. A. Y. G. Campbell] [12th March 1931]

submit reports in cases of dismissed or resigned village officers. We had sent telegraphic instructions to Superintendents of Jails to release all women prisoners at once. We called for a report of any resignations of Government servants in connexion with the Civil Disobedience Movement. On the following day a Gazette Extraordinary was issued withdrawing all orders under section 144 of the Criminal Procedure Code which had been extended by the Local Government and that was communicated by telegram to the District Magistrates. On that day we received a telegram that certain ordinances had been repealed and that action was communicated by telegram to the District Magistrates on the same day. (A voice: 6th March?) On the 7th. I trust, Sir, that this may satisfy hon. Members that we are actuated by the intention of carrying into effect the terms of this settlement as quickly and as liberally as we can.

"As regards the number of prisoners that have been released I enquired this morning—about midday—and the information given to me was that there were on the 28th February according to the District Magistrates' reports 1,531 prisoners in jail in connexion with the Civil Disobedience Movement including, I understand, persons under remand. Up to midday to-day orders had been issued for the release of 1,308 convicts. It is probable that there are very few more prisoners, if any, who have been convicted of offences in which violence is not an ingredient. In other cases Superintendents of Jails have been directed to send the necessary papers to District Magistrates who have been instructed to deal with them as expeditiously as possible after obtaining copies of judgments. I assure hon. Members that these cases will be dealt with as quickly as possible.

"Now, Sir, may I ask that spirit of mutual trust which was referred to in the resolution may be applied to the Government? We have taken this action with the full confidence that Mr. Gandhi and the Congress will carry out what Mr. Gandhi undertook should be done. We have shown complete trust in him and complete faith in him. We on our side are doing our best to show our intention of carrying out our share of the arrangements. I hope, Sir, that this settlement may lead to a cessation of mutual recriminations as to what has happened in the past. Let us rather instead of turning our eyes backwards look forward to what is coming in the future. There is a very great deal to be done, as any one who read the proceedings of the Round Table Conference must realize, before the new constitution can be brought into effect. And I submit, Sir, that it requires the application of the best brains of all parties in India to find the solutions of the very serious and difficult problems which still remain to be solved. I trust, Sir, that this settlement will be the beginning of a new era when all parties and all classes and all communities in India will combine to find a solution of these problems and to determine the future constitution of India." (Hear, hear and cheers.)

* Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"Mr. President, Sir, we must all recognize that apart from the patience, industry and courtesy which have characterised the noble participants of the negotiations it required

12th March 1931] [Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar]

no small courage on their part to have initiated, conducted and brought the negotiations to the successful issue they did. Our thanks are also due, Sir, to those few intimate advisers of His Excellency the Viceroy, I am thinking more of the officials than of the non-officials who stood by him loyally and shared the heavy responsibility. His Excellency undertook in carrying these negotiations. More than that, Sir, our thanks are due to the great lieutenants and colleagues of Gandhiji and the rank and file who have made these negotiations possible and practicable. And when one passes in review, the heroic sacrifices and the innumerable privations the Congress and the members thereof have gone through, many of us here cannot but feel overwhelmed by a sense of consciousness of how little has been our personal contribution to bring about the consummation for which we are offering our felicitations. Sir, one satisfactory feature about all these is this, that so far as the lieutenants of Gandhiji are concerned they have to a man stood by him and are loyally carrying out his directions as honourable men. I wish to assure the hon. Member not to have any apprehension that the country will be a whit behind him in carrying out the terms of the settlement. May I submit that he on his side also should try and carry out his part of the Government's bargain in the spirit in which the settlement was arrived at? Frankly some of us felt very nervous in the morning from the replies that fell from the Treasury Bench as to how far the local Government were serious and earnest in the pledges of the Viceroy being carried out by themselves and by their officers. Let me hope that our earlier apprehensions are groundless and that they have been dispelled by the speech of the hon. the Revenue Member, which will be followed by action to the satisfaction of all of us."

The resolution was then put and carried.

MESSAGE OF APPRECIATION TO MAHATMA GANDHI FOR CALLING OFF THE CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE MOVEMENT.

* Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN:—"I move—

'This Council places on record its deep appreciation of the part played by Mahatma Gandhi in bringing about a satisfactory termination of the negotiations between him and His Excellency Lord Irwin and its admiration for his patriotism, love of peace and wisdom in calling off the Civil Disobedience Movement, and requests the hon. the President to convey this message to Mahatma Gandhi.'

"I think few words are needed from me to commend this resolution to the House. Everyone knows that as far back as December 1929 there was a meeting between Mahatma Gandhi and His Excellency the Viceroy, but they could not come to terms at that time because Mahatma Gandhi wanted what he called a change of heart in the settlement of the constitutional problem which unfortunately the Viceroy in spite of all the goodwill in the world was not able to give proof of at that time. He was able to give this now because of the declaration

[Dr. P. Subbarayan] [12th March 1931]

made by the Right hon. the Prime Minister at the end of the plenary session of the Round Table Conference in promising responsibility in the centre and also in saying that the responsibility of carrying on the Government of the country should be transferred from the shoulders of the people of Great Britain to the shoulders of the people of India. That was what Mahatma Gandhi was looking for and that was what he wanted by a change of heart. That having been done the stage had been laid for the agreement now come to; and I hope that this will eventually lead to the stage of peace. As Mahatma Gandhi himself explained nobody can beat him in his love of peace and as the result points out it is the mere love of peace that made him call off the Civil Disobedience Movement. Though some doubts have been raised about the followers of Mahatma Gandhi, I am sure that all of them realize that through the path of negotiation that has now been opened it will be possible to bring about a result which will redound not only to the credit of India but also to that of England.

4 p.m. "The momentous session of the Indian National Congress which is going to be held at Karachi at the end of this month will settle the fate of the future of this country. I am certain that with Mahatma Gandhi's lead even there we shall not only have truce but peace and glory not only to India but also to England. With this most desirable consummation of events not only do I associate the name of Mahatma Gandhi but also His Majesty's Government in England, because but for the declaration of His Majesty's Government this peace would certainly not have been possible."

* MR. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI:—"Mr. President, I have great pleasure in seconding the motion made by Dr. Subbarayan in high appreciation of the qualities of Mahatma Gandhi, particularly in the part played by him in bringing about a sort of agreement between the country and the Government. Sir, I desire to make only a few observations inasmuch as in the previous motion a lot of ground has been covered. Sir, the great experiment of conquering physical force by the strength of will force was launched by Mahatma Gandhi, and all corners of the world were anxiously watching the progress and the results of that novel experiment. Whatever little minds may think of the possibilities of non-violence transforming itself into violence at one stage or another, great thinkers both in the East and in the West have testified to the efficacy of this grand experiment. Sir, I believe it was Bernard Shaw who ridiculed the idea of non-violence on the ground that the non-resistance of the cow is not going to drive the tiger to love vegetable diet. (Mr. N. Siva Raj: The lion.) Curiously, we now see that the British lion—it is perhaps a more fierce animal than the tiger—has now recognized the force of non-violence and as my hon. Friend, Mr. Siva Raj, reminds me it was because of the noble trait which the lion possesses it has been possible for recognizing the nobility in others. Sir, I should consider England is most fortunate in possessing His Excellency Lord Irwin as Viceroy in this country at the present moment. Sir, whatever may be the unenviable position

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which England held before the Great War, her position to-day is by no means enviable when you consider her unemployment, her industrial stagnation, and her difficulty to instil confidence in the minds of other countries about her honest motives. I am afraid England is perhaps in a most difficult situation ever conceivable. Sir, India, whatever Englishmen might think, is perhaps the sole friend to-day which England possesses. India, with her gentleness, with her dependable culture, acknowledged with readiness the services which England had rendered unto her and will always remain faithful to England, provided England treats this country honourably. Sir, His Excellency Lord Irwin has recognized not only the weakness but also the nobility of this country. Sir, Mahatma Gandhi is the best of this country. My Friend, Mr. Pannirselvam, while speaking of the Congress in participating at the Round Table Conference, referred to it as a section of the country. That may suit in a speech here. But I dare say he must be feeling more than anybody else that that section of which he spoke somewhat cavalierly is a section which is bound to demolish the so-called results of the Round Table Conference of which he is a participant. I am keen on a change. But I believe more in changes of evolution than of revolution, and in that spirit I look forward to the results of the future Round Table Conference. I think this House should particularly wish for the Congress Party participating in that conference at least for the purpose of undoing the mischief of the London Round Table Conference. I have no quarrel with, nor is it my intention to belittle, the achievements which the members of the Round Table Conference feel they have achieved. But I shall certainly quarrel with them if they should glorify on any achievements which they deem to have achieved in England. Sir, I do not want to speak anything more about the Round Table Conference except for the pathetic belief of some that we achieved everything in having got three phrases, federation, responsibility in the centre and Provincial autonomy. The Round Table Conference results have given us no constitution but a constitution of safeguards. Every provision is a safeguard and not a right or a privilege conferred upon this country. Sir, if you look back upon the tremendous sacrifices which the country has undergone, we cannot resist our ardent desire to admire the sagacity of Mahatma Gandhi in calling off the civil disobedience movement. The civil disobedience movement has given a momentum to this country which it will be impossible to suppress except by conciliation. If the present calling off of the civil disobedience movement is taken to mean yielding or weakness on the part of the country, and on that score of the Conservatives feel that they have liberty to go back on what they have themselves conceded, they will be committing a grave mischief, and if there should be in this country any followers of that school of thought which is represented by Mr. Churchill, they stand to be disillusioned entirely. Sir, Lord Rothermere and Lord Baverbrook have given expression to certain statements which, though imprudent, Mr. President, are entirely true. As a matter of fact it is this attitude of the noble Lords and Mr. Churchill that acts as a tonic to Indian nationalism to demand what they have been clamouring for all these

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years. Such of those who scoff at the idea of Mahatma Gandhi or who ridicule his historic march are, I am glad, to-day become his converts. I do not want to say this in order to sneer at them. I only want that the same spirit should continue so that the peace that is in sight before us will become an accomplished fact in this country.

“It is particularly cheering, Sir, to hear the hon. the Revenue Member to say that so far as their part in the matter is concerned they are willing to carry out their part of the agreement, and as has been reminded by my hon. Friend, Mr. Ranganatha Mudaliyar, this morning's answers to questions are somewhat irreconcilable to the hon. the Revenue Member's excellent speech just now made. But this speech being a later production than the answers of this morning, I hope it will remove the effect of the answers given this morning. (Hear, hear.) Sir, if we want to pick holes, it will be possible to find sedition in the speeches of every hon. Member in this House. Probably, Mr. Annapurniah was not more guilty than some Members of this Legislative Council in that respect. But if those statements are made by Mr. Annapurniah, it was because the times were such then, and now that we are trying to forget the whole past, let us also forget these references to which objection has been taken. Sir, reading between the lines of the speeches of Mahatma Gandhi and the other leaders in this country, there seems to be a hope for the release of the Meerut prisoners, prisoners who were charged with direct violence. That is the way in which the Government of India is moving. I expect the Madras Government in compliance with their assurance just now made will carry out, as has been said by Mr. Ranganatha Mudaliyar, their part of the agreement in the spirit instead of merely sticking to the letter.

“Sir, the hon. the Revenue Member also sounded a note of warning that recrimination ought to cease and that the past must be forgotten. He knows, more than anybody else, that Indians are perhaps the last race which harbours ill-will and hatred against anybody, much less against a Government and against the Members of a Government with whom it should be our pleasure to move in cordial friendship. But on their part, once again, let it be borne in mind that they should keep their servants actuated by the same spirit which is actuating them. I am compelled to make this remark in view of the fact that the hon. the Revenue Member said that even while there is a prospect of truce coming on the Government had telegraphed to the District Magistrates for the list of prisoners to be released and had taken all such preliminary measures on the 6th instant, it was the particular misfortune of my district, though I do not represent that district in this Council—I mean Guntur—a procession carrying Mahatma Gandhi's portrait on a temple car should have been ruthlessly dispersed. It is a pity that that should have happened. I think the one way of asking us not to indulge in recrimination will be for the Government to gracefully acknowledge that mistake and apologize to this Council for the actions of their servants. It is then that the spirit could be known to exist. Sir, I do not want

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to say anything further about that matter. I leave it to the Government to satisfy the Council why that breach should have taken place in that particular place.

“Sir, now that this second Round Table Conference is in sight, 4-15
may I make one or two remarks about it? It is generally believed that P.M.
of all Provincial Governments, the Madras Government is the most conservative. Whether it is right or wrong, that is the belief. I hope, Sir, that at the second Round Table Conference the Madras Government would try to get that impression removed. This is necessary because a day will come when we would be considered to be constituent parts of the Madras Government. I do not want that we should succeed to a heritage of such discreditable nature, stigmatized as conservative when all the other provinces are more liberal. I hope that the peace which is in prospect will be implemented by such relief measures as lie in the power of the Government to relieve the agricultural distress in the province. That will well lay the foundation for the affection of the people towards the Government. With these few words I have great pleasure in seconding the motion.”

* Mr. C. R. PARTHASARATHI AYYANGAR:—“Sir, in supporting this motion I wish to say a few words in appreciation of the wonderful changes that are going on in the relationship of the two great Nations, England and India, due to the unceasing efforts of His Excellency Lord Irwin and Mahatma Gandhi. Sir, when we speak of Mahatma Gandhi and Lord Irwin coming to agreement, we speak not of two individuals but of two great forces in the world working for the cause of humanity. Sir, this civil disobedience movement of which Mahatma Gandhi is the exponent would not have been possible or necessary if there had been co-operation in the Indian household. If the Indian household had been one, if the position that is now going to be given to women and the depressed classes had been given long ago, this civil disobedience movement would not and could not have been started at all. That is to say, if the whole of India had stood unitedly as it did in 1917, this movement would not have gathered strength. The energy which had been created from those days had to be set free through an outlet; otherwise it would have ended in revolution. So what Mahatma Gandhi did was to resort to blood-letting. He found that there was blood pressure in the body politic and decided to utilize that opportunity for achieving freedom for India. He considered that to be the safest way possible and he was right. Sir, in following the path chalked out by him people have been found guilty under section 124-A of the Indian Penal Code and so on. I may say that such people are all good people whose one ambition was to liberate the country. As I was saying, Mahatma Gandhi who started this movement and Lord Irwin are embodiments of great ideals of liberty. If this fact had been appreciated in 1917, we could have won Self-Government long ago. Sir, the late Mr. Montague who made India an original Member of the League of Nations was unable to appreciate this at the time and it was left to Lord Irwin to appreciate this and complete the task.

[Mr. C. R. Parthasarathi Ayyangar] [12th March 1931]

"Sir, the forces that are at work have sometimes been led through channels which are not always acceptable to orthodox persons. We must not forget them when a new constitution is drawn up."

* Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"Sir, in supporting this motion I wish to say a few words. It is really a great privilege for one like me to associate myself with this resolution which seeks to pay homage to the great personality of Mahatma Gandhi and the part he played in bringing about the truce which has brought peace not only to this country but to the whole world. Sir, we in India rejoice at the conclusion of the truce. I have no doubt that every one in this House will agree with me that, if India rejoices over the truce, England will rejoice even more; because, it was England which was affected more by the struggle that was carried on in this country. The economic depression that prevailed all over the world due to other causes was enhanced by the situation created in this country by our political struggle. Sir, the non-co-operation movement which Mahatma Gandhi inaugurated has been based on the sheet-anchor of non-violence. Sir, it was due to that faith of Mahatma Gandhi and those that followed him in absolute non-violence and sacrificed and suffered that to a very large extent we have achieved what we have. If the movement for the political freedom of this country had been conducted on different lines from those on which it was conducted by Mahatma Gandhi, I am afraid, Sir, not only India but the whole world would have been involved in a very violent and bloody war. Sir, it was Mahatma Gandhi who averted this danger to humanity and what we are now trying to do is to appreciate his wisdom in our own humble way. If Mahatma Gandhi did not agree to go to the Round Table Conference, he did so rightly, because we have seen what the Simon Commission proposed to do to India. If the Round Table Conference was called only to ratify what the Simon Commission proposed to do to India, I do not know what use there was in the Congress participating in the deliberations of the Conference. Sir, I am one who will not deprecate the endeavours that were made by all the parties that participated in the Round Table Conference in advancing upon the proposals of the Simon Commission; but I do not agree with some Members of the Round Table Conference who seem to believe that it was due to their efforts that any advance was made. They should remember that but for the sacrifice and sufferings undergone by hundreds and thousands of our countrymen who not only suffered but even died in jails, even the little advance that was made at the Conference would not have been possible. Therefore, Sir, it does not become Indian representatives—I regret to mention that there was one member from Madras—to state in their interviews that it was very regrettable that the Congress did not participate in the Conference. Sir, if it was not the Congress that really participated in the deliberations of the Conference, I did not know what political body it was that participated. It is the work that was done in this country by the Congress that was largely responsible for even the little advance that was made at the Round Table Conference. Even now, Sir, we find that Mahatma Gandhi, that Gandhi who was

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regarded as a mad man fit only to be lodged in a lunatic asylum, is the Gandhi who has been responsible for bringing about the truce which is based on reason and wisdom which we are here to appreciate.

"If I welcome anything to-day, I welcome the change of heart on the part of my countrymen who have risen on this occasion one after another on the floor of this House to appreciate the great qualities of Mahatma Gandhi and his wisdom. Sir, Mahatma Gandhi was called a visionary. We have seen to-day that he was not a visionary with empty dreams, but that he had been visualizing the future of India, the future of a free India, that for the achievement of that goal he had been working to the best of his lights, and that wherever he felt there was any need to stop the hostility, he was the first person to do so. We have seen to-day that in bringing about the truce, he has shown that he is a reasonable man and that he is always prepared for peace. If there was anybody in the world who was prepared for peace and who has made non-violence as his method for the achievement of his desired goal it was Mahatma Gandhi and it is no wonder that our beloved Viceroy Lord Irwin loves peace because he is one who is interested in the future liberty of India. It was Mahatma Gandhi along with Lord Irwin that brought peace to India to-day. It is said that this peace may be temporary. But we in this House do fervently hope that this will be an everlasting peace and at the Round Table Conference which is to be convened soon, I hope not only one party, in spite of Mr. Baldwin's threat, but all parties in England will come round and participate in the real Round Table Conference and see that the task that we have undertaken is achieved in the end.

"With regard to political prisoners in our Province, I wish to say that after all the people who were imprisoned were imprisoned for participating in the struggle for the freedom of this country. This civil disobedience movement should not be regarded as a separate entity in itself. It is one aspect of the whole movement that has been carried on in this country. Therefore it will not be proper nor just to separate the civil disobedience movement from the rest of the movement that has been carried on in this country during the last 50 or 60 years. Therefore I hope that all those political prisoners who have gone to jails, not by themselves creating any violence, but by fighting for the freedom of this country by peaceful means, will be and ought to be released and there should not be any discrimination made between those prisoners who have gone to jails on account of civil disobedience movement and others who have gone to jails on account of other causes, such as for making seditious speeches, etc. Sir, I hope from the speech of the hon. the Revenue Member that the Madras Government will give their best consideration to this matter and will certainly release all the political prisoners who have gone to jails and who have rendered yeoman service for the achievement of the results over which we are happy to-day.

"Sir, I would suggest that if at the Round Table Conference the question of minorities is to be settled beforehand, I would wish that

4-30
P.M.

[Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan] [12th March 1931]

Mahatma Gandhi alone goes to it on behalf of India with the authority of the whole nation and tackle this question along with Lord Irwin who, I venture to suggest, is the only man that can sit along with Mahatma Gandhi and come to some agreement regarding the status of minorities in the future constitution of India. These two persons who have inaugurated the peace, I hope a lasting peace, are the proper persons who can discuss minority question as well."

* Mr. N. SIVA RAJ:—" Mr. President, I thank you for giving me an opportunity of associating myself with this resolution by way of giving my support to it. In supporting the motion before the House, I do not wish to controvert some of the unwarranted statements that have been made by some Members such as the misrepresentation made at the Round Table Conference in London, the conservative nature of the Madras Government on Constitutional Reforms, so on and so forth, because it will certainly spoil the atmosphere, and the spirit in which this resolution should be accepted by this House. Otherwise it would be very easy to controvert the statements that have been made by my hon. Friend, Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti.

" Sir, the one thing that I wish to say in supporting this motion is that Mahatma Gandhi for the first time in the history of political agitation in this country proved to the world that he is a practical statesman in addition to his being a saint. Hitherto the impression created in India and elsewhere was that Mahatma Gandhi was a mere sentimentalist (A voice: 'Lunatic'), a visionary and that he was an impractical idealist. For the first time it was proved to the world that he was a statesman, because he has realized that if he does not take advantage of the opportunity for taking part in the Round Table Conference and that if he continued the civil disobedience movement any longer, his cry would be a cry in the wilderness. Sir, it is because of Lord Irwin's kindness and sympathy for India, that this peace has been brought into being. It was his sense of fairness that was responsible for his efforts to bring the Congress into the Round Table Conference. Those people who claim that the success of the peace talks was due to any political movement are, I think, entirely wrong. It is not so much the movement that has been responsible for this settlement as the two great men who are behind the settlement. It was the private character, it was the courage, it was the high sense of duty of these men that was responsible for this settlement. It would be very dangerous to assess at the present juncture whether the success was due to the efforts of one party or another. Any way I am sure that Mahatma Gandhi will continue to be the practical statesman that he is even at the Round Table Conference. If Mahatma Gandhi gives up the case for the Hindus wholesale in favour of the minorities, then I am afraid my hon. Friends sitting on the opposite side will probably leave him alone and then Gandhiji will be obliged to join the depressed classes, the Mussalmans and the Indian Christians. I hope that the Round Table Conference to be held in the future will rise above these little

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things and do justice to all the parties concerned. With these few words I have great pleasure in associating myself with the sentiments that have been expressed in moving this resolution."

The resolution was put and carried.

* Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN:—" I would request you, Sir, Mr. President, when you communicate this resolution to the authorities concerned, to mention that this resolution was carried without a division."

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

VII.—PAPER LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE HOUSE.

G.O. No. 86,* *Development, dated 21st January 1931, recording the Audit Report of the Government Industrial Institute, Madura, for the year ending 31st March 1930.*

R. V. KRISHNA AYYAR,
Secretary to the Legislative Council.

[12th March 1931]

APPENDIX I.

[Vide answer to question No. 532 asked by Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 12th March 1931, page 442 supra.]

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS
PUBLIC (GENERAL) DEPARTMENT

PRESS COMMUNIQUE

Fort St. George, the 24th February 1931.

The attention of the Government has been drawn to a report in the *Hindu* of the 14th February 1931 in which it was alleged that one S. Govindu of Kothapalli, a Congress volunteer, was bitten on the arm by a Policeman in the China Bazaar Road and to another report in the *Swarajya* of the 16th February 1931 in which it was alleged that a volunteer by name B. S. Sarma was also bitten by a Malabar Special Policeman in Audiappa Naicken Street. The Government wish to publish for general information that careful enquiries made by the Commissioner of Police establish that the allegation in each case is entirely unfounded.

C. W. E. COTTON,
Chief Secretary.

APPENDIX II.

[Vide answer to question No. 552 asked by Mr. U. C. Subrahmanya Bhatt at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 12th March 1931, page 456 supra.]

Rice.

The harvest prices per imperial maund of 82½ lb. of rice based on the average of the prices prevailing in two or three of the principal markets in the South Kanara district for

	RS.	A.	P.
Fasli 1337	6	4	0
" 1338	5	15	0
" 1339	5	8	0
December 1930	5	10	0

Coconut.

The average price of coconuts per thousand nuts in

	RS.	A.	P.
1928	50	0	0
1929	46	4	9
1930	37	6	0
1931	31	8	6

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APPENDIX III.

[Vide answer to question No. 553 asked by Diwan Bahadur R. N. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 12th March 1931, page 456 supra.]

STATEMENT I—Works which have been carried out.

1. Coleroon ... Improvements to the Lower Coleroon Anicut.
2. Do. ... Raising and strengthening the banks of the Coleroon.
3. Cauvery ... Constructing scouring sluices at Grand Anicut.
4. Do. ... Constructing road dam (surplus work) on the left bank of the Cauvery.
5. Do. ... Constructing a groyne (Bed Regulator) above scouring sluices of the Grand Anicut.
6. Do. ... Improvements to Lower Cauvery.
7. Veerasholan... Converting Thirukkalacheri and Ayyapadi calingulaks into a regulator
8. Mahimalayar and Kadaliyar. Converting Narasinganathan dam into a regulator.
9. Do. Converting Annavasal dam into a regulator.
10. Do. Converting Gudalur dam into a regulator.
11. Do. Converting Velur dam into a regulator.
12. Do. Converting Arabi calingulah into a regulator.
13. Manjalar ... Converting Mathur dam into a regulator and providing a head sluice for Manjalar.
14. Velappar ... Converting Kuttalam dam across South Puthar into a regulator.
15. Vennar ... Improvements to Fillai voikal syphon.
16. Do. ... Improvements to Jambu Cauvery.
17. Do. ... Improvements to Vikramanar.
18. Vettar ... Converting Kangalancheri dam into a regulator.
19. Kaduvayar ... Converting Pulivalam dam into a regulator.

STATEMENT II—Works in progress.

20. ... Improvements to Cauvery-Vennar regulators.
21. ... Raising the flood banks of the rivers in the Cauvery division.
22. ... Improvements to Ayyavayyanar.
23. ... Improvements to Tirunagiri channel.
24. ... Diversion of the Upland drainage of the Vennar. (Scheme No. 1 affecting 82 square miles.)
25. ... Raising the flood banks of the Vennar.
26. Pamaniyar ... Raising and strengthening the banks.
27. Do. ... Providing extra waterway to the Mannargudi Road bridge.

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STATEMENT II—*Works in progress*—cont.

28. Tirutturaip- pundi drain- age.	Improvements to irrigation under Mulliyar.	Drainage improvements to a portion of the middle section of the Tirutturaippundi taluk are under cons- truction. Improve- ments to other sections will be taken up after the results of the works in progress are known.
29. Do.	Improvements to drainage under Mulliyar.	
30. Do.	Valavanar new cut and banking.	

STATEMENT III—*Work to be taken up in 1931-32.*

31. Vennar	... Pulavanar (Nanumanar) drainage improvements.
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STATEMENT IV—*Works under consideration.*

32. Cauvery	... Improvements to Nallur and Kittianai Uppanar.	To be considered in con- nexion with budget estimate for 1932-33.
33. Do.	... Improvements to Tirumala- rajanar.	Under consideration of the remodelling division. (See remarks against items 28-30 above.)
34. Mudikonda- nar.	Converting Thundam dam into a regulator.	Under correspondence.
35. Manniar	... Providing a new headsluice and improving the chan- nel.	Estimate awaited.
36. Koraiyar	... (a) Adappar improvements.	Sanctioned by the Chief Engineer during the year.
	(b) Harischandranadhi im- provements.	Estimate under revision.
	(c) New irrigation..	... Depends on the results of the Tirutturaip- pundi drainage im- provements now in progress.
37. Vellayar	... Constructing a masonry regulator at 84th mile and improving the irrigation of Pallavanar, Vellayar, Chittar, etc.	To be considered in connexion with the budget estimate for 1932-33.

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STATEMENT IV—*Works under consideration*—cont.

38. Pandavayar	... Constructing a regulator at mile 81 and other improve- ments.	Will be considered by the remodelling divi- sion.
39. Do.	... Surplus from Vennar above Padavaiyar head into Vettar.	
40. Odambogiar	... Constructing head regulator and improving the supply to channels.	
41.	Remodelling of sluices	In abeyance pending the consideration of the question of giving it a supply from North Rajan channel.
42. Coleroon	... Providing a new head for Khan Sahib's canal.	
43. Pamaniyar	... Lengthening the barrel of Puvanur syphon.	Under consideration of the Superintending Engineer.
44. Do.	... Conversion of Agamalanar dam into a regulator.	
45. Do.	... Conversion of Peruvalandau and Edachimalai dams into regulators.	Under correspondence with the Collector.

STATEMENT V—*Works not yet taken up for consideration or dropped.*

46. Cauvery	... Connecting cut from Koda- murti to Vettar.	Considered unnecessary and dropped.
47. Do.	... Improvements to Mudavanar (Kuppiduvan Uppanar).	Dropped as it was considered that the opening of the sand bar by the interested ryots would be cheaper and more effective.
48. Vennar	... Upland drainage of Vennar —No. II scheme—Diver- sion of 116 square miles of drainage above Kacha- margalam anicut into the Coleroon.	Not recommended by the Chief Engineer. Conversion of the Kachamangalam ani- cut into a regulator, if considered neces- sary apart from this scheme, to be dealt with as an inde- pendent scheme. Chief Engineer is taking necessary action.

[12th March 1931]

STATEMENT V—Works not yet taken up for consideration or dropped—cont.

49. Vettar ... Converting Nadar bridge into a regulator. Dropped as even without this the channels are reported to be getting a copious supply.
50. Do. ... Converting Sellur anicut into a regulator. Dropped as the Board of Revenue reported that the work was not particularly necessary.
51. Koraiyar ... Regulator below Saluvanan head. The Superintending Engineer considered this unnecessary.

APPENDIX IV.

[Vide answer to question No. 562 asked by Mahboob Ali Baig Sahib Bahadur at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 12th March 1931, page 461 supra.]

Statement showing the permanent appointments in the grade of Deputy Tahsildar made in Ganjam, Vizagapatam and East Godavari districts since the passing of G.O. No. 712, Public (Services), dated 2nd July 1929, and G.O. No. 1254, Public (Services), dated 30th November 1929.

Name of the officer.	Community to which he belongs.	Date of appointment.
<i>Ganjam.</i>		
1. M.R.Ry. Ch. Sarabha-lingam Pantulu.	Telugu Brahman	14th August 1929.
2. Sriman Hridayananda Bhole, B.A.	Oriya Non-Brahman.	11th February 1930.
3. Sriman Brojomohan Praharaj, B.A.	Oriya Brahman	1st March 1930.
4. M.R.Ry. G. Apparao Pantulu.	Telugu Brahman	1st March 1930.
<i>Vizagapatam.</i>		
1. M.R.Ry. M. V. Ramaseshu Pantulu, B.A.	Brahman	17th August 1929.
2. M.R.Ry. Rao Sahib B. Paparaju Pantulu, B.A.	Do.	18th November 1929.
3. M.R.Ry. D. Suryanarayana Nayudu.	Non-Brahman Hindu.	1st April 1930.
<i>East Godavari.</i>		
1. M.R.Ry. K. Sambasiva Ayyar, B.A.	Brahman	15th August 1929.
2. M.R.Ry. D. Seshachala Sastri, B.A.	Do.	25th June 1930.
3. Lal Muhammad Sabib Bahadur, B.A.	Muhammadian	Do.

12th March 1931]

APPENDIX V.

[Vide answer to question No. 575 asked by A. M. Ahmed Miran Sahib Bahadur at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 12th March 1931, page 469 supra.]

Statement showing the total number of cattle that were attacked by contagious diseases and the number that died during the last five years and more in Tenkasi taluk, etc.

Name of disease.	1925-26.	1926-27.	1927-28.	1928-29.	1929-30.	1930-31 up to December 1930.
Rinderpest	..	..	1,050 attacks, 745 deaths.	440 attacks, 280 deaths.	220 attacks, 155 deaths.	40 attacks and 15 deaths.
Foot-and-mouth	..	..	..	..	140 attacks, 5 deaths.	..

APPENDIX VI.

[Vide answer to question No. 584 asked by Mr. A. P. N. V. Nadi-muthu Pillai at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 12th March 1931, page 475 supra.]

Letter from the Superintending Engineer, Tanjore Circle.

1. The breaches in the Cauvery-Vennar and their branches occurred between the dates 24th and 28th October 1930.

2. Soon after the flood was over, ring-bunding at all the breaches was commenced about the 4th November and completed by the 12th November. The breaches were also promptly closed to 2 feet above the F.S.L.s on the 20th November and regulation for full supply at the Cauvery-Vennar head was commenced on the 21st November.

3. Earthwork reforming banks at all breached sides of rivers was duly completed by the 15th December and the necessary protective works such as modasals and plantations were also completed by the 31st December and the flood work subdivisions and sections closed down on 5th January 1931. So by 15th December all work on the breaches was completed.

4. There was not a single complaint for water-supply. In fact we were ready to send down F.S.L. a few days before the fields dried up and required water.

5. The only breaches not yet closed are at the ... with no irrigation under them in those reaches.

6. The upland tanks which breached in the Tanjore and South Arcot districts were ring-bunded at once and water stored up. Work on them is in progress and is expected to be completed by September before the north-east monsoon sets in.

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தமிழ்நாடு ஆவணக்காப்பக நூலகம்,
எழும்பூர், சென்னை-600 008.

தவணைத்தாள்.

சே எண் :

ப. எண் :

வழங்கிய நாள். (1)	திரும்பிய நாள். (2)	வழங்கிய நாள். (1)	திரும்பிய நாள். (2)