

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

OF THE
PUNJAB

REFERENCE BOOK
Not to be Issue

1917

(WITH INDEX)

Volume VIII.



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Abstract of Proceedings of the Council of the Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab assembled for the purpose of making Laws and Regulations under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1915.

[*The President.*]

THE Council met at Government House, Lahore, at 10-30 A.M., on Tuesday, the 13th March 1917.

PRESENT :

His Honour Sir MICHAEL FRANCIS O'DWYER, K.C.S.I., I.C.S., Lieutenant-Governor, *Presiding.*

The Hon'ble Mr. JOHN PERRONET THOMPSON, I.C.S.
The Hon'ble Risaldar Sardar PARTAB SINGH, Sardar Bahadur.
The Hon'ble Mr. JOHN CORNWALLIS GODLEY, C.S.I.
The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur KHAWAJA YUSAF SHAH.
The Hon'ble Mr. HERBERT JOHN MAYNARD, C.S.I., I.C.S.
The Hon'ble Mr. OSWALD FARQUHAR LUMSDEN, I.C.S.
The Hon'ble Nawab Sir BAHRAM KHAN, MAZARI, K.C.I.E.
The Hon'ble Sardar Bahadur Sardar GAJJAN SINGH.
The Hon'ble Chaudhri LAL CHAND.
The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Saiyad MEHDI SHAH.
The Hon'ble Pandit JAWAHAR LAL, Bhargava.
The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur RAM SARAN DAS, C.I.E.
The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Pandit SHEO NARAIN.
The Hon'ble Mr. DAVID WANN AIKMAN, C.I.E.
The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Bakhshi SOHAN LAL.
The Hon'ble Raizada BHAGAT RAM.
The Hon'ble Sayad MAKHDUM RAJAN SHAH.
The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Mian FAZL-I-HUSSAIN.
The Hon'ble Mr. CREWE ARMAND HAMILTON TOWNSEND, I.C.S.
The Hon'ble Mr. PATRICK JAMES FAGAN, I.C.S.
The Hon'ble Khan Sahib Mirza MUHAMMAD IKRAM ULLAH KHAN.
The Hon'ble Diwan Bahadur Diwan DAULAT RAI.
The Hon'ble Mr. HENRY DUFFIELD CRAIK, I.C.S.
The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Malik MUHAMMAD AMIN KHAN.
The Hon'ble Colonel HAROLD HENDLEY, M.D., I.M.S.
The Hon'ble Mr. STEPHEN WILLIAM GRACEY, I.C.S.

OATH OF OFFICE.

The Hon'ble Mr. AIKMAN took the oath of allegiance to the Crown.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY HIS HONOUR THE PRESIDENT REGARDING THE CAPTURE OF BAGHDAD BY THE BRITISH FORCES.

His Honour the President :—“Gentlemen, before we proceed to the business of the day, I would like to announce to the Council the fact which some of you may already have heard, that our forces occupied Baghdad on Sunday, the 11th instant. You probably read in the papers a few days ago a very picturesque account by ‘Eye-witness’ summarising the events which had already happened, the capture of Kut on the 27th, the pursuit of the Turks up to the vicinity of Baghdad. It was a very remarkable pursuit. Our forces covered over 100 miles in 10 days and the Turks were in full retreat. The Turks made a stand at the Diassa river, a tributary of the Tigris, which flows into it some 6 or 8 miles south of Baghdad and we experienced some severe fighting in that position. On the night of the 8th our forces made a night crossing of the Diassa river and established a post there. On the 9th we bridged the Tigris below its confluence with the Diassa and crossed to the right bank. On the 9th we stormed and took the Diassa position. At the same time we advanced both on the right and the left bank of the Tigris, while our gunboats co-operated along the river, and the Turks fell back 4 miles on Friday towards Baghdad. That left them only a few miles

[*The President.*]

from Baghdad. On Saturday we continued our advance and the Turks fell back to the outskirts of Baghdad, and on Sunday we entered Baghdad. The telegrams give no details, but from the rapidity of our advance, it would appear that we took Baghdad without any serious fighting. In view of its sanctity and its associations as the former centre of the Caliphate, that result is very satisfactory. We had always hoped that when Baghdad would fall into our hands it would fall without any fighting and that the sacred places of Baghdad would suffer no harm. From what we know, not only of the heroism but of the conduct of our troops, Indian and British, we may be sure that secular and religious interests in Baghdad will be thoroughly safeguarded by our occupation. (Cheers.)

I may say, gentlemen, and I think you will agree with me, that the capture of Baghdad is the greatest military success which British arms have yet achieved during the war. You know the difficulties attending the Mesopotamian campaign, you know the disappointments and the failures which attended our early advance with insufficient forces, and you realise how fully those failures have been wiped out by the present brilliant success. (Applause.) That success has established the superiority of British arms in the middle East and we are proud to think that in the splendid series of victories which began with the fall of Kut a fortnight ago and culminated on Sunday in the capture of Baghdad, the Punjab troops, whether Punjabi Muhammadans, Jats, Sikhs or Dogras, have borne a great share. We are glad to think that victory has crowned their efforts and has also led to the very important result of thoroughly safeguarding the British Empire from further aggression from the West. The fall of Baghdad marks the downfall of German intrigue and of German aggression in the middle East. (Applause.) You are aware that the Constantinople-Baghdad Railway was the weapon by which Germany hoped to secure not only political and economic domination over Asiatic Turkey, which was a cat's paw in her hands, but also to open the way for further aggression on the British possessions in the West. We held aloof from the Baghdad Railway, though at that time we were not fully cognisant of German aims and of German ambitions, but Baghdad was undoubtedly regarded by them as the base for further aggression in India and our other Asiatic possessions. It has been proved that during the last few years Baghdad was the centre and the focus from which German intrigue, with the aid of German gold, was disseminated over Persia and over Afghanistan. It was through Baghdad that the German missions, armed with German gold and with German weapons, assisted by a certain number of Indian seditionists and a few deserters, and headed by German officers, pushed forward into Persia and Afghanistan in order to stir up trouble there and pave the way for trouble in India. Fortunately the neutrality of the Persian Government and the benevolent neutrality of His Majesty the Amir, have defeated those objects. Most, if not all, of the members of those missions have already fallen into our hands, and we may say now that by the capture of Baghdad we have put an end to those intrigues and thereby safeguarded the outposts of India. When Turkey under coercion threw in her lot with Germany instead of awaiting the enemy's attacks on the border of Afghanistan we pushed forward boldly, regarding Mesopotamia as the outwork of India, and the success which we have now achieved by the capture of Baghdad thoroughly safeguards the stability of our Indian Empire. We have therefore every reason to glory in that success and to be proud of the part which our Indian Army, and in particular our Punjab soldiers, have had in achieving it. (Applause.) I do not know if I will be giving voice to the feelings of this Council if, on their behalf, I were to send a message of congratulation to His Excellency the Viceroy on this great success. (Loud applause.) I take it from the response which my remarks have met with I shall be voicing the feeling of the Council in doing so.

[Mr. Thompson ; Mr. Fagan ; Sardar Bahadur Risaldar Partab Singh.]

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE.

1. The Hon'ble Mr. Thompson laid on the table a statement in answer to Question No. 78 asked at the Council Meeting of the 2nd September 1916, by the Hon'ble Chaudhri Lal Chand.

(See Appendix A.)

2. The Hon'ble Mr. Thompson laid on the table a statement in reply to the question of the Hon'ble Sardar Bahadur Sardar Gajjan Singh asked at the Council Meeting of the 22nd April 1915.

(See Appendix B.)

3. The Hon'ble Mr. Fagan laid on the table papers asked for by the Hon'ble Rsi Bahadur Bakhshi Sohan Lal in his Question No. 44 (b) asked at the Council Meeting of the 19th April 1916.

(See Appendix C.)

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

The Hon'ble Sardar Bahadur Risaldar Partab Singh asked :—

1. " Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) How many Patwaris, Field Qanungos, Naib Tahsildars, Tahsildars, Extra Assistant Commissioners, Zilladars and Deputy Collectors are there in the Punjab, and how many of them belong to land-holding community of the country ?

Number of Patwaris, etc., belonging to land-holding community in the Panjab.

(b) How many candidates belonging to the land-holding community of the Punjab are at present on the accepted lists of districts and divisions :—

Candidates for—

I.—Patwarship (Revenue Canal).

II.—Field Qanungo.

III.—Naib Tahsildar.

IV.—Zilladar ? "

The Hon'ble Mr. Fagan replied :—

" It is understood that by the land-holding community is meant the agricultural tribes of the Province.

(a) The total numbers of the classes of officials referred to in the question and the numbers who belong to the agricultural tribes of the Province are as follows :—

	Total No.	No. belonging to agricultural tribes.
1. Patwaris ...	8,818	3,771
2. Field and Office Qanungos ...	849	333
3. Naib Tahsildars ...	217	113
4. Tahsildars ...	129	50
5. Extra Assistant Commissioners ...	184	72
6. Zilladars ...	177	71
7. Deputy Collectors ...	36	8

No separate figures are available for Field Qanungos as distinct from Office Qanungos.

[*Sardar Bahadur Risaldar Partab Singh ; Mr. Maynard.*]

(b) The number of accepted candidates belonging to the agricultural tribes of the Province at present borne on the lists of various districts and divisions is given below :—

I.—Patwaris (Revenue)	...	...	1,660
II.—Field and Office Qanungos	...	...	182
III.—Naib-Tahsildars	...	...	83
IV.—Zilladars	...	...	20

No information about Canal Patwari candidates is available."

The Hon'ble Sardar Bahadur Risaldar Partab Singh asked :—

2. " Will Government be pleased to state for the five years 1912-1916—

(a) How many lambar-dars—Government tenants holding lambar-dari squares on mule-breeding conditions—have been dismissed on account of offences under the Excise Act—

(i) in which the person convicted belonged to the *patti* of the dismissed lambar-dar,

(ii) in which the person convicted belonged to the *patti* of another lambar-dar of the village ?

(b) (i) How many informers of such offences have been punished for giving false information with an intention to have the lambar-dars of the *patti* or village dismissed so that the square on mule-breeding condition be indirectly transferred to the would-be successor.

(ii) How many such informations have been considered malicious but the informers have not been proceeded against ? "

The Hon'ble Mr. Maynard replied :—

" The tabular statement below contains the particulars asked for —

Name of district.	How many lambar-dars—Government tenants holding lambar-dari squares on mule-breeding conditions—have been dismissed on account of offences under the Excise Act, for the five years 1912-16,		How many informers of such offences have been punished for giving false information with an intention to have the lambar-dars of the <i>patti</i> or village dismissed so that the square on mule-breeding condition be indirectly transferred to the would-be successor.	How many such informations have been considered malicious but the informers have not been proceeded against.	REMARKS.
	(i) In which the person convicted belonged to the <i>patti</i> of the dismissed lambar-dar.	(ii) In which the person convicted belonged to the <i>patti</i> of another lambar-dar of the village.			
Gujranwala...	Nil.	Nil	Nil	Nil	
Shahpur ...	Nil.	Nil	Nil	Nil	
Jhang ...	Nil.	Nil	Nil	Nil	
Lyalpur ...	13	1	4	16	The belief that information is malicious does not necessarily justify prosecution for which proof is essential.

[*Khan Bahadur Khwaja Yusuf Shah ; Mr. Thompson ; Khan Sahib Mirza Muhammad Ikram Ullah Khan ; Mr. Aikman.*]

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Khwaja Yusuf Shah asked :—

3. " Is Government aware of the orders recently passed by the North-Western Railway to stop issuing platform admission tickets at the Amritsar Railway Station at the time of the arrival and departure of mail trains ? Railway
platform
tickets at Am-
ritsar.

" Considering the great hardship which this order has caused to the public in general and *pardanashin* ladies in particular, will Government be pleased to move the North-Western Railway to remove the restriction altogether or to place some reasonable limit on the issue of such platform tickets on the arrival and departure of mail trains ?"

The Hon'ble Mr. Thompson replied :—

" I will answer these questions and Question No. 16 asked by the Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Bakshi Sohan Lal by referring the Hon'ble Members to the answers given by my predecessor to Rai Bahadur Hari Chand on the 13th March 1914 and by myself to the Hon'ble Pandit Jawahar Lal, Bhargava, on the 2nd September 1916. The questions together with a copy of this answer have been forwarded to the Agent, North-Western Railway, who, as the Hon'ble Members are perhaps aware, is not subordinate to the Punjab Government."

The Hon'ble Khan Sahib Mirza Muhammad Ikram Ullah Khan asked :—

4. "(a) Is the Government aware that since the erection of the bund of the Bhimber nullah the villagers of Kot Miana in the Gujrat District have their lives and properties in danger as the flood water is diverted to their houses and does often run into them ? Bund on
Bhimber
nullah.

" (b) Will the Government be pleased to consider the necessity of erecting another small bund to protect the village or make arrangements to shift the village to the other side of the existing bund ?

" (c) Will the Government be pleased to state the total cultivable area of the village before the erection of the bund and that which at present can be cultivated and the total area now covered with sand and uncultivable ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Aikman replied :—

" (a) The danger to the villagers of Kot Miana from flood is not due to the erection of the Bhimber bund but to the gradual silting up of the Khundar nullah which joins the Bhimber nullah above Kot Miana, causing its water to head back when the Bhimber nullah is in full flood. The bund, which is an old one, was constructed for the protection of Gujrat town and has been gradually extended upstream in the past few years. The Bhimber nullah frequently overflows its banks but this is not due to the bund. It is possible, however, that the danger to the village may be enhanced by its proximity to the top end of the bund and to its being between the nullah and the bund. The matter will be further investigated.

" (b) It would be possible to protect the village by making a ring bund around it, but this would be difficult to maintain and liable to be breached, and it would probably be easier to move the village. This matter is now under investigation.

" (c) It has not been found possible, in the time allotted, to determine the actual cultivable area of the village before and after the erection of the bund, but it is pointed out that silting goes on whenever the river overflows its banks and this is not attributable to the bund."

[*Khan Sahib Mirza Muhammad Ikram Ullah Khan; Mr. Aikman;
Mr. Townsend.*]

The Hon'ble Khan Sahib Mirza Muhammad Ikram Ullah Khan asked :—

Bridge on
Phulkhu
nullah,
Wazirabad.

5. "(a) Will the Government be pleased to state if an estimate for a permanent bridge on the Grand Trunk Road over the Phulkhu nullah at Wazirabad was ever prepared by the Public Works Department, and if so, what was the amount of the estimate?

"(b) Is it a fact that the Government is losing about Rs. 2,450 annually over the present boat bridge on establishment, repairs and other charges?

"(c) Is it also a fact that the present boat bridge is quite unfit for passing heavy public traffic and Military guns over it?

"(d) Will the Government be pleased to consider the advisability of replacing it with a permanent bridge as soon as funds allow?"

The Hon'ble Mr. Aikman replied :—

"(a) In 1905 an estimate amounting to Rs. 10,314 was made out for a pile bridge over this nullah, but it was not approved of for two reasons :—

(1) The bridge platform would be constantly submerged during floods.

(2) The bridge would be liable to damage from floating wreckage. A boat bridge was therefore erected instead.

"(b) The annual upkeep of this boat bridge is about Rs. 2,900.

"(c) The bridge is only meant for country cart traffic.

"(d) At present there is no road bridge over the Chenab and in consequence motor cars, carriages and other vehicles are railed from Wazirabad across both the Chenab river and the Phulkhu nullah to Kathala Railway Station. In consequence, in the interests of the ordinary public, it is not necessary to consider the question of bridging the Phulkhu nullah with a more permanent structure in the absence of a road bridge over the Chenab. There is, however, a road track on the Railway bridge across the Chenab which is reserved for Military transport. It is therefore advisable for Military reasons either to construct a similar track on the Railway bridge over the Phulkhu nullah (which would involve considerable difficulty in the construction of approach roads), or to construct permanent road bridges over both the Phulkhu and Chenab. The question of constructing a permanent bridge over the Phulkhu is an important one from a Military point of view and will be brought to the notice of the Military authorities."

The Hon'ble Khan Sahib Mirza Muhammad Ikram Ullah Khan asked :—

Rise in
price of
wheat, &c.

6. (a) "Will the Government be pleased to state the average market price of wheat in the month of June in the year 1896 and in that month of each subsequent year upto 1916, and to what cause or causes the gradual rise in price in normal years is attributed?"

(b) "Considering the fact that there is a considerable increase in wheat harvests in the Punjab and that wheat is the staple food of the Province, will the Government be pleased to consider the advisability of devising some measures to fix a maximum price of Rs. 3 per maund in normal times and Rs. 4 per maund in famines or any other maxima that are found suitable?"

The Hon'ble Mr. Townsend replied :—

It will be convenient if I answer this question and the Question No 60 put by the Hon'ble Mr. Fazi-i-Hussain together.

[Mr. Townsend ; Khan Sahib Mirza Muhammad Ikram Ullah Khan ;
Mr. Godley.]

" (a) A statement* giving the information in question is laid on the table.

" It would be impossible within the limits of an answer to a question in this Council to trace in detail the reasons for the rise in the price of wheat in late years. The whole subject of the rise in prices in India was, however, investigated in detail by Mr. Datta, an officer placed on special duty by the Government of India, between the years 1910—1914. His report can be purchased by the public. The general conclusions at which he arrived were that this rise in prices was, in the main, due (a) to a similar rise of prices all through the world (produced in its turn by increased supply of gold, the development of credit, the destruction of wealth in recent wars, and the expenditure on ornaments) : (b) to the development of communications, both external and internal : (c) to decrease in the cost of transport : and (d) to the growth of banking and monetary facilities.

" (b) The price of wheat in the Province is regulated almost entirely by the general prices prevailing in the world's markets, and such measures as the Hon'ble Member appears to have under contemplation could only take the form of restrictions on the export of wheat.

" The Hon'ble Member presumably does not wish to place any restrictions on the export of wheat to other parts of India for consumption in India. But assuming him to do so, such a policy could not be seriously considered by Government.

" To impose restrictions on the export of wheat from the Province for consumption outside India is beyond the power of a Local Government.

" Government, however, always watches carefully the price of this important article of food, and does anything it reasonably can to prevent its price attaining a level which would be beyond the purchasing power of the average consumer. Thus during the present war the export of wheat has been regulated in the interests of the consumer as a special and emergency measure. The Hon'ble Member must, however, also remember that Government has to consider not only the interests of the consumers of wheat but also those of the growers of the grain, that is, the majority of the cultivators of the Province, who would have good reason to complain, did Government take any steps which tended to prevent them getting a fair price for their crop. The most legitimate and effective way of steadying the prices is to increase the production, and, as the Hon'ble Member is aware, that policy is being steadily pursued with the aid of the Irrigation and Agricultural Departments."

The Hon'ble Khan Sahib Mirza Muhammad Ikram Ullah Khan asked :—

7. " (a) Is it a fact that the Government College, Lahore, has been fitted with electric lights and fans, but the students' residential rooms in the College Hostel called the ' Quadrangle ' have not been provided with electric lights ?

Installation of electric lights and fans in Government College, Lahore and its hostel.

" (b) Will the Government be pleased to state the estimated cost for the same, and consider the necessity of an early provision thereof ? "

The Hon'ble Mr. Godley replied :—

" The provision of electric lights and fans in the Government College buildings was sanctioned in 1914 and carried out in 1915 at a cost of Rs. 14,819. The scheme for providing electric lights in the Government College Hostel was estimated to cost Rs. 5,075 and was sanctioned in 1915. The execution of this scheme, along with others, had to be postponed for financial reasons."

* See Appendix D.

[Khan Sahib Mirza Muhammad Ikram Ullah Khan ; Mr. Thompson.]

The Hon'ble Khan Sahib Mirza Muhammad Ikram Ullah Khan asked :—

Clutching of
extortion in
the Irrigation
Department.

8. (a) In reply to my question in the last Session of this Council on 2nd September 1916, the Government was pleased to say that action had been taken in the Revenue and Irrigation Departments to check extortion and exaction by subordinate officials in the colonies, and that the other departments would be asked to take similar action. Will the Government be pleased to state what action, if any, has since been taken in the Judicial Department.

“(b) Will the Government be pleased to consider the advisability of issuing orders to all Subordinate Lower Courts to take summary action in all complaints of extortion against their Amla and make a record of such complaints against the offenders?”

The Hon'ble Mr. Thompson replied :—

“(a) Action is being taken in regard to all departments and a public proclamation is being issued. Its issue has been delayed owing to the difficulty of obtaining paper.

“(b) Specific complaints of extortion are not frequent, and they are rarely made in such a way as to make summary investigation possible or desirable. The Lieutenant-Governor does not consider that the suggested instructions for such investigation would serve any useful purpose while they would easily lend themselves to abuse.

“I am not quite sure that I understand the Hon'ble Member's suggestion that a record should be kept of all complaints of extortion. A record is already kept in the case of any complaint which is made in writing or which is investigated and with the greater vigilance which is being enjoined by Government. This seems to be all that is required.

“I have mentioned in my answer that a proclamation is shortly to be issued on the subject of bribery. The Lieutenant-Governor wishes me to read this proclamation to the Council, and he trusts the Hon'ble Members will accept it as a further proof of his fixed resolve to do all in his power to root out the evil. At the same time an appeal is being made to each individual official in the Province to do all that in him lies by vigilance, by example, by moral suasion, by social pressure, to establish and to vindicate the honour of the service to which he belongs. The proclamation is in Urdu, and runs as follows :—

جناب نواب انجنت گورنر بہادر چاہتے ہیں کہ ملازمین سرکار کی رشوت ستانی کے
انسداد کے معاملہ میں لوگ ان کا ہاتھ بچائیں گذشتہ چند سالوں کے اندر کئی انسوران کو
جن میں سے بعض اعلیٰ درجہ کے انسرفے سزائیں دی گئی ہیں اور ملازمت سے برخاست
کیا گیا ہے۔ لیکن جب تک ایسے بیوقوف یا بد دیانت اشخاص موجود رہیں گے جو رشوت
دینے کو عار نہیں سمجھتے۔ اُس وقت تک ہمیشہ کوئی نہ کوئی (انسرفے) ضرور مل جائیں گے
جو رشوت خواری میں پس و پیش نہیں کریں گے۔ رشوت ستانی صرف اوسی وقت بند ہو سکتی
ہے جبکہ لوگ رشوت نہ دیں لہذا رشوت ستانی کا علاج لوگوں کے اپنے ہی ہاتھوں
میں ہے۔

ہر ایک شخص جو رشوت دیتا ہے عوام کا دشمن ہے کیونکہ ایک شخص کو
دیکھ کر دوسرے کو بھی رشوت دینی پڑتی ہے اور اس طرح انصاف عقلاً ہو جاتا ہے
اور اہل کار دن میں لالچ بڑھ جاتا ہے اور رعایا کی حالت پر خطر ہو جاتی ہے پس رشوت
دینے والے کو اپنا دشمن سمجھو اور اس کا حقہ یابی بند کر دو اُس نے نصاب دے انصافی
کا بیج بڑھا ہے اسلئے اس کو نفرت و حقارت سے اُسکا ہٹل ملنا چاہئے۔

[Rai Bahadur Bakhshi Sohan Lal ; Mr. Craik.]

بہت سے اشخاص سرکاری ملازموں کو نذرین اسلئے دیتے ہیں کہ وہ سمجھتے ہیں کہ یہاں ان سے مراد دستور کے مطابق طالب کی جاتی ہے یاد رکھو کہ اہل کاروں کی تانکڑا نہیں مقور ہیں اور وہ گورنمنٹ ادا کرتی ہے اور کو یہ حکم نہیں کہ وہ کوئی ایسی چیز لیں جس کے لئے وہ رسید نہ دے سکتے ہوں۔ گورنمنٹ کا منشا ہے کہ رشوت لینے والے کی بیخ اکھڑ دی جائے اس لئے وہ اس کو سزا دینے کے لئے ہمیشہ موقع کے دھیان میں رہتی ہے لیکن رشوت پر ہر بازار نہیں بلکہ در پردہ لی جاتی ہے گورنمنٹ صرف آپ کے فائدہ کے لئے ہی رشوت ستانی کا امداد کرتی ہے اور رشوت ستانی کے امداد میں گورنمنٹ کا ہاتھ بٹا کر کہتا ہے آپ اولی آپ امداد کرنے تم نے دیکھ لیا ہے کہ جہاں زمینداروں بلکوں کو قائم کرنے کے لئے لوگ آپس میں ملکر ایک دوسرے کی مدد کرتے ہیں وہاں وہ کچھ عرصہ کے بعد ایذا قوضہ بیباق کر لیتے ہیں اور اپنی اراضیات کو واگزار کر لیتے ہیں اور جہاں وہ بد معاشرین اور ڈاکوؤں کے بدخلاف مل کر گورنمنٹ کی مدد کرتے ہیں وہاں جرم غائب ہو جاتا ہے اور تمہارا جان و مال زیادہ محفوظ ہو جاتا ہے رشوت دینے و لینے والے تمہارے اور گورنمنٹ کے ہر دو کے دشمن ہیں اگر تم لوگ آپس میں ایسا کر کے سرکاری ملازموں کو رشوت اور نذرین دینے سے انکار کر دو تو گورنمنٹ رشوت دینے اور لینے والے ہر دو کی بیخ کنی کر سکیگی۔

لیکن اس بارے میں یاد رکھو کہ جہاں کوئی شخص بغیر کسی سختی کے رشوت کی دہائی دینا تو وہ خود اوس سزا کا مستوجب ہوگا جو ظالم کو ملنی چاہئے۔

خدا بادشاہ کو سلامت باکراست رکھے

حسب الحکم

جناب نواب لفتنٹ گورنر بہادر پنجاب

دستخط—جے۔ بی۔ طامس

چیف سیکریٹری گورنمنٹ پنجاب۔

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Bakhshi Sohan Lal asked :—

9. " With reference to my questions and replies to same by the Hon'ble Mr. Thompson in the meeting of this Council held on the 19th September 1914, will the Government be pleased to state :—

Promotion of
Forest
Rangers.

" (a) Whether it is a fact or not that recently three vacancies in the Provincial Service of the Forest Department have consecutively been filled by direct appointment, instead of by the alternate appointment of Forest Rangers as intimated by the Hon'ble Mr. Thompson.

" (b) If so, will the Government be pleased to state the special educational or other qualifications of each of the nominees which necessitated this change from the stated policy. "

The Hon'ble Mr. Craik replied :—

" (a) The answer is in the affirmative. The first two vacancies were given to direct nominees, as the two previous vacancies had been given to promoted Rangers.

" The third vacancy occurred on 15th May 1916 and should have gone to a Ranger. But the only Ranger then officiating had been appointed to officiate in September 1915 and had consequently not completed the 2 years' probationary service as Extra Assistant Conservator required by the rules.

[*Rai Bahadur Bakhshi Sohan Lal; Mr. Craik.*]

The vacancy had accordingly to be given to a direct nominee who had been on probation for nearly 4 years.

" A Forest Ranger, who had been tried as officiating Extra Assistant Conservator for 2 years, was pronounced unsuitable and had to be reverted to his substantive post. Had he been a success as officiating Extra Assistant Conservator, he would have obtained a permanent appointment in the 3rd vacancy.

" I may mention that a 4th vacancy, which occurred in August 1916, has been left unfilled, to avoid hardship to the class of Forest Rangers generally.

" (b) The change in policy was not necessitated by any special qualifications of the nominees, but was entirely caused, as explained above, by the act that no qualified Ranger was available.

" The 3 direct nominees appointed had all successfully qualified at the Dera Dun Forest College for appointment to the Provincial Service, and had completed the prescribed probationary period of 2 years' service.

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Bakhshi Sohan Lal asked :—

Appointments
in the Forest
Department;

10. " Will the Government be pleased to state whether it is correct or not that since the rule of direct appointments to the Provincial Service (of the Forest Department) 8 appointments have been made, and out of these 5 appointments have been given to Muhammadans, 1 to Hindus, 1 to Sikhs and 1 to Europeans ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Craik replied :—

" The facts are incorrectly stated. The exact facts are as follows :—

" Since the rule for direct appointments came into force 12 probationary nominees have been selected :—

7 Muhammadans.

3 Hindus.

1 Sikh.

1 European.

* These selections have resulted as follows :—

Permanently appointed to Provincial Service—

1 Muhammadan.

1 Hindu.

1 Sikh.

1 European.

Died—

1 Hindu.

Failed to qualify—

3 Muhammadans.

1 Hindu.

Still on probation—

3 Muhammadans."

[Rai Bahadur Bakhshi Sohan Lal ; Mr. Craik ; Mr. Aikman.]

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Bakhshi Sohan Lal asked :—

11. " If so, will the Government be pleased to state whether selection for such appointments is made by any special competitive test or simply by comparison of the candidates' University qualifications, and what are the University qualifications of each of the 8 nominees ? "

Appointments
in the Forest
Department.

The Hon'ble Mr. Craik replied :—

" Candidates for selection as probationary direct nominees have to pass a qualifying examination in English and Mathematics. Selection is made from those who qualify in this examination and due consideration is given to the University qualifications of candidates. Other qualifications are, however, taken into consideration. The educational qualifications of the 7 nominees who are still on probation and have been given permanent appointments are as follows :—

" Of the 4 Muhammadans, 3 are Graduates and one has the diploma of the Chiefs' College. The remaining 3, *viz.*, 1 Hindu, 1 Sikh, 1 European, have not gone beyond the Matriculation Examination."

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Bakhshi Sohan Lal asked :—

12. " With reference to my questions and the reply of the Hon'ble Mr. Ward in the meeting of this Council held on the 2nd September 1916, will the Government be pleased to state :—

Pay of Sub-
ordinates in
the Public
Works De-
partment.

" (a) Whether sanction to the revised scale of pay for the Punjab Upper and Lower Subordinates establishments in the Public Works Department has or has not yet been received ?

" (b) If so, when effect is intended to be given to the sanctioned revised scales ? "

The Hon'ble Mr. Aikman replied :—

" (a) Sanction to the revised scale of pay for Upper Subordinates has been received, but a revised scale of pay for Lower Subordinates has not yet been sanctioned.

" (b) Effect will be given to the revised scale of pay for Upper Subordinates gradually as financial conditions improve.

" Provision to meet the expenditure involved has been proposed in next year's budget."

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Bakhshi Sohan Lal asked :—

13. " Will the Government be pleased to state whether it is correct or not that several vacancies in the Sub-Engineer and other grades of the service which occurred during the last two years have not yet been filled up ? "

Vacancies
among Sub-
Engineers of
Public Works
Department.

The Hon'ble Mr. Aikman replied :—

" The sanctioned numerical scale of Upper Subordinates has been filled up yearly and promotions in the Supervisor and Overseer grades have been made within the last two years. Vacancies in the Sub-Engineer grades have not been filled up as it was undesirable to do so in view of the proposed reorganisation of the Upper Subordinate Establishment."

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Bakhshi Sohan Lal asked :—

14. " Will the Government be pleased to state what are the rules or practice of filling up the vacancies from the members of the two branches of the Department, respectively ? "

Vacancies
among Upper
Subordinates
of Public
Works De-
partment.

[Mr. Aikman; Rai Bahadur Bakhshi Sohan Lal; Mr. Thompson; Mr. Lumsden.]

The Hon'ble Mr. Aikman replied :—

"Vacancies in the numerical scale of each Branch of the Punjab Public Works Department are filled up by the Branch in which they occur.

"For purposes of promotion all the Upper Subordinates of both Branches are on a combined list, and promotions are made according to the qualification reports of the men concerned. If, for instance, an Irrigation man has bad reports, the promotion goes to the next man, who may belong to either Branch, but a man in one Branch cannot be promoted over more than two men of the other Branch. This system will cease to be operative under the new scheme when promotions will be considered and made in the Branch in which vacancies occur."

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Bakhshi Sohan Lal asked :—

Enrolment of
Punjabis for
military ser-
vice.

15. "Will the Government be pleased to state what steps they have taken to entrol Punjabis for general military service in India for the duration of the war in accordance with the announcement made by His Excellency the Viceroy?"

The Hon'ble Mr. Thompson replied :—

"The position in regard to the enrolment of Indians for general military service in India under the Indian Defence Force Act is understood to be as follows :—

"Under section 12 (1) of the Act the Governor-General in Council may by notification in the *Gazette of India* constitute in any local area, which he may specify in the notification, corps or units for the enrolment in the Indian Defence Force of persons other than European British subjects, who satisfy the prescribed conditions and, within six months from the commencement of the Act, offer themselves for enrolment for general military service, and such persons may be enrolled accordingly in the prescribed manner. The Governor-General in Council may make rules to carry out the purposes of the Act: and such rules may prescribe the conditions which must be satisfied and the manner of enrolment referred to above. These rules must be published in the *Gazette of India* and will take effect on such publication."

"No rules have yet been published, and consequently no action by way of enrolment is yet practicable."

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Bakhshi Sohan Lal asked :—

Traders'
complaint
against the
North-Western
Railway.

16. "Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the serious railway complaint of the Secretary, Traders' Association, published on the 1st page of the *Tribune*, dated 21st February 1917?"

"If so, will the Government be pleased to state how far the complaint is correct?"

(See reply given by the Hon'ble Mr. Thompson to Question No. 3 put by the Hon'ble Khan Bahadar Kh. Yusuf Shah above.)

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Bakhshi Sohan Lal asked :—

Extension of
Simla municipi-
pal limits.

17. "With reference to my question No. 52 and the reply of the Hon'ble Mr. Lumsden in the meeting of this Council held on 2nd September 1916, will the Government be pleased to state whether the Government is now in a position to make an announcement on the subject of the scheme to extend the municipal limits of Simla?"

The Hon'ble Mr. Lumsden replied :—

"The answer is in the negative."

[Chaudhri Lal Chand ; Mr. Lumsden.]

The Hon'ble Chaudhri Lal Chand asked :—

18. " Will the Government be pleased to state :—

" (a) Whether any classes, other than the landholders, pay for the upkeep of roads, schools and hospitals maintained by the District Boards.

" (b) The total number of boys attending District Board schools classifying them as agriculturists and non-agriculturists.

" (c) How many District Boards in the Province have availed themselves of the provisions of section 30 of District Boards Act to require non-landholders to contribute to the upkeep of schools, hospitals and roads ? "

Contribution by non-agriculturists for maintenance of District Board roads, schools and hospitals. Number of agriculturist and non-agriculturist boys in District Board schools. Number of District Boards which have availed themselves of the provisions of section 30 of the Act.

The Hon'ble Mr. Lumsden replied :—

" (a) Persons who are not land-holders contribute to the cost of roads, schools and hospitals in so far as they pay part of the fees realized under the Stage Carriages Act, school fees and dispensary fees. In the year 1916 such fees amounted to Rs. 3,29,048, but it is not possible to say what portion was contributed by persons not holding land.

" (b) No figures are readily available to show the number of boys' agriculturists and non-agriculturists, attending District Board schools. The number of agriculturists attending primary District Board and Municipal schools is 79,150 and of non-agriculturists 93,711. If these figures do not suffice, I will be glad to obtain the information before the next meeting of Council.

" (c) No District Board has availed itself of the provisions of section 30 of the District Boards Act for the purpose referred to."

The Hon'ble Chaudhri Lal Chand asked :—

19. " (a) Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the number of miles of metalled roads maintained by each of the District Boards of the Province and the grants from Provincial funds made to each of these Boards during the last 5 years ?

" (b) Whether in view of the fact that some District Boards have to spend much more than others on roads, will the Government be pleased to direct that grants for this purpose will be distributed according to the expenditure incurred by the Boards themselves ? "

The Hon'ble Mr. Lumsden replied :—

" (a) The statement* asked for by the Hon'ble Member is placed upon the table.

" (b) As explained in the Financial Memorandum circulated to Hon'ble Members, the whole question of grants to District Boards is at present under consideration. In accordance with the new system which is being gradually introduced, grants for roads, whether metalled or unmetalled, will be included in the consolidated grants. Grants calculated solely on the basis of past expenditure on roads would lead to inequitable results, as careful enquiries have elicited the fact that in some instances the expenditure on roads has exhibited a tendency to undue extravagance, while in the case of other Boards the money expended has not been sufficient to maintain the roads in a state of efficiency. Under the new system an attempt has been made to fix for a term of years—generally five—the lump annual grant for each Board at a sum which added to the Board's resources will enable it to maintain its works and services in a proper condition and to provide for reasonable expansions. In the case of roads, while

*See Appendix E.

[Chaudhri Lal Chand ; Mr. Aikman.]

due consideration has been given to past expenditure, careful calculations have been made with a view to ascertaining what the normal expenditure ought to be, and it is considered that this normal expenditure is a more appropriate basis for computing the grants than the actual charges incurred in the past. The grants for development expenditure which it is proposed to place at the disposal of Commissioners, when the finances of the Province permit, will be distributed by them according to the ascertained needs of the various Boards in their divisions. Such grants will be additional to the consolidated grants."

The Hon'ble Chaudhri Lal Chand asked :—

20. " Will the Government be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether during the last 15 years any agriculturists have been recruited for employment as Zilladars in the Canal Department in the Delhi Circle (Superintending Engineer's Circle).
- (b) Whether there are any directions as to recruitment of suitable candidates from among the zamindars of the *ilaga* just as there are for Naib Tahsildars ? "

The Hon'ble Mr. Aikman replied :—

" (a) During the past 15 years nine agriculturists have been recruited as Zilladars from districts lying in the Western Jumna Canal Circle.

" (b) The new rules for the recruitment of Zilladars lay down that non-departmental candidates must belong to the agricultural classes, unless their immediate progenitors have been, or are, in Government employ and have rendered service worthy of recognition. All candidates are borne on a Provincial list."

The Hon'ble Chaudhri Lal Chand asked :—

21. " (a) Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table papers regarding the case in which a Sub-Overseer of the Canal Department was found to have started malicious prosecution of certain zamindars of village Sadalpur of Hissar District ?

" (b) Is it a fact that the zamindars filed an application for award of damages to their crops which was supported by the Canal Patwari and Zilladar, and the Sub-Overseer in order to save himself filed a complaint against the same zamindars and got them punished and it was on appeal that the prosecution was found to be malicious ?

" (c) What orders, if any, have been passed on the application for award of damages, and what action do the authorities propose to take against the action of the Sub-Overseer ? "

The Hon'ble Mr. Aikman replied :—

" (a) The replies to the following clauses of the question will show that there is no necessity to lay the papers on the table.

" (b) and (c) The facts of the case are clearly given in the judgment of the Sessions Judge who dealt finally with the case. It runs as follows:— 'The canal bank broke on 15th October and the appellant, a Sub-Overseer of the Irrigation Department, made his report on 20th October 1915. It does not appear that he knew or believed his report to be groundless. The Sub-Divisional Officer of Sirsa inspected the *manika* and agreed with the Sub-Overseer. On his recommendation the Executive Engineer ordered the prosecution of the zamindars who were suspected to have broken the bank. The Deputy Collector—Magistrate, 2nd class—tried the case and convicted the accused on 16th May 1916. There was an appeal against this conviction to the District

Recruiting of
Zilladars from
among agri-
culturists.

Malicious pro-
secution of
certain zamindars
by a
Sub-Overseer.

[Mr. Aikman ; Chaudhri Lal Chand ; Mr. Thompson ; Mr. Fagan.]

Magistrate who accepted the appeal on 24th May 1916. An application for sanction to prosecute the Sub-Overseer was presented to the District Magistrate on 6th September 1916 and sanction given on 18th September 1916. As the report of the Sub-Overseer was made in his official capacity and as the Sub-Overseer's departmental superiors (one of whom, the Sub-Divisional Officer, had seen the *mauka*) were of opinion that his report was correct and the Deputy Collector believed the prosecution evidence and convicted the accused, the lower court in my opinion was not justified in granting sanction to the accused for the prosecution of the Sub-Overseer on the accused's petition made so late as 6th September 1916. It would have been better if notice of the petition had been given to the Sub-Overseer through his departmental superiors and he and his department heard against the petition.

“ I accept the appeal and revoke the sanction granted. ”

The Hon'ble Chaudhri Lal Chand asked :—

22. “ Will the Government be pleased to state the total number of Munsiffs who have been accepted as Extra Assistant Commissioner candidates on the list kept by the Chief Court during the year 1916 stating how many, if at all, of the accepted candidates belong to Agricultural classes ? ”

Number of Munsiffs accepted as Extra Assistant Commissioner candidates and the number belonging to agricultural classes.

The Hon'ble Mr. Thompson replied :—

“ In 1916, four permanent and two officiating Munsiffs were accepted by the Hon'ble Judges as candidates for Extra Assistant Commissionerships. Of these two belong to Agricultural classes. ”

The Hon'ble Chaudhri Lal Chand asked :—

23. “ Will the Government be pleased to state —

“ (a) The total number of Sub-Judges in the Punjab classifying them as Hindus and Muhammadans and specifying under either head how many belong to the agricultural classes ?

“ (b) Will the Government be pleased to give the same particulars with regard to Munsiffs and Revenue Assistants ? ”

Number and religion of Sub-Judges, Munsiffs and Revenue Assistants and the number belonging to agricultural classes.

The Hon'ble Mr. Thompson replied :—

“ (a) The 51 Sub-Judges in the Punjab include 29 Hindus and Sikhs, 15 Muhammadans and 7 Christians. Of the Hindus and Sikhs 1, and of the Muhammadans, 10 belong to agricultural classes.

“ (b) Of the 90 sanctioned Munsiffships, 39 are held by Muhammadans, 48 by Hindus and Sikhs and 1 by an Indian Christian, while 2 are at present vacant. Of the Hindus and Sikhs 3, and of the Muhammadans 21, are members of agricultural classes.

“ There are 28 Revenue Assistants in the Province, 16 of these are Muhammadans and 12 Hindus and Sikhs. Of the Hindus and Sikhs 1, and of the Muhammadans 13, are members of agricultural classes. ”

The Hon'ble Chaudhri Lal Chand asked :—

24. “ Is it a fact that there is no officer possessing Engineering qualifications at present serving on the Grey Canals in Ferozepore District and that the system is not working satisfactorily ? ”

Management and working of Grey Canals, Ferozepore.

The Hon'ble Mr. Fagan replied :—

“ The permanent incumbent of the post of Superintendent of the Grey Canals is at present on Military duty in the Indian Army Reserve of Officers. An Extra Assistant Commissioner, who has practical knowledge and experience of the working of Inundation Canals, has been appointed to fill the vacancy.

[*Chaudhri Lal Chand ; Mr. Aikman ; Mr. Craik ; Diwan Bahadur
Diwan Daulat Rai.*]

He has under him subordinates who possess Engineering qualifications, while the advice of the local officers of the Irrigation Department is available if necessary. Government has no reason to believe that the system as an inundation system is working unsatisfactorily."

The Hon'ble Chaudhri Lal Chand asked :—

Record of
number of
waterings in
Shudkar.

25. " Will the Government be pleased to state whether the practice of noting in the *Shudkar* the number of waterings received by particular fields by the Canal Department has of late been dropped."

The Hon'ble Mr. Aikman replied :—

" It has never been the practice to record in the *Shudkar* the number of waterings that fields have received. The *Shudkar* merely registers the fields that are canal irrigated."

The Hon'ble Chaudhri Lal Chand asked :—

Increase of
water rates
on Western
Jumna Canal.

26. " Will the Government be pleased to state the circumstances which have led the Government to increase the water rates on the Western Jumna Canal? "

The Hon'ble Mr. Aikman replied :—

" The new water rates, sanctioned in 1916, are exactly the same as the old rates fixed in 1895 and readjusted in 1910 by the amalgamation of owners' rates and cesses with occupiers' rates to make one consolidated charge, except with regard to three crops. (1) The rate for maize has been reduced from Rs. 4 to Rs. 3. (2) The rate for sugarcane has been raised from Rs. 9 to Rs. 10 because the Western Jumna sugarcane is the best in quality and out-turn in the Province, and can well afford to pay the new rate. (3) The new wheat rate of Rs. 5 as against the previous rate of Rs. 4 is the same as that sanctioned for the Triple Canals and is equal to or less than the current rates on the Sirhind Canal (*viz.*, Rs. 5 and Rs. 5 4-0). The accepted principle is that occupiers' rates are open to reconsideration after intervals of five years but this has not been given general effect to in practice."

The Hon'ble Chaudhri Lal Chand asked :—

Diet money
of witnesses.

27. " Will the Government be pleased to state —

" (a) Whether the practice of paying diet money to witnesses summoned in civil cases at the time of serving the summons is not strictly observed ?

" (b) What is the amount of such money which has neither been distributed to witnesses nor withdrawn by depositors during the last two years ? "

The Hon'ble Mr. Craik replied :—

" The Registrar, Chief Court, has been asked to supply the information, but a reference to District Judges was necessary and their replies have not yet been received. The information when received will be placed on the table."

The Hon'ble Diwan Bahadur Diwan Daulat Rai asked :—

Water powers
for industrial
purposes.

28. " Whether it is a fact that Rai Bahadur Ganga Ram submitted a scheme to Government for utilizing water power in the province for industrial purposes, and, if so, what action has Government taken or proposes to take in the matter ? "

The Hon'ble Mr. Craik replied :—

" Rai Bahadur Ganga Ram never submitted to Government any scheme for the general utilization of water power for industrial purposes.

[*Diwan Bahadur Diwan Daulat Rai; Mr. Lumsden.*]

"He was some time ago in negotiation with Government for the lease of some 5,000 acres of land on the Upper Chenab Canal, one of the terms of the proposed lease being that the tenant should be bound to cultivate by means of wells worked by electric power generated from a fall on the canal. Rai Bahadur Ganga Ram was unable to accept the terms offered by Government, but the land has now been leased to other tenants, who will be bound by the condition indicated above."

The Hon'ble Diwan Bahadur Diwan Daulat Rai asked :—

29. "Will the Government be pleased to give the average prices of Price of salt, both wholesale and retail, during the last five years?"

The Hon'ble Mr. Lumsden replied :—

"The Hon'ble Member's question is vague as prices of salt vary appreciably in different parts of the Province. A statement exhibiting the annual average price at Lahore is, however, placed on the table. Should more detailed information be desired I would suggest a reference to the back numbers of the *Punjab Gazette* which publishes every fortnight a statement showing the rates of salt, both wholesale and retail, in every district of the province."

Comparative statement showing the annual average prices per maund of salt in the Lahore market from 1912-13 to 1916-17.

Description.	1912-13.	1913-14.	1914-15.	1915-16.	1916-17.
	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
Wholesale rate	1 6 5	1 6 1	1 6 4	1 11 3	*2 6 9
Retail	1 9 7	1 10 8	1 9 3	1 12 3	*2 7 3

* Average prices of 11 months, i.e., from 1st April 1916 to 28th February 1917.

The Hon'ble Diwan Bahadur Diwan Daulat Rai asked :—

30. "Will Government be pleased to state the quantity of salt exported from the Punjab during the last five years and the provinces to which Punjab salt has been so exported?"

Quantity of salt exported from the Punjab.

The Hon'ble Mr Lumsden replied :—

"The information desired by the Hon'ble Member will be found in Appendix VI of the Annual Report on the Administration of the Northern India Salt Revenue Department. A copy of the relevant portions† is laid on the table."

The Hon'ble Diwan Bahadur Diwan Daulat Rai asked :—

31. "Will Government be pleased to state whether any steps have been taken or are intended to be taken to work the deposits of potash salts in the Mayo Salt Mines?"

Working deposits of potash salts in Mayo Salt Mines.

The Hon'ble Mr. Lumsden replied :—

"As the Hon'ble Member is doubtless aware the Northern India Salt Revenue Department is Imperial and not under the control of this Government which consequently is not in a position to answer the question."

†See Appendix F.

[*Pandit Jawahar Lal ; Mr. Craik ; Mr. Maynard .*]

The Hon'ble Pandit Jawahar Lal, Bhargava, asked :—

Appointment of suitable receivers in each district to administer the estate of insolvents.

32. "In view of the large increase in the number of insolvency petitions due to the dishonest desire of debtors to evade payment of just debts of their creditors and the cumbersome and protracted procedure of the administration of the estate of the insolvent by inexperienced receivers appointed by the courts, will the Government be pleased to consider the advisability of appointing suitable persons in every district as Official Receivers to properly administer the estate of the insolvent and to discharge the functions of a receiver as required by law ?"

The Hon'ble Mr. Craik replied :—

"Official Receivers have already been appointed in eleven districts and will be appointed in other districts where the necessity is established. In the case of the remaining districts the Hon'ble Judges of the Chief Court came to the conclusion in June of last year that the amount of insolvency work did not justify the appointment of an Official Receiver. The Judges' view is that an Official Receiver should devote the greater part of his time to his duties, and that no appointment is advisable where the assets of insolvent estates are not likely to produce an income sufficient to remunerate a practically whole-time man. These conclusions were accepted by Government."

The Hon'ble Pandit Jawahar Lal, Bhargava, asked :—

Reduction in liquor consumption.

33. "Will the Government be pleased to inform this Council what special steps have been taken by the Government during the last 2½ years to effect a reduction in liquor consumption ?"

The Hon'ble Mr. Maynard replied :—

"The subject of liquor consumption falls under two heads. There is illicit consumption (apt to be on a large scale in a Province in which the raw material for distillation is nearly everywhere procurable with ease, owing to the wide extension of cane cultivation) and licit consumption.

"Government have recently made very great efforts to reduce illicit consumption by establishing a special staff for the prevention and detection of distillation under the control of a Superintendent of Police, who acts as Assistant to the Financial Commissioner for excise matters. It is believed that some measure of success has been attained, but the danger of false charges of illicit distillation has to be very carefully watched.

"Licit consumption is most readily to be reduced by increasing the price of liquor and thereby making it more difficult to obtain. With this object the still head duty on spirit was raised from Rs. 5 to Rs. 6-4-0 on April 1st, 1915. During the year which followed the consumption of country liquor fell by 13 per cent.

"In the Ferozepore District a system has been introduced by which liquor is available for sale only in sealed bottles of ascertained capacity and only for consumption off the premises. It is believed that this system tends to reduce treating, and lingering about liquor shops, with the excessive consumption which these practices entail. The plan has been experimentally extended also to portions of the Ludhiana and Gurdaspur Districts. Its further extension is limited for the present by the scantiness of the supply of glass bottles.

"In the town of Amritsar all the liquor shops have been removed to the outskirts of the town and sale is allowed only for consumption off the premises. There were special advantages of situation which facilitated the adoption of this policy in Amritsar. The results are under observation.

[Mr. Maynard ; Pandit Jawahar Lal.]

"The case of every fair in the Province has been separately considered, with a view to the discontinuance of special shops for the sale of liquor in all cases where illicit distillation or illicit importation is not likely to be thereby occasioned. Such special shops have now been discontinued everywhere except for three fairs in the Ludhiana District, where smuggling is apprehended. Wherever possible, it is also now the practice to close ordinary permanent shops in fair localities during the continuance of the fair.

"The measures taken in schools and colleges were described in detail in paragraphs 36 and 37 of the Report on Excise Administration in 1915-16. Among other things a chapter on the hygiene of intoxicants is being added to the new sanitary reader entitled 'Life, Light and Cleanliness.'

"Government and its officers have on various occasions very clearly shown their deep interest in the cause of temperance. In response to an application for a grant of aid towards the cost of constructing a temperance hall at Pathankot, His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor explained that his refusal was not due to any lack of sympathy but to the prevailing financial stringency, and added that the application, if received when financial conditions are more favourable, will receive due consideration. On a suggestion that Government should encourage the provision of certain counter-attractions to drink, Indian opinion showed itself generally adverse.

"Standing orders require the Collector systematically to consult the local bodies concerned on all changes of excise arrangements, including new licenses, hours of sale, situation of shops, regulation of amenities offered and methods of conducting shops, methods of maintaining order and decency in shops and conditions of sale in general."

The Hon'ble Pandit Jawahar Lal, Bhargava, asked :—

34. "Will the Government be pleased to take steps to prohibit the consumption of liquor on the premises of licensed vendors of liquor?"

The Hon'ble Mr. Maynard replied :—

"It is useless to prohibit the consumption of liquor on the premises of licensed vendors, except where a suitable agency exists to enforce the prohibition and to prevent drinkers from sitting or lying about just outside the shop to the scandal and annoyance of the neighbourhood. The difficulties of the enforcement of the restrictions were demonstrated by an experiment tried in four districts in 1905 and 1906. But the system of sale in closed bottles, to which reference has already been made in answering former questions, represents an experimental approach to a system of off-consumption only."

The Hon'ble Pandit Jawahar Lal, Bhargava, asked :—

35. "Will the Government be pleased to state whether the experiment re the localisation of liquor shops in separate quarters tried at Amritsar has come to the notice of the Government, and if so, whether the Government will be pleased to direct its general extension to all municipal committees of the Province?"

The Hon'ble Mr. Maynard replied :—

"The Amritsar system is not correctly described in the question. Shops have been removed from the streets of the town, and located outside it on the circular road which runs round the town. Sale is permitted for consumption off the premises only. Amritsar possesses certain special facilities for this system in the existence of many vacant plots of land on the external circular road, which can be reached with ease from every part of the town. The system is *prima facie* not suited to every town: but Government would view with sympathy the initiative of any municipal committee which should propose

Prohibition of consumption of liquor on the premises of license-holders.

Extension to other municipalities of the system of localisation of liquor shops as in Amritsar.

[Pandit Jawahar Lal ; Mr. Townsend.]

a workable scheme, subject to the necessary condition that liquor should not be made inaccessible without unreasonable inconvenience to those whose habit of consuming it is already formed."

The Hon'ble Pandit Jawahar Lal, Bhargava, asked :—

Encourage-
ment of
industries.

36. " Will the Government be pleased to state in detail whether any, and if so, what steps have been taken by the Government to utilize the opportunities afforded by the war conditions in the matter of the encouragement of industries in the Province? "

The Hon'ble Mr. Townsend replied :—

" The limits imposed on the length of an answer to a question in this Council allow me to recapitulate only very briefly the principal activities of Government towards stimulating industrial activity since the war started. They are as follows :—

" In the spring of 1915 Government arranged for an interesting exhibition of German and Austrian goods, and possible Indian substitutes for them, to visit Lahore. The exhibition attracted a good deal of attention.

" A dyeing school under the supervision of an Indian gentleman, who qualified in dyeing at the Manchester school of technology, has been started at the Central Weavery, Lahore, and has helped to some extent to remove the difficulties caused to dyers by the war. A grant of Rs. 5,000 has been sanctioned by Government for the Hindu Jubilee Technical Institute, to enable it to study various small manufactures which appear well suited to the province. The progress so far made is satisfactory. A grant is also being made by Government to the Salvation Army Silk School at Simla, to which Government has the power to nominate a certain number of students. Silk has of course gone up greatly in price during the war.

" Measures have been taken to stimulate the production of saltpetre in the province, with the result that the output of crude saltpetre in 1915-16 was about 80 per cent. in excess of the figure for 1913-14. The corresponding figures of refined saltpetre are about 90 per cent. Steps were taken to increase the supply of labour to the Dhariwal Mills, where, on account of military demands, there was a great demand for labour. Proposals are under consideration whereby Government may procure more of the articles of stationery it requires from Punjab manufacturers. Samples of most Punjab manufactures have been sent to the Commercial Museum recently instituted at Calcutta and have in several cases caused the demand for these articles to increase.

" The Ambala glass factory was helped in its efforts to find a market for its glass, the Government departments, which use glass, as the North-Western and Oudh and Rohilkhand Railways, being addressed on the subject; and a visit paid to the factory in January showed that it was receiving more orders than it could comply with.

" Other less important steps calculated to help the industries of the province as in octroi questions, provision of land for factories, and railway rates continue to be taken by Government as necessity arises, but they cannot be recorded as 'due to war conditions.' Government receives many requests for information in industrial matters: these are always complied with so far as possible. It also receives many requests for assistance in such enterprises. Many of these requests are quite impracticable, and have to be rejected, but I trust that what I have said will convince Hon'ble Members that Government is doing what it can, in present circumstances, to help the industries of the province. For a more extensive and definite policy Government must await the proposals and the authoritative advice of the Royal Commission on Industries."

[*Pandit Jawahar Lal ; Mr. Townsend ; Rai Bahadur Ram Saran Das ; Mr. Lumsden ; Colonel Hendley.]*

The Hon'ble Pandit Jawahar Lal, Bhargava, asked :—

37. " Will the Government be pleased to inform the Council if it proposes to establish model grain elevators on the lines of Faridkot grain elevator (referred to in the Budget speech of Sir Louis Dane delivered on 10th April 1912) at big railway and grain exporting centres with a view to encourage establishment of such elevators by the public ? "

Establishment of grain elevators at certain railway centres.

The Hon'ble Mr. Townsend replied :—

" Government does not, at present, propose to take any action in the direction indicated by the Hon'ble Member. The experience which will be gained from the working of the Lyallpur elevator—on which Government has expended considerable sums of money but the completion of which has had to be postponed for the present on account of the impossibility of obtaining the necessary machinery owing to the war—will enable Government to decide what action, if any, it is advisable to take in the direction of establishing other similar elevators throughout the Province.

" Sites for such elevators have, however, been reserved near the more important railway stations in the Lower Bari Doab Colony.

" The pattern of the Faridkot elevator would not be followed in any new elevators which may be established in the Province as experience has shown that it is unsuitable."

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Ram Saran Das asked :—

38. " Will the Government kindly state whether or not they consider it necessary to make larger grants-in-aid to the District Boards for the purpose of increasing the number of dispensaries ? "

Grants-in-aid to District Boards to increase number of dispensaries.

The Hon'ble Mr. Lumsden replied :—

" Government is not at present considering the making of large grants-in-aid to District Boards for the purpose of increasing the number of dispensaries. The ear-marking of grants for particular purposes is contrary to the policy of Government as tending to fetter the discretion of the boards. The general policy of Government is to give the boards grants-in-aid for a fixed period which will assist them in maintaining efficient services and providing for reasonable development. The consolidated grant system has, as a matter of fact, been already introduced in the Rawalpindi Division and schemes are being worked out for the remaining divisions. The question of increasing facilities for medical relief in districts where they are inadequate is being considered by the Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals, and it would be premature to consider how any measures which may be found necessary are to be financed."

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Ram Saran Das asked :—

39. " (a) Will the Government kindly state whether by this time they have collected information ' as to the conditions under which Unani and Ayurvedic systems of medicine are being taught and practised in the Punjab ? "

Teaching of Unani and Ayurvedic system of medicine

" (b) If so, will the Government kindly lay such information on the table of this Council ? "

The Hon'ble Colonel Hendley replied :—

" (a) Information in regard to Unani and Ayurvedic medicine is being collected and brought into consideration.

" (b) As the information required is being collected at the instance of the Government of India it is not within the power of the Local Government

[*Rai Bahadur Ram Saran Das ; Colonel Hendley ; Mr. Fagan.*]

at present to lay any information before this Council. The information collected from all parts of India will no doubt be placed before the public by the Government of India in due course."

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Ram Saran Das asked :—

Opening of
separate in-
stitution for
teaching
Unani and
Ayurvedic
system of
medicine.

40. "(a) Is the Government aware that the Unani and Ayurvedic classes maintained in Islamia and D. A.-V. Colleges, Lahore, do not sufficiently meet the needs of the province, and that several men desiring to practise indigenous systems of medicine have to travel so far as Calcutta and Delhi to study these systems ?

"(b) Will the Government kindly say whether in order to increase facilities for the study of indigenous systems of medicine they will revive the Government school for imparting such instruction in connection with the Lahore Medical College or if that be not possible give grant-in-aid to any private institution that may be established for the purpose ?"

The Hon'ble Colonel Hendley replied :—

"(a) The Government is well aware that the Unani and Ayurvedic classes maintained in the Islamia and D. A.-V. Colleges are not quite satisfactory. It is aware that some men go to Delhi for the purpose of studying Unani and Ayurvedic medicine but it has no information as to the number that do so or whether any go as far as Calcutta.

"(b) It is not contemplated making any provision for the teaching of Unani and Ayurvedic medicine in the Medical College, Lahore, as the experience gained from 1887 to 1898, when these classes were associated with the Medical College at the wish of the Senate of the Punjab University, shewed that it was not to the interests of Unani or Ayurvedic medicine that they should be continued.

"If, however, a carefully thought out scheme for the study of Unani and Ayurvedic medicine and for the training of practitioners be placed before Government and guaranteed by an association or body of influential men Government is prepared to consider such scheme with a view to making a grant-in-aid, but it must be fully assured that the demand is a genuine one and likely to have the support of the public."

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Ram Saran Das asked :—

Rights in
trees in
Kangra

41. "Will the Government kindly inform this Council what steps have been taken in carrying out the announcement of His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab given in his Kangra Darbar speech dated the 25th October 1916, regarding the rights over trees as determined by Lyall's Settlement ?"

The Hon'ble Mr. Fagan replied :—

"It has been decided on the advice of the forest and revenue authorities to abandon Government claims to trees on waste areas definitely recorded as *Dakhil Bachh* in Lyall's Settlement except where areas in *Dakhil Bachh* waste have been included in demarcated protected forests. In some cases, specially in the Hamirpur Tahsil, Lyall's record alone will not suffice to determine what land was *Dakhil Bachh* and what was *Kharaj Bachh* and there doubtless local enquiry and an examination of all available papers will be necessary. But where Lyall's papers leave no room for doubt they will be accepted as the basis of decision. The work of discriminating waste entered as *Dakhil Bachh* in Lyall's Settlement record from that entered as *Kharaj Bachh* is accordingly in progress. The two classes of waste will be shown with distinct survey numbers in the new Settlement records now under preparation.

[*Rai Bahadur Ram Saran Das ; Mr. Aikman.*]

In doubtful cases where the materials contained in Lyall's records are insufficient for the purpose of satisfactory discrimination the matter is being cleared up by local enquiry and inspection."

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Ram Saran Das asked :—

42. "(a) Is it a fact that in the Engineering Departments of this province Overseers and Sub-Overseers of Roorkee are preferred to those of Rasul? Overseers from Roorkee and Rasul.

"(b) If so, will the Government be pleased to issue instructions that in future Overseers in this province shall be recruited in Rasul?"

The Hon'ble Mr. Aikman replied :—

"(a) and (b). Under the orders of the Government of India Overseers are appointed from the non-commissioned officers and soldiers of His Majesty's Army in India, or from civilians (European or Indian).

"In order to secure that appointments may, as far as possible, be filled by passed students of the Overseer (or Upper Subordinate) classes of the Thomason Civil Engineering College, Roorkee, to the extent to which appointments may be guaranteed, vacancies occurring in the Upper Subordinate establishment of the province are not filled up until the annual distribution of passed students or apprentice Overseers from Roorkee takes place in July. Should the number of qualified students for whom appointments are guaranteed be less than the actual number of vacancies, the remaining vacancies are filled up immediately after the postings from the Thomason Civil Engineering College, Roorkee, have been settled by the promotion of qualified Lower Subordinates or other qualified candidates at the discretion of the Local Government. For the requirements of this province three passed students of the Thomason Civil Engineering College, Roorkee, are taken annually, *i.e.*, two for the Irrigation Branch, and one for the Buildings and Roads Branch. There is actually no 'Overseer class' in the Engineering School at Rasul. Students of the 'Sub-Overseer class' who obtain 75 per cent of the total number of marks and not less than 66 per cent. in any one subject, are granted certificates of probationary Overseers of the lowest grade; but their standard of education is inferior to that given in the Thomason Civil Engineering College, Roorkee, for the 'Overseer class.'

"Sub Overseers are not appointed from the Thomason Civil Engineering College, Roorkee. Preference is given in this province to the passed Sub-Overseers of the Rasul Engineering School, and vacancies are annually filled up in communication with the Principal of the school."

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Ram Saran Das asked :—

43. "Does the Punjab Government propose raising the status of Rasul Engineering School to the status of a College and of affiliating it to the Punjab University as has been done in the case of the Roorkee Engineering College and the Allahabad University?" Raising of the Rasul Engineering School to status of a college.

The Hon'ble Mr. Aikman replied :—

"There is no intention at present of raising the Rasul Engineering School to the status of a College, and until this is done the question of affiliation with the Punjab University cannot be taken up."

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Ram Saran Das asked :—

44. "(a) Is it a fact that temporary Overseers in the Punjab are not confirmed in permanent service even after long service and that much junior men are very often confirmed as permanent Overseers?" Temporary Overseers and permanent appointments.

[Mr. Aikman ; Rai Bahadur Ram Saran Das ; Mr. Lumsden.]

"(b) If the answer to (a) be in the affirmative, will Government kindly consider the desirability of changing the rules in such a way that a proportion of permanent Overseers should be recruited from temporary Overseers of a certain years' standing?"

The Hon'ble Mr. Aikman replied :—

"(a) and (b). The method of recruitment for permanent appointments to the 'Overseer Class' has been explained in the answer given to Question 42, and temporary Overseers are confirmed on their qualification reports as compared with those of other qualified candidates for the posts of Overseers when permanent vacancies occur. No change in the existing procedure, which enables Government to treat each case on its own merits, is therefore considered necessary."

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Ram Saran Das asked :—

Non-official
members of
the Ambala
Cantonment
Committee.

45. "(a) Will the Government kindly state whether the number of non-official members in the Ambala Cantonment Committee has in recent years been reduced from six to three?"

Increase of
non-official
members in
certain muni-
cipalities.

"(b) Will the Government kindly state whether, in view of an increase in the population, the number of non-official members in the municipalities of Sialkot, Ferozepore, Rawalpindi, and Gujranwala has in recent years been increased?"

"(c) Will the Government kindly state for the information of this Council for what reasons the number of non-official members of the Ambala Cantonment Committee was reduced?"

"(d) Is the Government aware that the number of officials in the Ambala Cantonment Committee varies from 12 to 18 and that in that committee the schedule of octroi rates was in spite of the opposition of non-official members raised recently?"

"(e) Does the Government intend to move the proper authorities to increase the number of non-official members in the Ambala Cantonment Committee?"

The Hon'ble Mr. Lumsden replied :—

"(a) It is understood that the present number of non-official members in the Ambala Cantonment Committee is three, but it is not known whether this figure represents a reduction from six.

"(b) The Hon'ble Member's assumption that in the four towns mentioned there has been of recent years an increase of population does not appear to be based on fact. In the case of Rawalpindi there has actually been a decrease since 1901, while as regards Ferozepore the latest census figures are lower than those returned in 1891. In Gujranwala the increase is purely nominal, and only in the case of Sialkot has there been any appreciable rise in population.

"In regard to Sialkot, proposals to increase the membership have been received and are at present under consideration. In Gujranwala the number of non-officials was increased by 3 in 1914 and in Rawalpindi a non-official was in 1913 substituted for one of the *ex-officio* members. No suggestion has been made that the membership at Ferozepore is inadequate.

"(c) Government has, as already stated, no information as to the alleged reduction. Under Article 4 of the Cantonment Code the power of appointing additional members, whether official or non-official, vests in the Officer Commanding the Division or the Officer Commanding the Brigade according to the

[*Mr. Lumsden ; Rai Bahadur Ram Saran Das ; Mr. Thompson ;
Sardar Bahadur Gajjan Singh.]*

status of the cantonment. The ordinary constitution of the Cantonment committee, as prescribed by Article 3 of the Code, does not include any non-official member.

"(d) As explained above the number of additional official members is determined by the Officer Commanding and Government has no knowledge of any variations that may occur. The octroi schedule was revised in 1911 since when no further proposals to amend the rates have been received.

"(e) In view of the explanations already given the Hon'ble Member will readily understand that Government cannot interfere in the way suggested."

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Ram Saran Das asked :—

46. "In view of the announcement of His Excellency the Viceroy that a conference of representatives from Local Governments will shortly meet to advise the Government of India in the matter of giving effect to the recommendations of the Royal Commissioners, will the Government kindly inform this Council whether in sending Punjab representatives the special interests of non-officials and Provincial Service men will also be kept in view?"

Conference of representatives to advise Government of India on recommendations of Public Service Commission.

The Hon'ble Mr. Thompson replied :—

"I do not propose to answer the question in the form in which it is put, because I can hardly believe that the Hon'ble Member means to suggest that the representatives of the Local Governments at the conferences in question cannot be trusted to do justice to interests other than those of the services to which they may happen to belong. But I may explain that the representatives of the different Provinces at the conferences to which the Hon'ble Member refers will be officials charged to represent the views of their Local Governments."

- The Hon'ble Sardar Bahadur Sardar Gajjan Singh asked :—

47. "With reference to the question asked by the Hon'ble Nawab Zulfikar Ali Khan and the answer given thereto by the Hon'ble Sir Reginald Craddock in the Imperial Legislative Council held on 19th September 1916, at Simla, will the Punjab Government be pleased to state if, with a view to encourage recruitment, they propose to take steps to offer wider opportunities of public service to the zamindars (Sikhs, Hindus and Muhammadans) of the Punjab in view of their valuable and distinguished services in the present war?"

Greater opportunities of public service to zamindars.

The Hon'ble Mr. Thompson replied :—

"The Lieutenant-Governor believes that there is no Province in India which can compare with the Punjab in the extent to which zamindars are employed in Government service from the rank of patwari and constable upwards. The figures given in my answer to a question asked by the Hon'ble Chaudhri Lal Chand will show that more than 20 per cent. of the Sub-Judges, 28 per cent. of the Munsifs and 50 per cent. of the Revenue Assistants are members of the agricultural classes, while nearly 40 per cent. of the whole Provincial Civil Service are agriculturists.

"It would be easy to multiply figures to show the extent to which agriculturists occupy positions in the public services, but it will perhaps be sufficient to give the Hon'ble Member the results of an enquiry recently made under the orders of His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor. In 1906 the total number of appointments in the Provincial and Subordinate services, including such appointments as those of Sub-Overseers, Naib Tahsildars, Forest Rangers

[*Mr. Thompson; Sardar Bahadur Sardar Gajjan Singh ;
Makhdum Sayid Rajan Shah.]*

and Sub-Assistant Surgeons was 3,755. Of these 979, or 26 per cent., were held by members of agricultural tribes. In 1916, the total number of such appointments was 4,550, and of these 1,523 or 33 per cent. were held by agriculturists. In the lower grades of the service, *e. g.*, patwaris, kanungos and police officers below the rank of the Sub-Inspector, the improvement has been even more marked though detailed figures are not available.

"In these circumstances His Honour does not think that educated zamindars of the Punjab have any reason to complain of lack of opportunities for entering the public services, and in view of the fact that the rules of nearly every department already emphasise the necessity of recruiting from the zamindar class he does not think that the issue of further instructions on the point is needed or would be likely to have any direct effect on recruiting."

The Hon'ble Sardar Bahadur Sardar Gajjan Singh asked :—

Results of
recruitment
for the Indian
Army.

48. "Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table for the information of the Council a statement showing the results of recruiting for the Indian Army for the period subsequent to that covered by a similar statement which was laid on the table in reply to Question No. 7 asked by me in the Punjab Legislative Council held on 2nd September 1916."

The Hon'ble Mr. Thompson replied—

"The statement* is laid on the table."

The Hon'ble Sardar Bahadur Sardar Gajjan Singh asked :—

Percentage of
recruitment
by caste.

49. "Will the Government very kindly lay on the table for the information of the Council a statement showing :—

"(a) the male population of the Sikhs, Hindus and Muhammadans in each district :

"(b) the number of recruits drawn from each community in each district :

"(c) percentage of Sikh, Hindu and Muhammadan recruits to their male population in the whole province as well as in each district :

"(d) number of Indian soldiers from each district who have won military honours in the present war."

The Hon'ble Mr. Thompson replied —

"(a) The information is given in Table VII of Volume XIV, Part II, of the Census of India, 1911.

"(b) The information is given in the statement* laid on the table at the request of the Hon'ble Member.

"(c) Percentages for districts and religions can be worked out in detail from the above statements for any class or community.

"(d) This information is not available."

The Hon'ble Makhdum Sayid Rajan Shah asked :—

Canal dispensaries
open
to public.

"50. Are all the canal dispensaries now open to the general public in this province?"

*See Appendix G.

[Colonel Hendley ; Makhdum Sayid Rajan Shah.]

The Hon'ble Colonel Hendley replied :—

"There are 71 canal dispensaries in the Punjab of which 42 are now open to the public and it is under consideration to throw open all such dispensaries in the Gujrat District. The same course will be adopted with other canal dispensaries which remain at present unopened to the public, when local requirements establish the necessity and district board funds permit."

The Hon'ble Makhdum Sayid Rajan Shah asked :—

51. "Will the Government kindly explain on what principles are grants-in-aid of medical relief distributed to municipal and district boards; whether—

Distribution of grants-in-aid of medical relief to municipal and district boards.

"(a) in proportion to the mortality figures in the areas administered by those boards, or

"(b) in proportion to the population in those areas, or

"(c) in compliance with the requisitions of those boards?"

The Hon'ble Colonel Hendley replied :—

"It is the present policy of Government in regard to recurring grants to district boards to calculate them from a general survey of the income and expenditure of the boards and the demands on their resources. A consolidated grant to supplement the local boards' resources is then or will in future be made for a term of years. No special grants-in-aid of a recurring nature are made to municipal and district boards for medical relief. But when local bodies find that the extension of medical relief to certain parts of a district, which are unprovided with medical aid of any kind, is necessary, and they are unable to finance the entire scheme, they may apply to Government for assistance through the Commissioner and Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals for a building grant. If Government is satisfied that the financial condition of a local body is such that it cannot be expected to bear the entire cost without detriment to the other needs of the district, it may sanction a grant not exceeding a moiety of the total cost of the scheme. As instances, I may mention that during 1914-15 the Kangra District Board obtained a grant of Rs. 29,000 towards the building of new dispensaries; and the municipal committee, Hissar, a grant of Rs. 10,000 for building the new Civil Hospital at the district head-quarters. This latter grant covered the Public Works Departmental charges. I may further mention that in ordinary times the Local Government places a sum of Rs. 20,000 annually at the disposal of the Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals, to help such indigent local bodies as are unable owing to depleted funds to maintain their hospitals and dispensaries in suitable buildings or with adequate equipment, subject to the conditions that half the cost is met by the local body applying for assistance, and that fees for medicines and medical advice are charged to the well-to-do. All such applications are made through the local authorities and the Commissioner of the Division."

The Hon'ble Makhdum Sayid Rajan Shah asked :—

52. "If the grants mentioned in the preceding question are made on the recommendation of Sanitary Board or the Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals, will the Government explain whether any of the considerations mentioned in the preceding question weigh in those recommendations? If not, what other considerations are kept in view in accepting those recommendations?"

Method of distribution of medical grants-in-aid.

[*Colonel Hendley ; Makhdum Sayid Rajan Shah ; Mr. Craik ; Mr. Thompson ; Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Hussain.*]

The Hon'ble Colonel Hendley replied :—

"The Sanitary Board has no concern with medical relief, its functions being restricted to matters relating to sanitation. In examining any demand for a grant-in-aid from a local body the Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals, on behalf of Government, would take into consideration, besides the conditions already mentioned, the population and area that would be served by the dispensary; in some cases too no doubt the unhealthiness of a locality as expressed by the mortality figures would have some bearing on the ultimate decision."

The Hon'ble Makhdum Sayid Rajan Shah asked :—

Jagirs and muafis to religious institutions.

53. "Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a list of the Jagirs and Muafis in favour of Hindu, Muhammadan, and Sikh religious institutions (mosques, shrines, temples, etc.) which existed at the advent of the British Rule?"

"Have any of the Muafis and Jagirs referred to in the preceding question been resumed, and have any such new Muafis and Jagirs been created since annexation? If so, will the Government be pleased to state the number and amount of the Muafis and Jagirs so resumed or created?"

The Hon'ble Mr. Craik replied :—

"I will answer the above questions together. The information as to the number and value of grants to religious institutions is not available in the form desired by the Hon'ble Member and its compilation as suggested in the first question would involve a disproportionate amount of labour. In regard to the second question certain new grants have been made to deserving institutions of a charitable nature and certain old grants have been resumed where the conditions of the grant have been clearly violated. The general policy of Government is to resume the Jagirs and Muafis attached to institutions only where the written or implied conditions have been flagrantly violated, or where the institutions in question are not properly maintained. Government cannot undertake to supply details of all resurrections and new creations, but if the Hon'ble Member will visit the Secretariat I shall be glad to show him the registers dealing with any districts in which he is interested; he would then see how such cases are dealt with."

The Hon'ble Makhdum Sayid Rajan Shah asked :—

Exemption of Municipal Commissioners from Arms Act.

54. "Is the Government aware that 3rd class Honorary Magistrates are exempted from the operations of the Arms Act? Will the Government be pleased to exempt Municipal Commissioners or at least Vice-Presidents of the first class municipalities from the operation of the Arms Act?"

The Hon'ble Mr. Thompson replied :—

"If the Hon'ble Member will refer to article 15 (a) of schedule I appended to the Indian Arms Rules, 1909, he will see that Government has no power to grant a wholesale exemption in favour of Members of Municipal Committees or even of Vice-Presidents of such Committees. The exercise of such powers as the Local Government possesses under this article would be an invidious task, and the Lieutenant-Governor sees no reason for taking any action on the lines suggested by the Hon'ble Member."

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Hussain asked :—

55. "Will the Government be pleased to state :—

(a) the total number of men on the rolls of the Government College, Lahore, on the 1st of October of 1916, and of 1892 ;

Accommodation in hostels at the Government College, Lahore.

[*Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Hussain; Mr. Godley; Mr. Thompson.*]

- "(b) the number of Government College hostels (excluding hired houses), and the accommodation available in them, on the 1st of October of 1916 and of 1892;
- "(c) whether any money has been spent during the last 24 years in constructing buildings for the Government College Hostel? and, if so, how much? and when?
- "(d) whether the hostel accommodation (including the accommodation made available in branch hostels) in the Government College, Lahore, is sufficient to meet the demand for it?
- "(e) whether the Government College, Lahore, during the year 1915-16 made available as much hostel accommodation as was provided by the Forman Christian College and the D. A.-V. College, Lahore."

The Hon'ble Mr. Godley replied :—

"The number of students in the Government College has risen from 165 in 1892 to 668 in the present year. The hostel was erected in 1892 at a cost of Rs. 47,476, with accommodation for 106 students. Additions and improvements since have raised the total cost to Rs. 85,892, and there is now accommodation for 154 students. Pending the erection of a second hostel, which has hitherto been delayed by the difficulty of obtaining a suitable site and the financial stringency caused by the war, but which, it is hoped, will be taken in hand shortly, four buildings have been hired at rents aggregating Rs. 6,192 annually, to provide for other students needing hostel accommodation. The total number of students living in the Government College hostels is 320, compared with 403 in the Forman Christian College and 689 in the D. A.-V. College."

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Hussain asked :—

56. "Will the Government be pleased to state whether the measures of reconciliation, etc., mentioned in Question No. 40, asked in the Council meeting of 2nd September 1916, have, so far as Jhang is concerned, been completed?" Reconciliation measures in Jhang.

The Hon'ble Mr. Thompson replied :—

"Of the 36 suits based on *bahi* accounts or bonds lost or burnt in the dacoities pending on 23rd August 1916, 33 have been disposed of. Since that date 60 fresh suits have been instituted and 42 disposed of. The Deputy Commissioner, Jhang, reports that the leading members of the Hindu and Muhammadan communities were consulted in the course of his tour through the affected tract in November and December last. These assured him that harmony was quite restored, and there is no reason to think otherwise. Two principal inhabitants of the town of Ahmadpur have recently informed the Deputy Commissioner that no fresh applications to the Panchayat formed there to settle differences had been made for about five months, and estimated that the panchayat had settled 95 per cent. of the cases. Government is not aware that any special panchayats are now sitting elsewhere and considers that measures for reconciliation of the two communities have been satisfactorily completed."

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Hussain asked :—

57. "Will the Government be pleased to state whether, since the removal of the Punitive Police from Jhang, any recrudescence of disorder has taken place?" Punitive Police at Jhang.

[*Mr. Craik ; Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Hussain ; Mr. Lumsden.*]

The Hon'ble Mr. Craik replied :—

" Government is glad to be in a position to state that owing to the restoration of order and the absence of serious crime in Jhang, Muzaffargarh and Multan since the widespread disturbances of 1915 were repressed, the Punitive Police Force has been withdrawn before the time fixed and in the localities in question there has been no recrudescence of disorder."

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Hussain asked :—

Release of
certain per-
sons from in-
terment.

58. " Will the Government be pleased to state whether the two local notables referred to in His Honour's speech in the Council meeting of 19th April 1916, as having been interned in places outside Jhang, have been allowed to return to their homes ? "

The Hon'ble Mr. Craik replied :—

" Orders have been issued for the release from restriction of the two men."

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Hussain asked :—

Rise in
price of salt.

59. " Will the Government be pleased to state what action has been taken with reference to the abnormal rise of price of salt ? "

The Hon'ble Mr. Lumsden replied :—

" This Government has been in close communication with the Imperial Government with reference to the abnormal rise in the price of salt—a rise which was primarily due to ordinary laws of supply and demand and to the anticipation of an enhancement of the duty but was aggravated by widespread speculation. Measures are being taken which will have the effect of largely increasing the output of Khewrah Salt and when the improvements are complete prices which during the last few weeks have become much easier should rapidly revert to normal. Meanwhile arrangements have been made under which local bodies can, if they so desire, obtain priority in respect of indents made by them with the object of assisting the poorer classes."

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Hussain asked :—

Stability of
wheat prices.

60. " What arrangements has the Government made to secure stability of price of wheat during the ensuing year ? "

(*See reply of the Hon'ble Mr. Townsend to the Hon'ble Khan Sahib Mirza Muhammad Ikramullah Khan's question No. 6.*)

REVISED FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR 1917-18.

The Hon'ble Mr. Lumsden :—" Your Honour, I beg to introduce the Revised* Financial Statement showing the figures under major heads for the years 1915-16 to 1917-18. I may perhaps be allowed to preface my remarks with a word of warning. There is a tradition that the appearance of the Finance Member is the signal for all the other members, or most of them, to seek a little quiet and possibly well-earned repose. I do not know how far this tradition has any foundation in fact, and even if it had, I should be the last person in the world to say a word against it because I feel sure that if I did not occupy the unhappy position of Finance Member I should find no difficulty in following precedent. Perhaps, however, there are two good reasons in this Province why the custom does not obtain. In the first place the Financial Secretary is extremely merciful in that he does not insist, as he has every right to do, on reading the whole of the somewhat dreary document known as the Financial Memorandum. In the second place a far-sighted Government, possibly prompted thereto by some unsympathetic predecessor of mine, has evolved a pattern of chair which, although eminently

* See Appendix II.

[*Mr. Lumsden.*]

suitable for the particular purpose, affords almost complete insurance against any insidious advances on the part of Morpheus. The word of warning is merely this. Should any member be contemplating repose, I am afraid his period of quietude will be extremely brief, as I propose, in view of the lengthy explanations given in the Financial Memorandum, to curtail my remarks to the smallest possible space. This word of warning will at any rate prove a word of cheer to those who, it may be, have spent the last few days in poring over this Memorandum and may now feel that they have absorbed as much knowledge of the Provincial finances as is good for them.

“Members will have observed that we have got this year a balance 3 lakhs greater than we had expected. The explanation for this increase has been given in paragraph 2 of the Financial Memorandum and I need make no further reference to the matter. But the difference that we now hope to find in the closing balance of this year requires a word of explanation. Instead of a closing balance anticipated at this time last year of 55½ lakhs, we hope to end the year with a balance of 103 lakhs. This enormous difference is due partly to decreases of expenditure, but principally to a large increase of revenue. I need not detain the Council with any lengthy explanation as to the decrease in expenditure. We were fortunate in being able to stop the payment of grain compensation allowance after the 30th of June, and considerable savings have been effected on that account. Further, owing to the demands of the military authorities, charges on account of salaries have been largely reduced, and under nearly every head economies have been effected. Then the Province has been fortunately very free from plague and epidemics of any kind, and here also we have been able to keep under our anticipated expenditure. The total reduction on the expenditure side amounts to 10½ lakhs, a result which I think you will admit is very satisfactory in view of the extreme caution which had to be employed in budgeting on the expenditure side last year. The revenue increase amounts to about 37½ lakhs, and I have no doubt members are asking what the Finance Department were dreaming of when they made so bad an underestimate. I might, of course, take refuge behind a quotation from Shakespeare—‘Nothing comes amiss so money comes withal.’ But that dictum is perhaps too cynical even for so inhuman a creature as a Financial Secretary. I prefer, therefore, to attempt to justify on the merits the estimates which were made last year. Ever since the days of the writer of the book of Job, a work supposed by many to be of very great antiquity, the impossibility of foretelling the coming seasons has been freely admitted and, even in spite of the great advances made in science, that difficulty appears still to subsist even to the present day. In proof of this I might perhaps be permitted to quote, not in any carping spirit, but merely to convince Hon’ble Members, from the statement of the actual rainfall of July, August, and September 1915, published by the Director-General of Observatories. In this pamphlet the Meteorological Department place in parallel columns what may be termed their budget of the monsoon and the actuals. The budget reads as follows:—

“‘The outlook for the general monsoon rainfall of India is on the whole somewhat unfavourable.’

That is the budget side, the actuals were:—

“‘The general monsoon rainfall of India was in excess by 5 inces, or 1½ per cent.’

“‘Again:—‘Rainfall is likely to be in slight or moderate defect at any rate in the earlier part of the season.’ So much for the budget, now the actuals.

“‘After setting in earlier and more vigorously than usual, the monsoon weakened.’

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" A third quotation I may give—' The deficiency which is anticipated in general elsewhere is likely to be most marked in North-West India ' and *per contra*.

" Up to this time North-West India fared worse than other parts of the country, but the August rainfall in this region was exceedingly heavy.'

" If these things are done in the green tree what can be expected in the dry. In other words, if with all their data, the Meteorological Department can get no nearer the actual monsoon, although their budget is prepared on the 7th of June, just at the time the monsoon is setting in, what can be expected of a Finance Secretary who has no data to hand and who has to prepare his budget some six or seven months earlier. I think, therefore, I may feel quite confident in maintaining that any failure to predict the weather cannot be laid to my charge. But you may well urge that, even admitting that the Finance Secretary cannot be expected to predict the course of the weather, the difference between the Revised and the Budget is so great that it cannot be accounted for by the mere accident of the monsoon. This argument is, undoubtedly, more difficult to answer, but I think that if members consider the general position, as well as one or two facts which I propose to give them, they will come to the conclusion that, possibly, the estimates were not really so very incorrect. At the time the budget was framed we had had a poor *kharif* followed by an almost rainless winter. We had also to consider the effect of the great war and we had to use extra caution on that account. We were not quite sure, for instance, how the course of events would affect certain heads not directly connected with agriculture, such as excise, stamps, and the like. Now to some extent at least our precautions have been justified. We allowed under the Land Revenue head for a deficit of about 15 lakhs as compared with the previous year. The seven months' actuals showed a deficit of 8½ lakhs, so that unless a great improvement had occurred, our cautious estimate would have been almost correct, because, if the *kharif* had been only as good as the preceding *kharif*, which, as Hon'ble Members will recollect was by no means satisfactory, we should not have been able to realise nearly as much revenue, because the effects of the bad *kharif* of the preceding year were to some extent discounted by the exceedingly good *rabi* which had preceded it. In our case the bad *kharif* would have been following a bad *rabi* preceded in its turn by a poor *kharif*. So that there is no doubt that suspensions would have been necessary on a large scale. Then the precarious nature of the position is also fairly clear if a reference is made to head No. 33—Famine Relief. As members are aware we used to receive an assignment of Rs. 1,40,000 from the Government of India, which formed, so to speak, our assurance against famine. We were allowed to accumulate this Rs. 1,40,000 up to a total aggregate of 10 lakhs, and that 10 lakhs formed our Famine Insurance Fund. As things turned out, at the commencement of this year our famine credit fund had been reduced to *nil* owing to the heavy expenditure in the preceding year. The result was that all we had to meet any possible famine was the new assignment of Rs. 1,40,000. When preparing the budget, we considered this matter carefully and we considered that probably this Imperial assignment would cover all expenses in the way of famine relief. We did not anticipate any actual famine, but we expected that, in certain districts, two or three districts at most, it might be necessary to offer that form of relief which is known as fodder concessions. As a matter of fact, as things turned out, our allotment of Rs. 1,40,000 for this purpose proved hopelessly inadequate. The actual expenditure for the year, according to the most recent estimate, is expected to be 13 lakhs, of which the Provincial share is Rs. 5,80,000. Now, fodder concessions ceased in June. Had the monsoon proved a failure, as might quite possibly have been the case, the amount debitable to this head alone would have been enormous.

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And if the experience of this head is read into other heads, it will prove I think, that our budget, far from being excessive, might, in the event of any failure of the monsoon, have proved to be much too high. In any case I think it will be admitted that our enforced economy has not had any ill-effects. We have been able to carry on the work of the Province, the general administration, in a satisfactory manner. No scheme of real urgency has had to be postponed for lack of funds and we have even been able, thanks to savings in other quarters, to make some little progress. For instance, we were able to allot an extra lakh to the Sanitary Board, and we have gone a little way towards satisfying a very urgent need in the way of providing house accommodation in Simla for the officers who have to go there on duty. This, of course, is not mere expenditure, it is an excellent investment, and it is very satisfactory that in a year when financial conditions appeared to be so gloomy we have been able to achieve so much. If I may be permitted to use a jangle which, perhaps, lacks in mathematical accuracy, I might sum up the situation by saying that the Provincial co-efficient of efficiency has been fully maintained.

"Turning to the budget, that is, to the figures for the ensuing year beginning on the 1st April, I may say that we have been able, in view of our much strengthened financial position, to take an optimistic view of things. As the members of the Finance Committee are aware, we were able to allot some 30 lakhs for new expenditure, and although on recent figures we shall have to reduce this sum, we expect to provide 27 to 28 lakhs for new schemes expenditure, and still at the end of the year be about 2 lakhs better than in the beginning. It is, of course, quite possible that this time next year the Finance Secretary will be endeavouring to explain why his estimates were so much too high, just as this year he has been trying to explain why they were much too low. We are assuming that there will be a good *rabi* so far as irrigated land is concerned, a moderate return from the *sailab* land, and something at least from the *barani*, because, although there has been no general rainfall, there have been scattered showers in various places which have done much good thanks to the fact that the long continuance of the monsoon has enabled the crops to stand the long drought better than usual. We are budgeting also for a normal monsoon, producing a normal *kharif*. We are also taking into account the year's experience as regards the effect of the war upon various heads.

"On the receipt side the effect is so far as one can see, negligible, and we have accordingly allowed for ordinary expansion.

"As regards the distribution between various heads, I need hardly, I think supplement what is already said in the Financial Memorandum. While the Financial Secretary has to act as a drag to check the zeal and ardour of spending departments, he has also another function to perform with regard to some of the more modest departments. As we are all aware, there are certain heads which have doughty champions both in this Council and outside. Some enthusiasts would have us believe that the millenium would be brought appreciably nearer if we applied all available money to head No. 22. Others maintain that until the general surroundings of the people have improved, no progress is possible and for that reason they would urge that all surpluses should be applied to head 24-B. We have a head too, a young and growing head with a corresponding appetite, 26-A, the demands of which are most insistent, and now that this head has an active representative on this Council I do not anticipate that these demands will diminish. My Hon'ble friend Mr. Craik too is not unnaturally anxious to keep on the right side of the Police, and we generally have some difficulty in satisfying that head also. But there are other quiet and modest heads which are extremely useful, both from the financial

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and economic point of view, such as forests, and it rests with the Finance Secretary to do his best to see that in the general annual scramble for funds, such heads are not pushed out. I think that, with the able assistance of the Finance Committee, we can claim that we have made as fair and equitable a distribution of funds as it was in our power to make. I do not say that the budget is necessarily popular, but it is hardly the duty of the Financial Secretary to frame a budget which is merely popular. He must endeavour to hold the scales even, and to see that every head, popular or otherwise, gets its proper share.

"The only two points in the budget which require special reference at this stage are the two assignments received from the Imperial Government, a non-recurring assignment of Rs. 10,70,000 and the new assignment of Rs. 1,75,000 for the improvement of the pay and training of teachers. The former, that is to say, the assignment on account of the profits of wheat scheme has, it will be noticed, been placed at the disposal of head 26-A—Agriculture. This windfall comes at a most acceptable time when, as I have said, the demands of the Agricultural Department are becoming difficult to meet. And I am sure we must all feel grateful to the Home Government which has placed the whole profits at the disposal of the Indian Government, and to the Indian Government for the graceful recognition of the part played by this Province in providing the wheat by the allotment to it of one-half of the total proceeds.

"The expenditure of this large sum of money will require considerable thought and attention. I understand a scheme has already been submitted to the Government of India, but orders have not yet been received. In any case it should be possible to make very considerable progress in improving the agriculture of the Province thanks to this large and unexpected assignment. I do not think I need say much about the assignment for the improvement of the pay and training of teachers, but I am sure all members will have perused Appendix A with great pleasure. The very word education in its essence implies leadership, and upon the character of the leadership the whole progress of education seems to depend. Consequently I think there is no doubt that, in applying this assignment to improve the pay and the training of teachers, the Government of India are going the right way towards that progress in education which is so much desired. (Applause.)

"Before I resume my seat I may perhaps conveniently formally present to the Council the various heads—a somewhat uninteresting lot,—which are assigned to the Financial Secretary. These are, on the receipt side—

No. XII—Interest.

„ XXI-B—Scientific and Miscellaneous Departments.

„ XXII—Superannuation.

„ XXIII—Stationery.

„ XXV—Miscellaneous.

"Most of these have been dealt with in the Financial Memorandum and I hardly think it necessary to add any remarks. The head of interest, it will be seen, when compared with its corresponding head on the expenditure side No. 13 tends to be less profitable. That is, of course, due to the increased rate of interest which the Government of India charges. Whereas before we had to pay 3½ per cent., we now have to pay 4½ per cent., and as we have not raised our charges for takavi loans to cultivators, our margin of profit is naturally reduced by the difference between these rates.

[Mr. Lumsden ; Mr. Maynard.]

"As regards Stationery, I need only say that we are making every effort to keep pace with the extraordinary rise in the price of paper and printing materials of all kinds by reducing the consumption of stationery to the minimum amount. The struggle has been a somewhat difficult one, but so far we have been fairly successful as our revised figures for the year show.

"The increase under the head Miscellaneous is more or less fortuitous. It has come about chiefly by the unexpected lapse of a grant of 1 lakh made some time ago by this Government to the Relief Committee at a time when cheap grain shops were being opened. The Relief Committee have now offered to return this lakh on the ground that it is no longer required, and the offer has, it is needless to say, been gladly accepted.

"On the expenditure side the heads I have to present are—

- No. 1—Refunds.
- " 13—Interest.
- " 26-B—Scientific and Miscellaneous Departments (in part).
- " 29—Superannuation.
- " 30—Stationery.
- " 32—Miscellaneous.
- " 36—Reduction of Debt.

"I have already briefly explained the figures under the head Interest. As regards 26-B I see that my Hon'ble friend Mr. Townsend has taken under his wing all the beautiful chicks and has left me all the ugly ducklings. I am not sure, however, that one of my ugly ducklings may not eventually turn out to be a swan. I allude to the head Fishery. But at present it has not begun to form its plumage, and I need say nothing more about it at this stage.

"Miscellaneous shows a large increase, but as explained in the Financial Memorandum, 5 lakhs of that represents the reserve fund which we have, following the practice of previous years, thought fit to include. There is also contained under this head a special lakh for the development of District Boards, while under the new system of consolidated grants, the whole of the consolidated grant is debited to this head instead of being distributed as previously over the various heads. And in this connection I might point out parenthetically that the budget heads are not always exactly what they seem. For instance, a classification of the kind naturally reduces the head Sanitation. Similarly, there are other heads which benefit indirectly, such as Education for instance, where there is a very substantial provision of 5 lakhs hidden away under the head 45—Civil Works representing Education, Major Works.

"The last head—Reduction of Debt—has, I suppose, never been referred to at any length by any Financial Secretary, but it has a certain amount of sentimental interest for us to-day. Owing to the change in the famine arrangements, I fear we must bid farewell to this head. It is shaking off its Provincial character and will under the new scheme be purely Imperial. It is rather early to say whether we will regret its departure, but I think, on the whole, the new arrangement will probably be of benefit to the Province.

"With these few remarks I beg to present these various heads."

The Hon'ble Mr. Maynard:—"Your Honour, my Hon'ble friend the Finance Member has divided the heads of the budget into two categories, modest heads and combatant heads. I think I may claim for my heads that they are mainly modest, not in the least combative, even retiring in their character. They are Excise, Stamps, Income-tax,—heads Nos. 4, 5 and 8 on the receipt side, and heads Nos. 6, 7 and 8 on the expenditure side. As regards Excise, it will be seen that the same cautious attitude, which my

[Mr. Maynard ; Mr. Fagan.]

Hon'ble friend the Finance Member has explained as being the cause of an under-estimate in the receipts generally, caused a very modest estimate in the budget of 1916-17. My Hon'ble friend has gone on to explain that the excellent monsoon of last year was the reason why the receipts so much exceeded the anticipated amounts generally.

" Perhaps, I am placing rather a great strain upon Hon'ble Members if I ask them to believe that the unusual amount of water which was received during the autumn months caused an unusual or unexpected consumption of something stronger. But there is no doubt that there is a very close connection between good agricultural results and an increase in excise revenue, and, accordingly, there was a very much greater return under the head of Excise than had been expected. For the coming year there is a still further increase in this item, but that is entirely to be accounted for by an extension of the policy which is the accepted policy for creating a combination of a minimum consumption with a maximum revenue. That is to say, it is to be attributed to an increase in the taxation of opium, which amounts to Rs. 2-8-0 a seer in the case of excise opium and Rs. 2 per seer in the case of hill opium and imported opium. On the expenditure side there is a very trifling increase. That is entirely to be accounted for in the budget of 1917-18 by the further measures which Government are taking for the reduction of illicit consumption. These measures consist in additions to the special staff for dealing with illicit distillation and in measures for detecting opium-smuggling. Under the head Income-tax it will be observed that the revised budget of the present year shows no very considerable increase on the original estimate. There is, however, a substantial increase in the budget estimate for the year 1917-18. This is largely due to the special measures which have been taken by the appointment of special agency for revising the income-tax in certain towns. According to the latest figures which I have seen, it is extremely probable that the actual receipts will be, I may say, even in excess of those which are shown in this budget. The special agency, by going very much more thoroughly and completely and with very much more leisure into the accounts of income-tax-payers, has been able to achieve two results, both of which, from the fiscal point of view, are equally desirable. In the first place, it has been able to eliminate a good number of those smaller assesseees who had been, owing to the rush with which work was done in the ordinary routine of tahsildars, wrongly included in the assessments. In the second place, the special agency has been able to detect many cases in which well-to-do men had hitherto escaped assessment and to increase the assessments which are to be imposed upon them. As regards the first of these two, that is to say, the elimination of small assesseees who ought never to have been brought within the net, we shall all of us, I am sure, be able cordially to rejoice in the result. As regards the second of the two results, there may be some of us who, by a natural human weakness, would prefer that the agency had been somewhat less efficient."

The Hon'ble Mr. Fagan :—" Budget heads—

Receipts—I—Land Revenue.

Expenditure—3—Land Revenue.

" The considerations affecting the revised estimate for the current year 1916-17 and the original for the coming year 1917-18 have been fully detailed in paragraphs 3 and 13-15 of the Memorandum by the Hon'ble Finance Member. As regards the former, financial results have been far better than appeared likely when the original estimate was framed on cautious lines a year ago. Allowance was then made for suspensions of fixed ordinary revenue to the extent of some 16 lakhs, while as regards fluctuating revenue a very

[*Mr. Fagan ; Mr Thompson ; Mr. Craik.*]

moderate demand was anticipated. As a matter of fact, suspension of less than 7 lakhs was found necessary for rabi 1916, while the excellent monsoon of last year gave us a kharif harvest, which as regards combined area and outturn has been estimated at 25 per cent. above the normal and at no less than 78 per cent. above the poor kharif of 1915, with the result that it has been possible to collect large sum of suspended fixed revenue while the area under fluctuating assessment has much exceeded anticipations. Some further increase has been caused by revision of fixed assessments. Under ordinary revenue the revised as compared with the original estimate shows an increase of 13.21 lakhs in fixed and of 21.49 lakhs in fluctuating revenue. Other deviations between the two estimates have been explained in the Memorandum. The framing of the estimate for the coming year, 1917-18, has been a matter of difficulty, owing to the change in agricultural possibilities which has taken place during the period within which it has been under consideration. Initially, the prospects for the present rabi of 1917 were excellent in consequence of the very favourable monsoon conditions of last year, while it appeared reasonable to anticipate normal winter rain and a normal monsoon. Unfortunately the former has been greatly delayed and up to date may be said to have failed, at all events partially, though even now a good fall would greatly improve the situation. Owing to the persistence of the last monsoon the position is considerably better than it might otherwise have been. It is, however, unlikely that collections of suspended revenue will be as large as was originally expected, while some new suspensions may be required. Fluctuating demand will also possibly not come up to original anticipation. Allowance for the above factors has been made in the figures now adopted for the estimate for 1917-18. The figures for ordinary revenue are—

Fixed	...	...	...	2,28.51 lakhs.
Fluctuating	...	...	...	1,35.10 „

“ Variations under other heads have been explained in the Memorandum.

“ Expenditure head 3 also has there been fully dealt with. I need only refer to Survey and Settlement. During the current year it was not possible to utilize fully the provision made for survey operations in the Thal in connection with the Sind Sagar Canal and Colony Project as its consideration has not advanced sufficiently far. During the coming year the number of settlements in progress will be the same as in the current year. Operations in Jullundur are practically complete. They will probably commence in Multan in October next, while in Ambala and Dera Ghazi Khan they will be in full progress. The main increase in the estimate for 1917-18 is on account of the Thal Survey which it is hoped will be undertaken.”

The Hon'ble Mr. Thompson :—“ In introducing the budget head 18—General Administration I have nothing to add to the remarks made at page 114 of the Financial Memorandum.”

The Hon'ble Mr. Craik :—“ Your Honour, I beg leave to introduce the revenue heads IX—Forests, X—Registration, XVI-A—Law and Justice, Courts of Law, XVI-B—Law and Justice, Jails, and XVII—Police, and the corresponding expenditure heads 11, 12, 19-A, 19-B and 20.

“ In doing so I propose to mention a few topics of general interest regarding the administration of the departments in question and not to confine myself to their purely financial aspect.

“ In regard to Registration and Courts of Law, I do not think I have anything to add to what is stated in the Memorandum.

[*Mr. Craik.*]

" FORESTS—IX AND 11.

" As regards Forests, this is a paying department, yielding in the current year a net income of about Rs. 6 lakhs to Government. On the revenue side the Jallo resin factory is expected to produce an income of Rs. 76,000 more than was originally anticipated owing to higher prices and an increased output. The Punjab resin is reported to be distinctly better in quality than that produced in the United Provinces and our local factory is now working at the highest possible pressure. The factory, by the way, is only 12 miles by a road from Lahore, and if any Hon'ble Members care to visit it, I can assure them that they will see much to interest them.

" In the budget for next year it will be observed that provision is made for a considerable extension of departmental agency in the forests of the Kangra and Rawalpindi Divisions. This of course involves an expansion of establishment, but the policy is one that is bound to be financially profitable to Government in the long run.

" I foresee the time at no far distant date when the forest department will bulk much more largely in our Provincial Budget both on the expenditure and on the receipt sides. In our hill forests especially we have an asset of great potential value, but in order to realise and increase this value we must greatly extend and improve our methods of extracting produce. There are large tracts of forest at present incapable of being worked by reason of their inaccessibility that contain stores of timber, not only lying idle but actually deteriorating and encumbering the ground by preventing normal reproduction in the shape of a healthy growth of young trees. Much of this timber has been steadily deteriorating for 2 centuries or more and should be removed and replaced by young growth. But before this timber can be extracted in anything like the quantities required we must open up access to the forests by improved communications and must devise special mechanical means for the carriage of logs and for converting them into marketable form. These operations, if Government is to get the full value of its property, should be carried out by Government agency and there can be no doubt that the personnel of the Forest department will require very large additions to its strength. But one can say with confidence that expenditure on these objects will be an excellent investment, for in our vast State forests are perhaps one of the most important industrial assets of India.

" JAILS—XVI-B AND 19-A.

" Turning to Jails, heads XVI-B and 19-A, the most interesting feature of the year has been the extent to which the Punjab Jail department has been able to assist the military authorities.

" I daresay Hon'ble Members will like to hear some details of this.

" In the first place the Montgomery central jail has undertaken to supply 18,000 blankets for Army purposes and I believe most of them have now been actually delivered. Our jail looms could turn out a very large quantity of blankets were they not hampered by the inadequate supply of yarn, which is only procurable from the Dhariwal Mills.

" In order to increase the output from these mills, which is at present restricted by shortage of labour, a camp jail has just been started at Dhariwal and more than 200 youths from the Borstal central jail are now employed in spinning yarn for the mills. The Manager of the Mills has expressed his satisfaction with the quality of their work.

" In June last the Army Department began to make demands for convict labour for purposes subsidiary to the military operations in Mesopotamia. The first call was for sweepers, and in a few days our jails raised a scavengers

[*Mr. Crail.*]

corps nearly 400 strong. Next we were asked for a porter corps for work on the Basra landing stages, and in the middle of October a battalion 872 strong was despatched. The detail was 800 porters, 64 convict officials and 8 warders. A week later we sent off a complete labour corps of 1,179 men, including a number of blacksmiths, masons and carpenters and the necessary staff of clerks, cooks, blishtis and sweepers.

" Last month we sent out over 600 men as reinforcements to these two corps, bringing up the total number of men hitherto despatched to Mesopotamia to 3,074. In addition we have large drafts ready for despatch as reinforcements, as well as a corps of 250 dhobis, a syce company 136 strong and 76 artisans. All these will bring the total contribution from Punjab convict labour up to nearly 4,000 men. Recruitment for these units has been purely voluntary and all recruits had to pass a strict medical examination. There was a general keenness to enlist which is not surprising considering that satisfactory service carries with it remission of sentence, but only well behaved prisoners with comparatively short terms to serve were eligible. The result is a fine body of men, I mean in a physical sense, as I cannot answer for their morals. But there is strong reason to hope that this opportunity of honourable and manly service under military discipline and the knowledge that they are really helping their country will restore the moral sense and self-respect of many who might otherwise have become hardened criminals, particularly the juvenile prisoners from the Borstal jail who enlisted in large numbers.

" I think Hon'ble Members will agree that the raising and organization of these various units reflect the greatest credit on the Inspector-General of Prisons and his officers. All the work had to be done at express speed. As an instance of Major Ward's resource I may quote the case of the dhobi corps. The total demand of the Army Department was, if I recollect rightly, for 600 men. At the time I think there were less than 40 men of the dhobi caste in the Punjab jails, but within a few days Major Ward had taught other convicts the rudiments of the art of washing and had raised enough men to satisfy more than half of the total demand.

" One satisfactory point in connection with these corps is the relief that their departure has afforded to the pressure on our jail accommodation, which for some time past has been severely strained. It will also of course relieve Provincial finances of the cost of maintaining these 4,000 prisoners.

" POLICE—XVII AND 20.

" The police is of course one of the great spending departments of the administration, the gross cost being in the present year 65½ lakhs as against a revenue of only a little over 2½ lakhs. The saving of nearly 5 lakhs anticipated during the current year reflects the large decrease in crime. This in turn may be ascribed to the practical disappearance of political unrest in the central Punjab under the influence of the measures taken to cope with it (and I think I may add the loyal co-operation of the people with the authorities), the activity of the police in rounding up suspicious characters and taking vigorous action under the security sections of the Criminal Procedure Code, and the revival and expansion of the *thikri-pahra* and *nakobandi* systems. Murders, dacoities, burglaries and thefts all show a substantial and satisfactory decline,—a result for which the officers of the force, both European and Indian, deserve commendation. I take this opportunity of expressing on behalf of Government its high appreciation of the work of the police force during the year, particularly in dealing with the revolutionary movement. The work of the Criminal Investigation Department seldom comes before the public. Much of it is performed in circumstances of great difficulty and danger, but as a single instance of its value I may refer to the extremely interesting evidence in regard to German intrigues in India and the Far East given in the recent conspiracy trial in

[Mr. Craik.]

Lahore. As regards the district executive force it is one of my official duties to read the records of a large number of murder cases, and I have frequently been struck, and I have no doubt that Your Honour will endorse my remark, with the high percentage of cases in which the investigating officer has displayed detective ability of a very high order.

"The saving of nearly five lakhs is the more noticeable, as with effect from the beginning of the current year (*i.e.*, from 1st April 1916) the pay of Constables and Head Constables was substantially increased. Constables now start on Rs. 10 per mensem, rising to Rs. 11 after 3 years' service, Rs. 12 after 10 years and Rs. 13 after 17 years. Head Constables have been divided into four grades receiving respectively Rs. 15, Rs. 17-8-0, Rs. 20 and Rs. 25 per mensem. The total annual cost of these changes is calculated at Rs. 4,69,314, but against this must be set off a saving of Rs. 2,26,282 due to reductions in the establishment of the force which are being gradually carried out. In all 34 Inspectors, 42 Sub-Inspectors, and 842 Constables will eventually come under reduction, while 117 Head Constables will be added to the permanent establishment.

CRIMINAL TRIBES.

"In the budget for 1917-18 the most interesting feature under this head is the provision of Rs. 2,30,000 for the reclamation of the criminal tribes. This item has since been reduced by half a lakh owing to the deterioration of the financial position due to the failure of the winter rains. Hon'ble Members may care to hear some particulars of this important scheme of social reform, which is now under the consideration of the Government of India. We hope eventually to establish a large reformatory settlement at Amritsar, a boys' school at Khanna in Ludhiana District, some dozen industrial settlements at various places, and about 9 or 10 agricultural settlements, the latter for the most part in the Lower Bari Doab colony where land has been reserved for the purpose. The idea is that the best behaved families who are likely to take kindly to agriculture will be sent to the agricultural settlements, where with careful supervision they should eventually become prosperous and decent citizens. Others with no aptitude for agriculture will be drafted to industrial settlements where they will be taught simple trades and handicrafts, such as carpentry, weaving, basket making and so forth. The worst cases, including those who prove a failure in agricultural and industrial settlements, will go to the reformatory settlement at Amritsar, where discipline will be strict and insubordination or idleness will be severely checked. Here they will have to stay till they show signs of reformation.

"Various philanthropic societies have offered to supervise certain of the settlements, and these offers Government have gladly accepted. I may mention the Salvation Army, the Arya Samaj, various Muhammadan Anjumans and the Ahmadiya Society of Kadian in Gurdaspur District.

"All this is, however, so far in the air, though we hope that a start on a limited scale will be made shortly. Eventually we expect to spend in all some Rs. 4 lakhs in initial expenditure, to be spread over a period of three or four years, while the recurring expenditure including the cost of a Deputy Commissioner on special duty for general supervision will be somewhere in the neighbourhood of Rs. 1½ lakhs annually. Meanwhile the Government of India have sanctioned the immediate starting of an industrial settlement at Dhariwal, where as I have already mentioned there is a serious shortage of labour which handicaps the mills in the outturn of yarn and other military requirements of an urgent nature. This will not involve Government in any expenditure save a small monthly charge for supervision as the New Egerton Woollen Mills is meeting the entire cost.

[Mr. Craik ; Mr. Aikman.]

"As Hon'ble Members are probably aware we have lately taken measures to register and restrict under the Act of 1911 the wandering criminal gangs of the Province. There has recently been a considerable influx of these obnoxious immigrants into the Punjab from the United Provinces, and the adolescent or adult male members of the gangs now number probably somewhere about 7,000. A substantial proportion of these are criminals with one or more previous convictions, and I do not think it is an exaggeration to say that nearly all of them are spasmodically addicted to pilfering in more serious forms of crimes. They have now been registered and their movements have been restricted to the limits of the police stations in which they are found. This of itself has had an excellent effect in reducing their opportunities for successful crime, but the full benefits of this measure will not be attained till we have a reformatory and other settlements to which we can remove such of the gangs as do not settle down to steady and honest labour of their own accord. The settled criminal tribes will soon be tackled on similar lines."

The Hon'ble Mr. Aikman :—"Your Honour, the great reduction of expenditure during the past two and-a-half years in consequence of the war has seriously hindered development in the execution of Public Works charged to head 45."

The budgetted expenditure under pre-war conditions in 1914-15 was	...	...	...	82 lakhs.
Owing to the outbreak of war this was reduced to an expenditure of	...	...	...	70 "
Next year it was further reduced to	...	...	...	52 "
And this year the estimated expenditure is only	...	...	...	40 "

These figures show, neglecting normal expansion, that a reduction of over 80 lakhs has taken place under this head during the 2½ years of war.

"Owing to the healthy state of Provincial revenues a more liberal budget grant of 5½ and-a-half lakhs is proposed for next year. This will render it possible to put in hand a fair number of long delayed and urgent original works."

"I anticipate that there will be delays in completing some of these works next year owing to the inability of the Home Stores Department to meet indents for necessary materials, and also owing to the depletion of stocks of such materials held by private firms in India."

"As an example of such unavoidable delays there is the Grain Elevator at Lyallpur the completion of which is held in abeyance pending the receipt of the necessary machinery from England. Further, even if the machinery were received and erected it could not be worked as the motive power is to be drawn from the electrical mains of the municipality, and that scheme cannot be started as no electrical plant is procurable at the present time."

"With regard to irrigation : the statement handed to me by the Chief Engineer of the Irrigation Branch commences as follows :—

'The Triple Canals have been practically completed and the Project Estimate will be closed this financial year.'

"These are the modest words with which he would have me announce to Your Honour and to the Hon'ble Members of this Council the successful completion of one of the greatest and boldest irrigation projects ever conceived. We are told not to hide our light under a bushel, but it looks as if the Irrigation Department were trying to hide its light not under one but under the many millions of bushels which this great project will add annually to the food supply of the world."

[Mr. Aikman.]

"These canals irrigated an area of 1,060,000 acres during the year against only 840,000 acres irrigated last year, and they will eventually irrigate nearly two millions acres. Taking an average crop at 10 maunds per acre and the average value at Rs. 3 per maund the annual value of the crops raised by this project will be 6 crores of rupees.

"As it has been decided to abandon the construction of the Shahpur Branch, the Project Estimate of the Lower Jhelum Canal will now also be closed from 1st April.

"Investigations and surveys in connection with the Bhakra Dam Project for storing the water of the Sutlej are in hand and are expected to be completed during the ensuing year.

"A scheme for storing the water of the Jhelum by a barrage near the Wolar Lake outfall is under consideration in consultation with the Kashmir Darbar.

"Surveys are also being carried out for the Sindh-Sagar Canal Project for irrigation of the Thal from the Indus River.

"The Hydro-Electric Scheme at Amritsar is far advanced, the Central Canal Workshops are now driven by the electric power generated at the canal fall and some of the tube wells are at work replacing flow irrigation with water pumped from the sub-soil.

"The Sutlej Valley Irrigation Project is being re-cast as desired by the Government of India.

"Under the head XXIX—Irrigation, Major Works, the direct receipts realised during the past year (1915-16) amounted to Rs. 2,38,00,000 compared with Rs. 2,65,50,000 anticipated during the current year. The Budget Estimate for current year was put at Rs. 2,55,00,000 only, but the year has proved to be an exceptionally good one for kharif irrigation, and the latest reports show that there will be an increase of at least Rs. 10,50,000 over the Budget Estimate. The estimate for 1917-18 has been fixed at Rs. 2,71,00,000. This is a normal estimate and allows only for expansion of irrigation on the Triple Canals which are now all open.

"XXIX—Major Works—Indirect Receipts. These credits continue to show a steady improvement. The current year's Revised Estimate is Rs. 7,00,000 better than the Budget Estimate, as the drop in land revenue, anticipated this time last year, has not taken place and the figure has been raised on the latest reports received. The Budget Estimate has been fixed at Rs. 1,22,00,000 which is Rs. 13,00,000 more than the current year's Revised Estimate. There is nothing abnormal in this estimate as it only allows for an increase on the Triple Canals, where the credits have been calculated from the rabi area irrigated to end of December 1916 and the estimated kharif area for 1917. The calculations have been made carefully and the figures proposed constitute a moderate estimate.

"Under '42—Major Works—Working Expenses' the total expenditure excluding 'Interest on Debt' for the current year is now estimated at Rs. 1,04,15,000, against a Budget Estimate of Rs. 1,03,00,000. This increase was required chiefly to meet the cost of special repairs to canal banks which were badly damaged by last year's heavy monsoon. The establishment charges on the new canals were slightly under-estimated and had to be raised to keep pace with the expansion of irrigation. The Budget Estimate for 1917-18 has been put at Rs. 1,00,96,000 which is lower than the current year's estimate. The decrease is due mainly to the completion of the River Training Works at Khanki on the Lower Chenab Canal where heavy expenditure has been incurred during the current and past years. Strict economy and the postponement of all but urgent works have also contributed towards this decrease.

[Mr. Aikman ; Mr. Godley.]

"The climatic conditions for the rabi crop of 1915-16 were not good. The winter rains failed almost completely. The canal supply reached a minimum on all the rivers in the Province. The demand for canal water was intense. Though the number of waterings had to be considerably reduced yet careful and equitable distribution matured a fairly good crop on an exceptionally large area.

"During kharif 1916 the monsoon was remarkably good. The rain was general and well distributed, and it was possible with its aid to sow and mature a record canal irrigated kharif area.

"In 1914-15 the area irrigated in the Province was 8.96 millions acres and in 1916-17 it was 8.89 millions acres. In 1916-17 the area irrigated is approximately 9.08 millions acres, an increase of 120,000 acres over the previous maximum.

"With these few remarks, Your Honour, I introduce, so far as the Public Works are concerned, heads XXIX, XXX and XXXI and their corresponding heads on the expenditure side."

The Hon'ble Mr. Godley :—"The main features of the Educational estimates have been explained in the Finance Member's Memorandum, and I do not think that I can add further explanations without going into details which would tax the patience of the Council. Under receipts from fees an increase has been allowed for which is chiefly owing to the extension of the Lawrence School at Ghoragali, where new buildings have been erected. On the expenditure side an increase of 3½ lakhs over the budget for 1916-17 has been provided. Half of this is due to an unforeseen addition—a grant of Rs. 1,75,000 from Imperial revenues for the improvement of the pay and training of teachers—which will be generally admitted to be an excellent object. The other half consists of normal increases, chiefly under grants to local bodies and aided institutions. The cost of inspection and of training teachers has expanded with the increase of schools, while the rise of expenditure on scholarships is due to the growth of female education, scholarships being awarded to girls at school in proportion to their numbers. No instructions having been received as to the spending of the Imperial grant, it is impossible to say at present how it can be utilized in the coming year. With regard to the question of salaries, the case of teachers in Government, board, and aided private institutions would have to be considered separately. For Government schools we want not merely an enhancement of the existing rates of pay in the various grades, but an increase in the number of posts in the higher grades, so as to open up reasonable prospects of promotion, and also to make it possible for each school to have more trained graduates on its staff. Similarly, in aided secondary schools there is a need of increasing the number of posts which will attract men of good University qualifications, and the question how to secure this by new grants would involve a reconsideration of the grant-in-aid system now in force: it might be found necessary, for instance, to fix a minimum scale of posts and salaries for each class of school receiving aid. In the case of board schools a revision of the scales of pay, which vary greatly from district to district and do not always ensure a flow of promotion, would have to be undertaken in consultation with the local bodies concerned. In order to effect this improvement by means of grants, it would probably be necessary to return to the system of apportioning grants to the boards on the basis of the salaries paid to teachers, instead of giving them a fixed sum for each new school opened, as is done at present. I mention these points merely in order to illustrate the difficulty, which is not always realized, of spending an Imperial grant at short notice and so as to attain the object for which it was given in the most economical and effective manner. We are fortunate, under war conditions, to have the benefit of an extra grant, which is as welcome as it was unexpected."

[Mr. Townsends ; Rai Bahadur Bakhshi Sohan Lal.]

The Hon'ble Mr. Townsends :—“ Your Honour,—I am responsible for Receipt Head No. 21-A, Expenditure Head No. 26-A, and that part of Industries which comes under No. 26-B. I will only say a few words because the Finance Member's Memorandum gives the details of expenditure that any particular Hon'ble Member may wish. In the first place, I wish to thank him for the sympathy which I always receive, and I think the whole of the Punjab are very grateful to the Government of India for this large sum of money we are going to get for the wheat crops. I wish to enter a word of warning, and that is, I think this large sum of money should not be spent in one year, and I hope the Finance Member will not insist on this being done. If we are going to get as much as we can for it, we should take at least two years to spend it.

“ The Hon'ble Mr. Godley has just now explained the difficulty which is often experienced in expending Imperial grants in a short time if we are to get their full value. In this connection I may say that if Hon'ble Members would like to send in any suggestions on which they think a great portion of this large sum of money should be spent, I shall be very glad to consider them, though I do not in the least say we shall comply with them, but I shall be very glad to consider them.

“ I think most Hon'ble Members of this Council are aware of the principal activities of the department. I need only mention the popularity of our American cotton which is, I think, booming in the colonies and of Punjab wheat, both of which we find give very considerable outturns per acre. Our expenditure is always greater than our income, but I think there is no department in this Province which adds more considerably to the welfare of its inhabitants than does the Agricultural Department. (*Applause*).

“ Finally, I have only to add that I should like to ask Hon'ble Members of the present Council to be my guests at Lyallpur one day when I shall be happy to explain the working of our College and of the Department.”

RESOLUTION *RE* ESTABLISHMENT OF AN EXECUTIVE COUNCIL IN THE PUNJAB.

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Bakhshi Sohan Lal :—“ Your Honour,—The resolution which I have the honour to move in this Council runs as follows :—

‘ That this Council recommends to His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor that he may be pleased to move the Government of India for the establishment of an Executive Council in the Punjab at the close of the war.’

“ Your Honour, it is not the very first time that a question of an Executive Council for the Punjab has been brought before this Council. Already a widespread feeling in favour of the question exists through all sections of the community in the Province ; and this question came up before this Council in the budget meeting of 1914 and again in the budget meeting of 1915, though in a different form. Four Hon'ble Members expressed their valuable opinions in the meeting of 1914, and they were strongly in favour of the suggestion which I had then made. Two of them happily are still among us in this Council,—I mean my Hon'ble friends Sardar Bahadur Sardar Gajjan Singh and Khan Bahadur Khawaja Yusuf Shah. The circumstances of the Province have not changed since April 1914, and I presume both Sardar Bahadur Sardar Gajjan Singh and the Hon'ble Khawaja Yusuf Shah still maintain the same opinions and will support me. The other two speakers—the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Mian Muhammad Shafi and the distinguished Judge and

[*Rai Bahadur Bakhshi Sohan Lal.*]

eminent jurist and lawyer, who knows the Punjab as well as the foremost Punjabis do, I mean the venerable Dr. Sir P. C. Chatterjee—are not now among us on this Council, but their opinions are also on record. Both of these Hon'ble gentlemen heartily lent the weight of their vast experience and authority to the proposal in 1914 and are, to my mind, as keen about it to-day as they were in 1914. I beg to assure Your Honour that myself and the other four Members who spoke on this question three years ago were merely giving expression to the widespread demand for the establishment of an Executive Council which already existed in the mind of the thoughtful part of the public of this Province. The demand is genuine and the necessity of its establishment is keenly felt by representative and cultured members of all classes inhabiting this Province, just as it is felt by those belonging to the other Provinces of India. I may also be permitted to state that the best official opinion of modern times is also in favour of Council Government as compared with one-man Government, and I quote here the deliberate opinion of our beloved *ex-Viceroy*, Lord Hardinge, to which he gave expression in the meeting of the Imperial Council held at Delhi on the 25th March 1915.

“ Lord Hardinge observed :—

‘ No body can reasonably contend that, with the advance of civilization entailing the discussion and solution of new questions of ever-increasing complexity arising every day, one-man Government is better than Council Government. The principle of Executive Councils for Local Governments, by which the local administration is less dependent upon the personal equation, and which ensures a greater continuity of policy, has already taken root in India and cannot now be eradicated. Moreover, the inclusion of an Indian gentleman in the Council of a Province is, to my mind, a source of strength to the Governor or Lieutenant-Governor.’

“ I do not think, in the face of this public announcement by the Viceroy in the Imperial Council, it can still be maintained that in the Punjab one-man Government is better than Council Government or that the inclusion of an Indian gentleman in the Punjab Council is not to be a source of strength to the Lieutenant-Governor.

“ If we have a rapid glance over the pages of history, we shall find that thousands of years ago it was in the Punjab itself that the old Aryans laid the foundations of their empire which, in later years, spread beyond the confines of India, and that the Government even in those ancient days was constituted of the assemblies or councils of ministers to administer different branches of the Government.

“ In a slab inscription Queen Lilavati proclaimed :—‘ By creating a council of wise, brave and faithful ministers she had freed her own kingdom from the dangers to which it was exposed by other kingdoms.’ Such was the state of affairs under Hindu rule. With the advent of the Musalman conquerors conditions changed, but, evidently, for a comparatively short period, for we find that Akbar the Great had among his trusted ministers Raja Todar Mal, of immortal fame in revenue administration, whose system endures to this day. He had his home in the district of Lahore. Though the dust of ages has covered the names of many other councillors of Muhammadan rulers, yet it can hardly be denied that Hindu councillors did serve and help the Muhammadan rulers for centuries with loyalty, devotion and distinction.

[*Rai Bahadur Bakhshi Sohan Lal.*]

" Years rolled by, and Maharaja Ranjit Singh became the ruler of the Punjab and we find him surrounded by a council of persons of great statesmanship and administrative capacity, selected from amongst the children of the soil.

" Your Honour, it is not by fortuitous chance that men like Raja Dina Nath, Hakim Noor Din and Diwan Sawan Mal are produced during the nineteenth century—a fact which proves beyond doubt that the people of the Punjab have ample avenues open to them, giving them full scope for their capacity in the art of government, and their advice was most useful whenever it was availed of.

" The present system of administration in a Province of India puts much too great a burden on one man, and every ruler is not blessed with the insight and power of quick and correct judgment which we sometimes find in individual heads of administration. At present the Lieutenant-Governor of an Indian Province (excepting Bihar, where an Executive Council exists) has no councillors in the real sense of the word to advise him in matters which, in the nature of things, must come up daily for consideration and disposal. The Legislative Council meets after long intervals for legislation only, and we all know that the powers of its Members are so limited. This point and some others in addition are well brought out in the Report of the Decentralization Commission to which I would for a moment invite your attention by quoting the following words on the question of Executive Council for a Provincial Government:—

' The question was debated by the Government of India and by the India Council in 1867-68, when the weakness of the then Government of Bengal had been apparent in regard to the Orissa famine, and the Secretary of State had suggested, as a possible remedy, the administration of the Province by a Governor in Council, after the model of Bombay and Madras. The resulting discussions were published. On the side of a Governor in Council system were Sir Bartle Frere, Sir Henry Maine and Sir William Grey, himself Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, while against it was the then Viceroy, Lord Lawrence, whose most weighty support came from Sir W. Muir. The latter, however, admitted that a Lieutenant-Governor was not in so favourable a position as a Governor in Council for devolution of powers by the Government of India. Where (he said) the whole power of government rests in a single individual, it is never safe to relax a certain measure of oversight. For however good a thing it is to have the personal activity and responsibility proper to individual action, you are at the same time liable to personal idiosyncracies, to an overzeal or activity in some particular direction, and, sometimes (but this rarely) to remissness or unwillingness to grapple with some special question, or perhaps to neglect altogether some special department. Therefore, a certain degree of control is indispensable. With the development of administration in all its branches, the growth of important industrial interests, the spread of education and political aspirations, and the growing tendency of the public to criticize the administration, and to appeal to the highest executive tribunals, the Lieutenant-Governors of the larger Provinces are clearly over-burdened. We have had no evidence that the Members of the Council Governments of Madras and Bombay have too little to do; on the contrary, the complaint is that these Local Governments are overloaded with work which might be got rid of by devolution of powers.

[*Rai Bahadur Bakhshi Sohan Lal.*]

'The advantages of the establishment of a Council Government are that it affords:—

- (i) Provision for suitable distribution of work, and relief to the head of the Province.
- (ii) Greater continuity of policy, collective consideration of important questions, increased public confidence and consequently less necessity for outside official control.
- (iii) Greater efficiency of the Provincial Governments in relation to their Legislative Council.

'We desire to add that this expansion of Provincial Executive Councils would also permit of the strengthening of the administration by the inclusion of specially qualified natives of India.'

'The above was supplemented by the Right Hon'ble Mr. Hobhouse, the Chairman of the Commission, in the following words in the course of a speech in the House of Commons:—'An Executive Council gives the chance and I don't think it ought to have or needs more than a chance for the continuity of policy in Provincial Government which the executive authority of the Lieutenant-Governor cannot possibly afford. The Governor passes away and his successor arrives with totally different views on all sorts of questions of local importance: but if he arrives not as a single autocrat—however benevolent or well intentioned—but as one of the most important of three or four colleagues, he receives, and is glad to receive, an indication of the policy of his predecessor and the reason for which he considered it necessary or desirable to carry out that policy.'

'After reading to you this extract from the Report of the Royal Commission, I shall take up the question whether, in view of the progress made by the Punjab without a Council Government, it is at all necessary to have an Executive Council here, and, secondly, whether the fact of having a large population alone would justify the establishment of an Executive Council and not otherwise. With the greatest deference, I venture to submit that the progress made by the Punjab is because of the enterprise and sturdy manliness and resourcefulness of her sons combined. Moreover, a bountiful providence has also, in some respects, placed us, the people of the Punjab, in a better position than the people of the other Provinces of the Indian Empire. We have more of natural resources at our command and generally a better climate. The physical build and stamina of the Punjabis, their habits, manners and customs if not superior to those of the people of the rest of India are not in any way inferior. It is those natural and social advantages again which have in no small measure enabled the Punjab to move faster than several other Provinces in the educational progress within the short space of 40 years that English education has caught the popular fancy. The general standard of progress is comparatively so high that we find the agriculturists of the Punjab far ahead of those in the other Provinces. Your Honour, it cannot be by a mere fortuitous concurrence of circumstances that the Punjabis saved their existence, their honour and eventually their land from the countless hordes of marauders from across the Frontier for a thousand years. It was their superior calibre which stood them in good stead so long, and it is the same superior calibre now that, under the protecting ægis of the British Raj, enables them to beat their comrades of the other Provinces. There was a time not far off—a time quite within the memory of men of my age—when most of the Indian officers in the Indian side of the public service were either Bengalis or outsiders from some other Province. But what do we now find in the Indian branches of the service in the Punjab? The educated Punjabis are coming up and fast replacing outsiders, and if we go to other Provinces, we will hardly find any

[*Rai Bahadur Bakhshi Sohan Lal ; Khan Sahib Ikram Ullah Khan.*]

town of importance where a Punjabi has not won his way to eminence. Our soldiers, our doctors, our overseers, our engineers, our foresters, our policemen, and last but not least our traders have spread out far and wide even beyond the confines of India. This is only because of the superior habits, manners and mode of life of the people of the Punjab, and it is this fact which led a shrewd observer like the late Sir Syed Ahmed to style our people as the *Zinda dillan-i-Punjab*. It is this phase of our character which has exalted us under the guidance of our British benefactors. Now as to the question of population and area as being the determining factors in the establishment of an Executive Council. In point of area, Bihar, Orissa and Chota Nagpur combined are smaller than the Punjab and the Province of Bombay excluding Sind is also less in area and the whole Presidency about equal to us in population. It will therefore appear that immensity of population is no argument for the establishment of an Executive Council. To my mind, the complexity of problems confronting the administrator's mind in the Punjab demands that an Executive Council be established here, at an early date.

"In the end I may be permitted to draw attention to the recent debate in the Imperial Legislative Council, raised by the Hon'ble Dr. Tej Bahadur Sapru *re* the question of the establishment of an Executive Council for the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh, and to the announcement made by the Hon'ble Sir Reginald Craddock to the effect that the Government of India have unanimously recommended to the Secretary of State that, as soon as war conditions permit, an Executive Council be granted to the United Provinces. It is hoped that the Secretary of State for India will accept the unanimous recommendation of the Government of India and ere long an Executive Council will be established in those Provinces. What is about to be granted to the United Provinces cannot reasonably be withheld from the Punjab. It has been fully demonstrated, and is, in fact, admitted on all hands, that the Punjab is a Province greater in importance, more advanced in education, possessing larger trade and commerce, and last but not least having a better record of loyal and devoted services to the Empire. Therefore, the administrative machinery of this Province should in no way be behind that of the sister Province of Agra and Oudh. The need for the establishment of an Executive Council in the Punjab has, therefore, become all the more pressing and the case in support of it is irresistibly stronger, and I have every hope that Your Honour's Government will lay the people of this Province under a deep debt of gratitude by accepting the resolution, which I have the honour and privilege of moving to-day in this Council. Your Honour's Government has already endeared itself to the people of this Province by getting the sanction of the Secretary of State for the extension of the Legislative Council and for the establishment of a High Court in the Punjab as soon as war conditions permit; and we all hope that, before Your Honour lays down the reins of the high office which you hold with such distinction and success, Your Honour will have granted this further boon to the Punjabis whose interests are so dear to your heart.

"With these few remarks I lay the resolution above recited for the favourable consideration and support of this Council."

The Hon'ble Khan Sahib Ikram Ullah Khan :— "Your Honour,—I have only to say a few words in support of the resolution. The necessity for the Executive Council in each Province has already been admitted and there is no use in my discussing the point. Suffice it to say that the Executive Council in the Punjab is as necessary as the High Court for the administration of British justice. The High Court has been sanctioned and the Executive Council is wanted. It is a great desideratum. There is no doubt that the Executive Council will be given to us sooner or

[*Khan Sahib Ikram Ullah Khan; The President.*]

later. Then why not give us sooner than later? All other sister Provinces in India have got it and there seems to me no reason for withholding it from the Punjab unless it is a non-regulation Province or backward Province. I do not quite understand in which respect it is a non-regulation Province. If it is, it is a stigma on the name of the Punjab and the sooner it is removed the better. If it is a backward Province, I would like to ask in which respect it is backward? Is it backward in education than the United Provinces or Bihar and Orissa? Is it backward in agriculture when it exports the largest proportion of wheat to England and other countries? Is it backward in trade while the port of Karachi depends mainly on this Province? Is it backward in paying its revenue? Compare its percentage with Bihar and the United Provinces. Is it backward in laying its blood for the King Emperor and the Empire? If our Province is not backward in these respects, then in which respect is it backward? On the other hand, I can emphatically say that the Punjab is the most forward Province. Its children have made up 61 per cent. of the whole Indian Armies which are at the front to lay down their lives for the defence of the Empire. It is forward also in all other respects. Take, for instance, the question of appointment of female Sanitary Inspectors in the United Provinces. The people make objection for those females to go into their houses. Send them into any house in the Punjab and then compare which Province is backward in grasping the elements of education and sanitation.

"With due deference to Your Honour's rule, it is very necessary that we should have an Executive Council."

His Honour the President :—"Perhaps it will help the further course of discussion of this subject if I rise at this stage to explain what the attitude of Government is. The attitude of Government towards this resolution is one of strict neutrality. Government will neither support the resolution, nor oppose it, and if the resolution is pressed to a division, Official Members will not vote one way or the other. The Council will, perhaps, like me briefly to explain the reasons for this attitude.

"The reasons are that the proposal is a very momentous one, involving far-reaching constitutional changes in the system of Provincial Government. The further reason is that the decision as to the necessities of this far-reaching change does not rest with the Local Government, but with a superior authority. As an illustration of that, I might quote to the Council the special safeguards and the special provisions with which the introduction of the Council system in a Province with a Lieutenant-Governor is safeguarded in the Government of India Act. Section 55 of the Government of India Act runs as follows :—

'The Governor-General in Council, with the approval of the Secretary of State in Council, may by notification create a Council in any Province under a Lieutenant-Governor, for the purpose of assisting the Lieutenant-Governor in the executive Government of the Province, and by such notification make provision for determining what shall be the number (not exceeding four) and qualifications of the Members of the Council :

'Provided—(I am omitting irrelevant clauses)—that, before any such notification is published, a draft thereof shall be laid before each House of Parliament for not less than sixty days during the session of Parliament, and if, before the expiration of that time, an address is presented to His Majesty by either House of Parliament against the draft or any part thereof, no further proceedings shall be taken thereon, without prejudice to the making of any new draft.

[*The President.*]

' Every notification under this section shall be laid before both Houses of Parliament as soon as may be after it is made.'

" That explains the machinery by which an Executive Council in a Province under a Lieutenant-Governor can be constituted. The Council is aware that His Excellency the Viceroy in opening the Imperial Legislative Council proceedings on the 7th of February last remarked that on the question of post-war reforms the Government of India have made certain proposals to the Secretary of State. He also made it known that though those post-war reforms from the point of view of India were of considerable moment, His Majesty's Government were at the present time occupied and will continue to be occupied with even more momentous questions relating to the war than the question of constitutional reforms, and that an answer to the reference made by the Government of India could not be expected at an early date. Personally I am not in a position to say whether the proposals which have been made by the Government of India to the Secretary of State cover this question for the grant of an Executive Council in the Punjab or other Provinces in which such Councils do not exist. But in any case I may say that the Hon'ble Members will understand that while Government welcomes this discussion and welcomes the expression of opinion to which it would give rise, the Local Government is not in a position at present to express any decided opinion of its own. There are two reasons. In the first place, the Local Government has not yet arrived at any decided opinion of its own on the point, and, in the second place, even if the Local Government had arrived at such an opinion, the canons of public correspondence in such matters would prevent the Local Government from making public its views on a matter in which the final decision does not rest with the Local Government, but with superior authority. I may amplify these two points a little further. I may say that before arriving at any final decision or any final views of its own, it would be advisable for the Local Government to consult opinion, official as well as non-official, even outside the Council, to supplement the very valuable opinions which would be received from the Members of this Council. It would also be necessary for the Local Government before arriving at any opinion on the subject to obtain information on the system and working of Council Government from other Provinces similarly situated, e.g., Bihar and Orissa, and as to how the machinery works there. It would also be advisable to enquire the exact lines on which the system of Executive Council is to be worked in the United Provinces, in which apparently it is soon being introduced. An enquiry would have to be made on all these points, and finally it would be necessary for the Local Government to examine the cost of the proposed reform and the proposed changes, and also the urgency of this proposal as compared with other proposals, which are still awaiting solution. As I have said, it would be necessary for the Local Government to enquire into all these matters, and the Local Government has not yet been in a position to enquire into them, and therefore the Local Government is not in a position to express any decided opinion as to the merits of this far-reaching constitutional change. In the second place, even when all that enquiry is completed and even if the Local Government has arrived at a definite opinion one way or the other, the Local Government would be debarred from giving expression to that opinion, because the matter is one which, you will have observed from the quotation I made from the Government of India Act, is to be finally settled by the Government of India, the Secretary of State and the Parliament of the United Kingdom, and pending their decision the Local Government must preserve discreet silence as to what its own opinion on the subject may be. I have made these remarks to explain exactly to the Hon'ble Members what the position of Government is. I am sure that they will appreciate it. Government will welcome the discussion and expression of opinion which we

[*Pandit Jawahar Lal, Bhargava.*]

shall hear here to-day and give full consideration to those views as expressing the opinions of those who speak on behalf of various constituencies and who speak with wide experience of public affairs. Government hopes that this discussion will throw light on the subject and it will take an early opportunity of bringing the suggestions under discussion to-day, when they are complete and published, to the notice of the Government of India. More than this I am not in a position to say."

The Hon'ble Pandit Jawahar Lal, Bhargava :—" Your Honour,— Though the attitude which the Government is going to take in this matter has just been expressed by Your Honour, yet as the resolution before the Council is one of supreme importance to the Province, I feel it my duty to offer a few remarks on the subject.

"The Hon'ble Mover has fully dealt with the details and I don't feel the necessity of dwelling on the subject at length, specially as the abstract side of the question is one on which there can be little difference of opinion.

"The formation of an Executive Council has always been regarded as a piece of progressive reform which has been introduced in the other Provinces of India, and the request of the Punjab in seeking Your Honour's recommendation to the Government of India in this connection is not prompted by any hankering after novelty or a desire for mere innovation by way of trying an experiment with a new measure or form of Government.

"The principle and working of the Executive Councils have very well stood the test in the existing Government of the three Presidencies, and the experience of these Councils for a considerable period there and elsewhere has amply demonstrated that they are well suited to Indian conditions. The success which has attended this form of Government in the more favoured Provinces of the vast Indian Continent has paved the way for its extension to the neighbouring Provinces. The different Provinces of the Indian Empire, at one time so widely separated from one another and so differently circumstanced, have, under the British suzerainty, gradually and practically lost their distinctive administrative features, and the various Provinces are trying to assimilate the characteristics of one another so as to form homogeneous parts of an integral whole.

"The efficacy and usefulness of these Councils has further been proved by the same being granted to the newly-constituted Province of Bihar and Orissa which is smaller in dimensions and importance than the Punjab. The recommendations made by His Excellency the Governor-General to the Secretary of State for India in respect of the grant of an Executive Council to the United Provinces of Oudh and Agra furnishes still ampler proof that such extension is deemed necessary in the interests of progressive political reform and good Government.

"Your Honour, the Panjab of to-day is not the Panjab of the time of the advent of the British rule. Seven decades of British Raj have changed the whole aspect of the country. These seven decades have witnessed the transformation of arid and vast jungles into smiling and fertile grain and cotton producing fields, due to the extension of the system of irrigation unparalleled in the world, which has won for the Panjab the name of the 'Granary of the East.' Under the auspices of peace and order—the ever present incidents of British rule—internal and external trades have thrived and progressed by leaps and bounds. The increased produce of the food-stuffs and other articles has opened communications for the Panjab with other countries and, at present, the Panjab can boast of having at its capital the centre of the biggest and longest State managed railway organization in Asia.

[*Pandit Jawahar Lal, Bhargava.*]

" But, by far the greatest change which has transformed the Punjab has come through Western education and contact with institutions of the Western form of Government.

" Besides the educative influence of such institutions as the benign Government was pleased to transplant in the Punjab, the Punjab has been sending a goodly number of youths to foreign countries for education and trade purposes. Unlike other Provinces, progress in this direction is not confined to the educated classes. The sturdy colonist has not lagged behind his brethren in seeking pastures afresh and fields anew for labour and industry. Not only this, but the recent opportunities offered by His Majesty's Government for military service abroad in this great war have brought the Punjabis into more intimate contact with Western life, ideals and institutions.

" Your Honour, it need hardly be pointed out that the Punjab is pre-eminent in political importance also. The army which is largely recruited from its peasantry stands unrivalled in point of bravery and loyalty to the British Crown and the yeoman's service in the cause of the Allies which it has rendered in this worldwide conflagration has won for it the admiration of the whole world.

" The Punjab, though less vocal, has proved to be eminently practical in all affairs concerning civic life. It is ahead of all other Provinces in social reform and other movements requiring public spirit. The diffusion of light and learning and the sustained and different activities in civic, social and religious spheres coupled with the consciousness of its political and commercial importance have led to the formation of a strong public opinion which does not fail to assert itself whenever there is an occasion for it. This public opinion is gaining in strength and volume day by day, and it is bound to exercise the same great influence in the Punjab as it does in the rest of the civilized world. So, Your Honour, all this condition of things is distinctly in favour of an Executive Council.

" In this race of progress, Your Honour, new activities have dawned forth and new aspirations have arisen in the Punjab. The heterogeneous classes and religions are competing with each other, and new interests are gaining force and intensity. The small revenues and the scattered population of by-gone times stand no comparison with the revenues and population of to-day which bid fair to increase more and more. The advancing tide of progress in short has surpassed the most sanguine expectations of everybody, resulting in the growth and ramification of old departments and creation of new ones in the administrative machinery of Government. This all-embracing change in the life-condition of the people has had a corresponding change in the work and responsibilities of the Government whose task is daily becoming more and more onerous and complex. Your Honour, all this progress of the Province must have entailed considerable strain and stress on the brain and energies of the rulers who had to tackle with these varied and endless problems, and most onerous, trying and heavy must have been the charge of duty of Your Honour when, in addition to the ordinary complex and difficult responsibilities of State, the war has brought its peculiar cares and anxieties.

" Your Honour, on the triumphant termination of this war, a new peace war of gigantic proportion will rage between the different countries of the world. I mean the economic struggle, and successful husbanding of the resources of the Punjab, and manipulation of its industrial and commercial activities will be the first and foremost concern of the future heads of Government, which will further involve heavy responsibilities and great cares. Your Honour, the increased and constantly increasing complexities demand the formation of the Executive Council.

[*Pandit Jawahar Lal, Bhargava ; Diwan Bahadur Diwan Daulat Rai.*]

" The Decentralization Commission, as remarked by the Hon'ble Mover, has invited the attention of the responsible authorities to the question of the growth and power of the Provincial Government and its recommendations, and the spirit in which they were conceived lend considerable support to this modest demand of the Punjab.

" While the creation of the Executive Council will lighten the heavy load of cares of the head of the Government by dividing it among his colleagues who will be able to give fuller and more specialised thought to their duties, the Government by the inclusion of Indian Members in it will have the advantage of deriving direct and immediate knowledge of the affairs of the people, the value of which cannot be over-estimated.

" It is true, Your Honour, that this would entail a certain amount of extra expenditure, but the immense good resulting from the adoption of this measure would far outweigh such expense.

" Your Honour, the announcement of the transformation of the Chief Court into the High Court made in Your Honour's time has been hailed with great gratitude by the people of this Province. This contemplated change is calculated to bring the judicial machinery of the Province into line with that of the other Provinces. The distinction between a regulation and non-regulation Province has practically vanished, and this inferiority of our Province in the matter of Executive Council to the other Provinces looks certainly like a spot on the fair name of the Punjab which actually is in no way inferior to any of the other Provinces of India.

" The Punjab knows Your Honour's solicitude for its advancement, and hopes to associate Your Honour's name with another boon in the form of an Executive Council.

" The resolution moved does not ask for any immediate or prompt satisfaction of any demand, but simply requests Your Honour's Government to move the Government of India to grant an Executive Council to the Punjab as one of the reforms which are bound to come after the war.

" With these words I heartily support the resolution moved by the Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Bakhshi Sohan Lal."

The Hon'ble Diwan Bahadur Diwan Daulat Rai :— " Your Honour,— I beg to associate myself with the Hon'ble Members who have spoken in support of the resolution now before the Council.

" The Hon'ble Mover has shown how the position and importance of the Province justifies the demand embodied in the resolution. The last of the major Provinces to come under British Rule, the Punjab, has proved herself to be among the most progressive. In educational activity, in initiating measures of social reform, in religious advance, the Punjab need fear no comparison with any of the sister Provinces. And the importance of the Province as a recruiting ground for the finest armies that the Indian Empire can boast of can hardly be exaggerated. History too has left deep impression on the peoples of this Province, the many communities and races that inhabit it were in their character and constitution the marks of ages of struggle and change. It is a Province at once rich in tradition and determined on progress. That we do not yet possess the full machinery of Government an Executive Council means, is something of an anomaly when we see that the young and recently constituted Province of Bihar and Orissa has been started with the complete governmental equipment of a Lieutenant-Governor with an Executive Council.

" Your Honour, in the famous Durbar Despatch, His Excellency Lord Hardinge thus set forth the ideal of Government for India :— ' a large measure of

[*Diwan Bahadur Diwan Daulat Rai ; Nawab Sir Bahram Khan.*]

self-government under which India would consist of a number of administrations autonomous in all provincial affairs, with the Government of India above them all and possessing power to interfere in cases of misgovernment, but ordinarily restricting their functions to matters of Imperial concern.'

" Sir, in working towards this ideal of provincial autonomy, the establishment of the Executive Councils in Provinces is obviously a necessary step

" An Executive Council affords scope for the practical association of the people of this country in the administration of the country, for it may be regarded as part of the unwritten constitution of these Councils that there be one Indian Member on each Council. And, Your Honour, I venture to think that such association is a double blessing. To the people it is gift of the supreme dignity of self-rule. To the Government it is a genuine source of strength, not only in placing before it first hand the views of the people which must also on any occasion be of the utmost importance, but also inspire the people with confidence and trust and, may I say, affection. The record of the Council form of Government in this country is already too long to admit any question as to its usefulness. Wherever tried it has proved a success, and the success has been pronounced when carried on in the spirit of the great reforms initiated by those two broad-minded Englishmen whose names will always be cherished for their large-hearted sympathy by the people of this country—Lord Minto and Lord Morley.

" Your Honour, in making this demand for an Executive Council all the communities stand together. Hindus and Muhammadans alike in this Province, as in other parts of the country, are united in urging upon the Government this measure of political advance. It is not necessary for me to dilate upon the abstract virtues of this form of Government. It is recognised on all hands that it is a higher and fuller form of Government machinery. To use the words of Lord Hardinge, already quoted by the Hon'ble Member, ' The principle of Executive Councils for Local Governments by which the local administration is less dependant upon the personal equation and which ensures a greater continuity of policy has taken root in India, and cannot now be eradicated.' Government by one man has its advantages ; during any one administration the policy possesses unity, the administration secures despatch. But it could not be said that these and other advantages could weigh against the solid gain in greater deliberation and fuller knowledge, and larger sympathy which the Council Government makes possible.

" Your Honour, one word more before I resume my seat. It is some times said that as long as a province is well administered there is no sense in a demand for a change in the form of administration. Your Honour, that indeed is true in a sense, but the standard of good administration is not a fixed one. Perfect administration must always remain an ideal ; to use the popular phrase, there is always room for improvement. We in this Province are happy in the long series of capable, energetic and sympathetic administrators we have had. Their rule has witnessed without break growth in our prosperity and happiness. In Your Honour we have a ruler whom we all respect, esteem and admire. But this does not interfere with our feelings that association of representatives of the people in the work of Government is a most desirable end, the confidence which that association inspires among the people is a most valuable asset to the Government, and with the increase in the complexities of modern life the deliberative activities of a Council are often of the utmost moment.

" Your Honour, I beg to give my very cordial support to the resolution."

The Hon'ble Nawab Sir Bahram Khan spoke in Urdu, a translation of which is as follows:—

" Your Honour, before I support or oppose the resolution upon to
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"Your Honour, I beg to give my very cordial support to the resolution."

The Hon'ble Nawab Sir Behram Khan spoke in Urdu, a translation of which is as follows:—"Your Honour, Before I support or oppose the resolution moved by my friend the Bakhshi Sahib I deem it my duty to impress upon Your Honour and the Council that it would be a real political mistake to overlook the present circumstances. I cannot deny that I feel the necessity of an Executive Council for the administration of the Punjab after a time, but I consider it inexpedient in the interests of the province to fix a period. No one knows what political changes will take place after the war, and until we know them not only is it a dream, which may end in failure, to say that the Punjab should get an Executive Council but it is also just possible that this thought might also stand in the way of our future progress. I would therefore request my Hon'ble friend that he should not for the present press for the acceptance of the resolution and should wait what turn events take. I am confident that when after the close of the war the requirements of the province are considered, there is every reason that the Government will accede to the reasonable demands of the people. I therefore conclude my speech in the hope that my Hon'ble friend will withdraw his resolution".

[*Sardar Bahadur Sardar Gajjan Singh ; Khan Bahadur Khawaja Yusaf Shah ; Diwan Bahadur Diwan Daulat Rai.*]

The Hon'ble Sardar Bahadur Sardar Gajjan Singh;—" Your Honour, — As stated by the Hon'ble Mover, Rai Bahadur Bakhshi Sohan Lal, I, no doubt, expressed myself in favour of an Executive Council in my budget speech delivered in the Council on 18th April 1914. Those were the times when there was peace in the country and we could devote ourselves with undivided attention to such political reforms. But those times have changed now. The British Empire is engaged in a life and death struggle and is straining every nerve to bring the war to a successful issue as early as possible. In view of the new circumstances created by the present worldwide struggle, I feel constrained to remark that the time chosen by the Hon'ble Mover for the discussion of this resolution is not opportune. The reform asked for in the resolution is of very little importance as compared with the successful termination of the war. I am, therefore, strongly of opinion that we, leaving aside all other considerations, should do everything possible to assist the Government in the vigorous prosecution of the war.

" The Punjab has supplied 61 per cent. recruits to the Indian Army since the outbreak of the war and has made other sacrifices worthy of its loyal traditions, and is no doubt fully prepared to make further sacrifices if so required. Our efforts should not end here, but we should continue assisting the Government in future as we have done in the past. This, in my opinion, is the surest way of earning this and several other reforms.

" I am confident that when the most appropriate time comes Your Honour will see that your Province, which has done so much for the Empire, is granted reforms and concessions with due regard to its sacrifices "

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Khawaja Yusaf Shah :—" Your Honour, — At a time when the Empire is engaged in a gigantic war against an unscrupulous enemy and when, to the credit of this country, domestic controversy has been readily and willingly hushed up till better and happier times return, I am quite surprised to find that my Hon'ble friend has thought fit to move this resolution. It is true that sometimes before the commencement of the war, when the Government of India made a recommendation to the Secretary of State to grant an Executive Council to the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh, at that time some of the Non-Official Members of this Council, I think including myself, alluded in their budget speeches to the desirability of getting a similar boon for the Punjab. The reply which Your Honour gave at that time to this request is in the minutes of this Council. Whether since then conditions of the Punjab have so materially changed and whether those conditions are identical with those of the neighbouring Province, it is for Your Honour to judge, but I am emphatically of opinion that the present is not the time for moving such a resolution, and I would ask the Hon'ble Member to follow the very valuable advice which was given only the other day to the educated classes by His Excellency Lord Willingdon to give up their political activities and join hands with others in gaining a complete victory. Your Honour, we are confident that when peace once again reigns in the world and the Empire comes out victorious—which will be at no distant date—in the struggle in which India, no less than the rest of the Empire, has played an honourable part, Government of their own accord will consider the political aspirations of our fellow-countrymen most sympathetically, and I am sure the Punjab, which has done so much for this war, will not fail to get its due and legitimate share. For the present, in these circumstances, I am not prepared to support the motion."

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Ram Saran Das :—" i :—" Your Honour, — I have a great pleasure in supporting this resolution. There is no necessity for me at this stage to discuss the merits of a Council form of Gov-

[*Diwan Bahadur Diwan Daulat Rai ; Chaudhri Lal Chand.*]

ernment. It has been recommended by the Report of the Royal Commission on Decentralization. It has during the last decade been discussed and re-discussed in the Press as well as in the Legislative Councils. One of the reasons why Indians of all classes favour the introduction of a Council form of Government in all Indian Provinces is that establishment of Executive Councils, as recommended by the Report of the Royal Commission on Decentralization, means the appointment of at least one Indian as a Member of such Council as is the case in the Council of the Secretary of State for India. An Indian Member has been graciously taken on the Viceroy's Executive Council as well. This recommendation has now been fully accepted by the Government, and this privilege is highly prized by the people, for it gives to the people of the soil an opportunity to share to some extent in the administration of the country which is considered by Indians a distinct improvement in their political status. Moreover, when Council form of Government exists in the three older Presidencies of Bombay, Madras and Bengal, when it has been granted to a comparatively backward and new Province like Bihar, when it is unanimously recommended by the Members of the Viceroy's Council for the neighbouring Provinces of Agra and Oudh, I submit the Punjab should also not remain without it. In education the Punjab is admittedly much advanced as compared with Bihar, Orissa, Agra or Oudh. In population it is not smaller than Bombay, while from a military point of view Punjab by itself beats all the Indian Provinces taken together. Your Honour, the establishment of an Executive Council, at least one Member of which is an Indian, signifies on the part of the rulers a great trust in the people. The establishment of such a form of Government in all the major Provinces of India excepting Punjab would convey a very unfortunate impression regarding the people of this Province. I am confident a wide-awake ruler like Your Honour, so well acquainted with Punjabi susceptibilities, will keep intact the honour of the Punjab in the eyes of other Provinces, and I am sure when the United Provinces get an Executive Council, the Punjab, the sword hand of India, will not be left behind and have occasion to feel the humiliation of being dubbed a backward Province—description which she is under no circumstances prepared to admit for herself. With these words, Your Honour, I support the resolution."

The Hon'ble Chaudhri Lal Chand :—" Your Honour,—The principle of Council Government has already been pronounced by the highest authorities to be an unqualified success. It naturally appeals to Indians. The reason is quite obvious. The entry of an Indian into the innermost counsels of Government follows as a natural corollary to the introduction of this system of Government.

"The principle of associating deserving Indians more and more with the real Government of the country has now been accepted by all who desire to see India progress steadily along the path of sound political development. Bombay and Madras have enjoyed this privilege for a long time. Bengal obtained it in 1911. The newly created Province of Bihar was given a Council from the day of its birth. Our brethren across the Jumna are in a fair way to get theirs at no distant date. When one-man rule is replaced by Council Government in the United Provinces, the land of Five Rivers will be the only major Province left without the privilege of a more advanced form of Government. The denial of the Council in the long run would, no doubt, mean a slur to our Province which we Punjabis neither deserve nor relish.

"Under the British *regimé*, the Punjab has made more rapid progress than any other Province of India. Its wonderful system of canal irrigation is promoting its material prosperity by leaps and bounds. The responsibilities of its ruler are growing more numerous, more complex and more onerous, and,

[Chaudhri Lal Chand ; Makhdum Sayad Rajan Shah.]

as time goes on, the head of the Province, however talented, capable and energetic, will find it increasingly difficult to cope effectively with the responsibilities of his office single-handed.

"I could say a good deal more, and would urge that the experiment of Council Government having proved successful in other Provinces is bound to prove so in our Province also. But really my Hon'ble friend might well have waited for this discussion till the end of the war.

"At the present moment the Empire is passing through a crisis and the gigantic war is engaging the attention of both the people and the Government. The case of the Punjab is in some respects a little different from that of other Provinces. The best of our manhood is at the front and the daily casualty telegrams remind us of the necessity of sending more men to take their places. Your Honour, as I have something to do with recruiting myself, I know it as a fact that among the chief military classes, there is hardly a family which has not got one or two of its members in the firing line. In fact, the energies of both the Government and the people are at the present moment directed to that one object, i.e., the bringing of the war to a successful end.

"It may be said that when Punjab is doing so much *khidmat* why should it be denied an equal *izzat* with other sister Provinces. The answer is that if it were a question of denial, I would be the first to resent it. The question is only of time and I only request my Hon'ble friend to defer discussion till the end of the war.

"But for this one reason, the resolution has my entire sympathy and I give it my hearty support."

The Hon'ble Makhdum Sayad Rajan Shah spoke in Urdu, a translation of which is follows :—"Your Honour.—The public opinion of the Punjab on the resolution moved by the Hon'ble Bakhshi Sohan Lal has found expression to such an extent through the Press as well as the public bodies, that it is unnecessary to make any lengthy speech in support of it. In my opinion no elected Member of this Council can oppose this resolution, unless he is prepared at the same time to tell his electors in unequivocal terms that he would neither represent their views nor attach any weight to their opinions.

"Government has fully accepted in principle the necessity of the presence of an Executive Council in the administration of other Provinces, and there is no reason why the requirements of the Punjab in this respect should not be met with. The man who opposes this resolution will have first to admit that either the Punjab is not worthy of this honour or it has committed some fault for which it should be deprived of this blessing. It is true that the Punjab is not in the habit of making noisy clamour or starting organized agitation in order to vex and embarrass Government, but the reward for such a conduct should not be that the political demands of the Province should be ignored, nor is it politically sound that the Punjabi should be led to think that the method and attitude adopted by him to gain his political rights is ineffective and inappropriate.

"If it is urged as an argument against this resolution that a capable and wide-awake head of the Province does not stand in need of an Executive Council, it would be in effect an impertinent reflection on the Governors of those Provinces which are equipped with Executive Councils. The real fact is that the more capable and wide-awake the head of a Province is, the more useful he will find the assistance of such a Council, for it is only the far-sighted, wise and able men who can derive advantage from consultation.

"It may also perhaps be urged as an argument against this resolution that when the work of administration could be carried on without an Executive

[*Makhdum Sayad Rajan Shah ; Risaldar Sardar Bahadur Sardar Partab Singh ; Rai Bahadur Pandit Sheo Narain.*]

Council for over half a century, it is quite unnecessary to introduce a new machinery of administration. But it is no sound logic. In the affairs of the world the only object that is kept in view is not that things may drift on as they are and that no better means should be thought out for them. When there were no railways, ekkas and carts supplied the needs of the people and travel and trade were also going on according to requirements. But the human nature has always insisted that better means should be devised for carrying on the affairs of the world to the full advantage.

"In view of the wonderful improvements and changes which have come about in the Punjab during the last half century as a result of the beneficent British rule, the expansion of Government work and the desire engendered in the minds of the people owing to progress in education, etc., to co-operate with Government in matters of administration, it cannot be expected that the Punjabi will rest content with the 50 years' old administrative machinery; and there is no reason why the sight of his brethren in other Provinces with Executive Councils enjoying the benefits of a new workable and useful machinery should not tempt him.

"With these words, I beg to support the resolution."

The Hon'ble Risaldar Sardar Bahadur Sardar Partab Singh :—"Your Honour,—I have a peculiarity in myself in having had the honour to serve in many parts of the world compared with the other Hon'ble Members. I served for 22 years in the Military Department, and I have seen two battles—Abyssinia and Kabul. There is a peculiarity in the Punjab, they say that the Punjab is the sword hand of India. It is the only Province with such peculiar features. I say we have now divided opinions, some of us have said that they should have the Council now, others have said that there will be time when the war is over. But I say, Your Honour, when in our Council there are men of the pen and men of the sword, then will be the time to do this. We have taken a lot of time. I hope that no Hon'ble Members will speak on this resolution any more.

"I know the value of the services we are doing in the war. My dear friends, we have no Generals, we cannot put up a steamer, we do not know whether we should act and what. You see book knowledge is another thing, but practical man, of course, knows how far we have to wait. We have served and our services cannot be compared with those Generals and Colonels and those armies who are facing the enemy."

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Pandit Sheo Narain :—"Your Honour,—I beg to support this resolution moved by the Hon'ble Bakhshi Sohan Lal, although my reasons may be slightly different. The view I take, I venture rather to take, is :—Has the time come when a Council Government would result in better administration? This question resolves itself into this. We have many claims which have been put forward most eloquently by the Hon'ble Members. The view I take is this, that the time has come, both from the point of educated opinion that exists and the educated opinion that could be availed of and from the point of complexity of problems and questions that are likely to arise and are even now arising. The question simply is :—Is that advice worth having for the betterment of the administration? I submit and I contend that no advice should be spurned or neglected or ignored if it is a wholesome advice, under any circumstances. Whatever our claims as Punjabis may be, whether we are good soldiers, whether we are advanced in education and have made progress, and other similar matters which the Hon'ble Members have put forward, we want an Executive Council. There was a time when nobody could

[*Rai Bahadur Pandit Sheo Narain ; Raizada Bhagat Ram.*]

talk of an Executive Council in the Province. Why? Because educated opinion had not been created and there were no men available with the requisite knowledge who could advise Government and take certain portfolios, and advise Government rationally, reasonably and loyally. Till that time, I would say, there was no necessity for any Executive Council and until we could find men who could be of that use. To institute comparisons, therefore, with Bombay, Calcutta and Madras may not be perfectly legitimate because the state of things may be possibly different there, but I contend for the Punjab that the time has come when this matter should be given deliberate consideration. The manner in which Bakhshi Sahib has couched his resolution does not mean an immediate Council. The demand is put for the Government to consider and Government can take sufficient time to consider and institute enquiries and see if the other Executive Councils have done well and if the results have been beneficial. This is only a matter of later enquiry and investigation. We presume that, wherever Indian members have been introduced, whether in the India Council or elsewhere, they have justified their selection. It may be true, however, there are certain fascinations which in the abstract look very good with a charm about them but which may not actually result in the same benefits which we presume or anticipate. The question is to be judged by the results. I claim for the Province that the University education has advanced far enough and the prosperity of the Province has gone up by leaps and bounds, so much so that we can put three Egypts bodily into this Province.

"There is no earthly reason why, if the United Provinces gets such a Council, we should not get it. Now, the question is whether this is the opportune time to ask for it, but this is a matter for discretion by the Hon'ble Mover. Since he has been permitted to move and the Hon'ble Members have discussed it, I too have discussed it and I have ventured to express my remarks as well. With these remarks I support the resolution."

The Hon'ble Raizada Bhagat Ram :—"Your Honour,—After the remarks Your Honour was pleased to make with reference to the attitude of the Government regarding this resolution I am surprised that some of the Hon'ble Members have proposed that the discussion on the resolution be postponed to some future date. The attitude of the Government places the subject of the resolution beyond the pale of controversial questions and I fail to see why, when Your Honour has expressed willingness to hear the views of the members of the Council on this resolution, that they should not give free expression to their opinions.

"As to the merits of the resolution I will not take up much of the time of the Council. The abstract truth of the proposition that consultative Government is a better and a higher form of government has by now been admitted, not only by political philosophers and practical statesmen but by almost every one in any way interested in the question. In fact, it cannot be, and has never been, seriously disputed. It is only on the question of its practical application to a province that opinion may possibly be divided or its application may be postponed for special reasons.

"The suitability of this form of government to conditions obtaining in India can no longer be denied. Bengal, Bombay, Madras, and even the new provinces of Bihar and Orissa have got their Executive Councils and our neighbours, the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh, are on the way to getting it. It, therefore, lies heavily on those who are not in favour of this concession being extended to the Punjab to show what special reasons there exist for the privilege being withheld from us.

"On the contrary, the learned Mover has made out a very strong case for this Province and I need hardly dilate upon the manifold and decided

[*Raizada Bhagat Ram ; Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain ; Khan Bahadur Mehdi Shah ; Khan Bahadur Muhammad Amin ; Rai Bahadur Bakhshi Sohan Lal ; the President.*]

advantage which will accrue from the introduction of this system in our Province. Besides this, I may be permitted to add that there is a very strong sentiment in its favour in the Province, and there is no reason why this sentiment may not be respected and the slur attaching to our Province of being unfit for the system removed. If the grant of Council be considered only as a boon and reward for good service we richly deserve it.

"With these remarks I commend this resolution to Your Honour's favourable and sympathetic consideration."

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain :—"Your Honour,—May I venture to congratulate the Government on the most statesmanlike attitude adopted by it with reference to this resolution. I have not the slightest doubt that it has given the greatest satisfaction possible to the non-official members here and I believe it would give even greater satisfaction to the public outside this Council chamber. What is wanted is not that any suggestions by the non-official members should be put into practice at once. That is not wanted, nor is it intended that as soon as the war is over that suggestion must be adopted. All that is intended is that expression should be given in this Council to certain views and aspirations of the people, and it is also intended that those views and aspirations be considered by Government with a view to formulate their attitude with reference to these aspirations. Your Honour's attitude in this matter, as I have already said, will give satisfaction to every one in this chamber and outside. I did not intend to make any speech with reference to this resolution, and all I have got to do is to associate myself with the proposal of the Hon'ble Mover. I do not think it is necessary for me to go over the ground which has been covered by so many speakers already, but I may say this much that from my knowledge of the public opinion in this Province it is apparent that people are keenly interested in asking for this concession and trust that in view of the conduct of the Panjab during the past three or four years, their hopes will be realized."

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Mehdi Shah :—"I arrived from Baluchistan after three months yesterday. Therefore I am not prepared to say anything about this resolution. But I hope that when we have served the Government better than the other provinces, we will get better things than the other provinces. Therefore I ask my Hon'ble friend the Bakhshi Sahib to defer the resolution until the war is over."

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Muhammad Amin :—"I support the resolution moved by the Bakhshi Sahib."

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Bakhshi Sohan Lal was then called upon to reply and said :—"I have not to make many remarks about the speeches of the Hon'ble Members who have opposed the resolution. As a matter of fact, from what they have said, I find that they are not really against the resolution. They simply think that this is not the opportune time for the change. It is clear on the face of the resolution that this change is required to be given effect to after the war, and until the war comes to an end, they wish me to withdraw my resolution. I am not prepared to do that, when the opinion of the non-official members is in favour of the resolution as it stands. In view of this expression of opinion I do not think there is anything more that can be added to what has already been stated."

Bis Honour the President :—"Before putting the resolution to the Council I would like to congratulate the members both those who have spoken for it, or have given it their qualified approval, and those who have opposed it altogether, on the admirable spirit in which they have spoken and on the calm

[*The President ; Mr. Fazl-i-Husain.*]

and temperate discussion of a measure which might have excited a great deal of popular fervour and perhaps much warm language. The discussion of the subject by the Hon'ble Members has been calm and temperate and in a very marked degree impersonal. As I hoped would be the case by Government standing out, all have been able to join in the discussion of this measure with freedom and frankness, and I congratulate the Council irrespective of what the result of the division may be on the admirable manner of the discussion.

" I now put the resolution to the Council."

The resolution was put and carried by 13 to 3.

RESOLUTION *RE* THE APPOINTMENT OF THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE MUHAMMADANS OF THE PUNJAB ON THE INDIA LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL BY ELECTION IN PLACE OF NOMINATION.

The Hon'ble Mr. Fazl-i-Husain.—" Your Honour,—I beg to move the resolution that stands in my name and runs as follows :—

" This Council requests His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab to make a recommendation to the Imperial Government that the Regulations for the Nomination and Election of Additional Members of the Legislative Council of Governor-General be so amended that the representative of the Muhammadan community in the Punjab shall in future be elected and not nominated."

" At the very outset I think it is necessary for me to say what is the object of this resolution and, rather to make it clear, what is not intended by this resolution. Well, it is not intended that the official majority of the Imperial Council should be in any way endangered. It is not intended that the right of representation conceded to any community be taken away, curtailed or added to. It is not intended that preference by virtue of this resolution be given to one particular electorate to the prejudice of another. What really it comes to is this that, at present, under section 63 of the Government of India Act, the Indian legislature is so constituted that the members of the Executive Council are members of the Indian Legislative Councils *ex-officio*. Over and above these members there are, under the Act, no less than 60 members,—not exceeding 60. Out of these 60, 30 are to be officials and 30 non-officials. Now the recruitment of the set of 30 non-official members is something like this :—12 members are to be returned by local legislature, 7 are to be returned by the landholders of India, and 7 are to be returned by the Muhammadan community in India. So that will make 26. Three are to be returned by the Chambers of Commerce and one by the District Boards and Municipal Committees of the Central Provinces. Now out of these 30 members 27 are returned by election, *i.e.*, 12 members are elected by local legislatures and out of these 12 one is returned by election by the members of this Council from amongst the non-official members. When it comes to the question of returning a representative of the Muhammadan community, 6 members are returned by Bombay, Madras, Bengal, United Provinces, Central Provinces, and Bihar and Orissa by election. It is only in the case of this Province that the method of recruitment, so far as the Muhammadan community is concerned, is quite different from that adopted in other provinces.

" Again, with reference to the 7 landholders there is the same thing in other Provinces, *i.e.*, their method of recruitment is by election. In the case of this Province, again, it is by nomination. As to the 3 members to be returned by the Chambers of Commerce, 2 are returned by election and 1 is returned by nomination, in order to represent the Indian Chambers of Commerce throughout India. So that the peculiarity of the existing regulations is that 3

[Mr. Faiz-i-Husain.]

members out of 30 are returned by nomination while the remaining 27 are returned by election. Out of these 3, one might reasonably be considered the fit subject of being returned by nomination. I am referring to the member to be returned by the Indian Chambers of Commerce, inasmuch as it would be probably very difficult to constitute a proper electorate for that purpose. In moving this resolution I am not concerned with the fate of the Punjab landholders. So far as they are concerned it is a separate question altogether.

" Now, I propose to make it clear what is the object and extent of the resolution. It only concerns the one representative, *i.e.*, the representative of the Punjab Muhammadans, who is recruited in a method quite different from that adopted for the United Provinces Muhammadans, Madras Muhammadans, or the Bombay Muhammadans, &c. I wanted to know the reasons why this particular anomaly does exist, and I thought the knowledge of the circumstances in which this anomaly came into existence might help me towards a change in my attitude in this matter. The records about that were not accessible to me, so I have been more or less groping in the dark as to why the Punjab was treated like this—differently from other provinces. There can be but three possible explanations. One is, possibly, the question of an electorate. When it was possible to create a proper Muhammadan electorate in other provinces how is it that it was not possible to create one for the Punjab? I would submit that it is hardly maintainable that it was not possible to create an electorate in this Province. The creation of Muhammadan electorates in Bombay and Madras, etc., were matters of no difficulty whatsoever. They had included title-holders all over the Province, honorary magistrates and income-tax payers of a certain amount, etc. I believe all these species do exist in the Punjab. I do not know whether lists of these persons are maintained in this Province or not. So far as the difficulty of constituting an electorate is concerned, I do not think it is insurmountable here when it has been solved in other Provinces. The second explanation possibly is that there are no candidates forthcoming who would contest the seats. Here, again, I believe that that also is a highly improbable condition. We find that so far as District Boards are concerned, the University is concerned and the Municipal Committees are concerned there has been no difficulty in the matter of Muhammadan candidates. The majority of the non-official members in this Council are returned by their constituencies by election and not by nomination. So I fail to see when the Government has got the system of election for the Imperial Council so far as 90 per cent. of the seats on the Imperial Council are concerned, why in the case of the Punjab Muhammadans the system of nomination is resorted to. I really do not think it is necessary for me to go into the academic discussion of election *versus* nomination. I dare say the Imperial Government as well as the Local Government are agreed that the system of election is preferable, and it would serve no useful purpose to go into it. But before I finish my subject I would like to mention that it is not due to the fact that the system of nomination that has been resorted to so far in returning a Muhammadan to represent the Punjab Muhammadans has not been doing well and efficiently. On the contrary all that could possibly have been done was done by the Local Government. They always kept in view the needs of efficient representation and gave full weight to the recommendations of the several Muhammadan public bodies whom they consulted before making their selection. So the reason for moving this resolution is not that the results of the nomination system in returning a Muhammadan from the Punjab have been unsatisfactory, but on the other hand to my mind there are objects other than adequate representation to be gained by the system of election. The first and the foremost advantage to my mind is that it creates a feeling of co-operation on the part of the electorate which is constituted. The thought that they have to elect their own man has a very valuable effect

[*Mr. Fazl-i-Husain; Khan Bahadur Malik Muhammad Amin Khan.*]

to my mind which is not gained by the present system. So far as mere efficiency is concerned, I should be inclined to say that probably the Local Government with all the knowledge of the affairs are likely to appoint a good Muhammadan as against the man returned by the electorate. But I daresay that the sense of responsibility, co-operation with Government and the feeling that they are sending out a man of their own to represent them, which are engendered by the system of election, outweigh to my mind even the possibility of their not exercising the right so well and so efficiently as under the present system of the Government machinery.

"I believe, Your Honour, that this resolution that I am moving is not of any far-reaching effect on the Council. It is extremely simple, and is only a change of system. It does not require a change of enactment. All that it does achieve is that the community which is given the right to send a man to represent them on the Imperial Council be allowed to exercise that right effectively and to make their selection from their own community. After all it must be admitted that the community does possess a fairly large number of men who are ready and willing to sacrifice their time in order to serve on these Councils and that they should therefore be given an opportunity of making their own choice when their co-religionists in all the other provinces exercise that right. I further claim that in this matter this Province has been very unfairly treated inasmuch as the standard of education in this Province is certainly higher than that obtaining in Bengal, Bihar and Orissa and other provinces and this Province has educated Muhammadans who are the pride of the Muhammadan community of the other provinces.

"With these remarks I beg to move this resolution."

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Malik Muhammad Amin Khan :—"Your Honour,—I rise to second the resolution which my esteemed colleague the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Mian Fazal Hussain has put before this Council. At this time of the day when the successful working of the Minto-Morley Reform Scheme has demonstrated the utility of the method of election as opposed to nomination, it is unnecessary for me to address to this Council any elaborate academic argument in support of a principle which has universally commanded the acceptance of civilized humanity. But I will just bring to notice one or two practical considerations which make it obligatory to lend support to the proposition embodied in the resolution under discussion. In the first place, the Moslem community of every Indian province except the Punjab exercises the privilege of electing its own representative to the Imperial Legislative Council. This has engendered the belief in the Moslems of this Province that they labour under an irritating and an unjust disability. Your Honour, the Punjab is in all respects not behind, if not better, than any other province in India. In education, in enlightenment, in material and moral prosperity, and in the spirit of co-operative effort we are decidedly superior, and my co-religionists ask in wonder why, when they are better placed and more fitted than Moslems in other provinces, they are not entrusted with the dignity and honour of the Imperial Council franchise. I assure Your Honour that the feeling among my co-religionists on this question is generally in favour of election, and they consider it a slur and a stigma that they should not be permitted to exercise a privilege which has been conceded to the Musalmans of other provinces.

"And the second consideration which I desire to press on this Council is that, from the point of view of Government too, nomination is not such a useful instrument of getting into touch with the real sentiments and aspirations of the people as election is. Of course, until the time when the people themselves become accustomed to think for themselves, nomination has its proper place on the economy of administration and serves a useful purpose. But

[*Khan Bahadur Malik Muhammad Amin Khan; Nawab Sir Bahram Khan; Mr. Thompson.*]

the moment they become enlightened and can see and think for themselves, nomination comes to be regarded with a certain amount of distrust and suspicion. Now, I ask why should Government permit itself to be dogged by this distrust and suspicion? Let the people elect their own representatives and this will take the bottom out of that storm of criticism which assails every nomination by Government. The latter may, and usually does, exercise its powers of nomination with the best intentions and solely with an eye to the ultimate good of the people and yet its nominations are not received with welcome. I am often pained when I find Government criticized on this score, and I, therefore, say let Government resign the powers, which it has been holding in trust, into the hands of the people themselves. They may elect anybody they please but the responsibility for an incompetent choice shall be the people's not the Government's.

" And then, there is the great consideration that, in acting upon the advice of the elected representatives of the people, the Government will be able to tell people that it acted on the advice of their accredited spokesmen and is, therefore, free from any responsibility. In the case of nomination, the people refuse to be fixed with any responsibility of their own and throw all the blame on Government. For these reasons, Your Honour, I feel that the time is most opportune for granting to the Musalmans of this Province the privilege of sending their representative to the Imperial Council by means of election. This will remove the existing anomaly, take away the sting of wounded pride, and bring the Moslem community of this Province in line with their co-religionists in other provinces. I trust that Your Honour, who only recently extended the elective franchise in the case of the district boards and the municipalities of this Province, will lay the coping stone, so far as the Moslem community of this Province is concerned, to the structure reared by that noble-minded Englishman, the late Lord Minto, who once controlled the destinies of this vast country and of that great philosopher statesman Lord Morley, whose memory will be enshrined in the best recollection of Indians of all schools and shades of thought."

The Hon'ble Nawab

The Hon'ble Nawab Sir Behram Khan spoke in Urdu, a translation of which is as follows:—" Your Honour, I should like to mention by way of preface to my remarks that my strong opposition to the resolution before the Council should not be attributed to my position as a nominated member. I am opposing this resolution in the capacity of one who—if the Hon'ble Mian Sahib will permit me to say so—possesses a better knowledge of the village and mofussil conditions than the Mian Sahib. In towns and cities the spread of education has led the people to take great interest in the demand of rights and privileges, but at the same time their brethren in the villages are not even aware of the meaning of the words " nomination " and " election ". The Punjab is an agricultural province, and its inhabitants are for the most part illiterate but brave men. If the door to the Imperial Council is only to be opened by election, I fear that the claims of the Punjab zamindars will be entirely ignored. If the Hon'ble Mian Sahib considers that the claims of the zamindars are legitimate and if he attaches any importance to their aims and objects, he should at once withdraw his resolution. Although I am sorry that I have to oppose the resolution moved by the Hon'ble Mian Sahib, yet my duty to my zamindar brothers enjoins me to do all I can to safeguard their rights. I therefore strongly oppose this resolution and would request the Hon'ble Members of the Council that they should in no case accept it."

The Hon'ble Mr. Thompson :—“ Your Honour,—Now that the resolution has been seconded and opposed and has thus established its claim to be discussed, I think it is as well that I should intervene to explain what the attitude of Government is towards the discussion which is to follow.

“ Before I approach the subject of the resolution I should like to make a personal explanation. The Hon'ble Member has expressed regret that he had no opportunity of seeing the papers which would show him the genesis of the present system. I am afraid there must have been some misunderstanding between the Hon'ble Member and myself on the subject. The Hon'ble Member came to see me, and he asked me if I would give him a statement of those reasons. At that time I had not looked into the subject myself, and so far as I remember Government had not yet decided the attitude it would adopt. I told the Hon'ble Member that I hoped to be able to comply with his request, but I could give him no definite answer. A few days afterwards I met the Hon'ble Member at a Garden Party. He then approached me with a request that I would show him the papers in the case. As the Hon'ble Members are aware very often there are reasons which make it impossible to show official papers to non-official gentlemen. Certain papers are published and all papers which are not published are, theoretically at least, confidential. Again I told the Hon'ble Member that I was unable to give him a final answer, and I left him with the understanding, in my mind, at any rate, that he would call on me in the course of the next few days at my office,

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and get my final answer. Finally, when I began to study the question myself I found that the papers which he wished to see had been published. Days passed by and the Hon'ble Member never came, and I arrived at the conclusion that he probably had had access to the papers elsewhere.

"Now, gentlemen, to come to the subject of the resolution, I may say at once that I do not propose to cross swords with the Hon'ble Member. I will leave it to the members who will come after me to controvert the arguments if they wish to do so. Government neither opposes them nor accepts them. The attitude which His Honour has decided to assume is the same as that which has been adopted towards the resolution recommending the creation of an Executive Council. It is unnecessary for me to traverse the ground which has been covered by His Honour, and I will merely say that whatever views Government may hold it is not in a position to give publicity to them and that the official members of Council will therefore refrain from expressing an opinion and from voting.

"At the same time, the Lieutenant-Governor will be glad to hear the opinions of those non-official members who desire to express them and the record of the discussion will be valuable as an index of the present state of unofficial opinion on the subject.

"The Hon'ble Member had ready to his hand one passage from the Government of India resolution of 1915, which he might have quoted with great effect, and in case he feels any little resentment against me for having perhaps as he thinks deprived him of access to papers which have already been published, I will make him a present of this quotation :—

"Further enquiry has shown that nomination is unavoidable at present in respect of (1) the representatives of Indian commerce in all Councils except that of the Governor of Bombay, (2) the representatives of the land-holders and the Muhammadan community of the Punjab on the Governor-General's Council, and (3) the representative of the planting community on the Bengal Council. The Regulations, however, provide that a member must be nominated to represent each of these interests, and it is the intention of the Governor-General in Council to substitute election for nomination wherever a workable electorate can be formed."

"That, Sir, is a passage on which the Hon'ble Member might have laid great stress had he known of its existence. He will find it at page 101 of the Acts, Rules and Regulations governing the Legislative Council of the Punjab, and a copy of which each Hon'ble Member of this Council will find on the table in front of him. In that passage the Government of India declared their intention to substitute election for nomination wherever a workable electorate could be found. The Hon'ble Member is perfectly correct in saying that other provinces have solved the problem of the electorate, and whether a workable electorate can be found in the Punjab is the first point for Hon'ble Members to decide before they give their votes on this question. It is a point on which I express no opinion.

"But some Hon'ble Members may feel that the question of the possibility of creating a workable electorate does not exhaust the subject, and before the discussion proceeds further the Lieutenant-Governor thinks it only right that Hon'ble Members should be put in possession of the reasons which led to the adoption of the system of nomination. The blue book containing the correspondence, as I have said, has been published, and I will read out certain passages from the Punjab Government letter which explain what those reasons were. The position was this. The original scheme provided for a Council of 54 members including His Excellency the Viceroy. Of these 4 were to be nominated non-officials of whom 2 were to be Muhammadans, and there were to be 18 elected members of whom 2 were to be elected in rotation by special Muhammadan electorates in each of the 6 major provinces. The scheme was

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sent round for opinion, and I will read certain extracts which summarize the results of that enquiry on the particular points which are now under discussion. This is an extract from the Punjab Government letter of the 6th July 1908, paragraph 35 :—

'The Government of India proposal that 2 members should be elected by special Muhammadan electorates has excited much controversy. It is resented by the great majority of the Hindu critics, but with one exception all the Muhammadans are in favour of such a special measure to secure their minority rights.'

I may add that we have some reason to believe that Muhammadan opinion is not at present so strongly in favour of election as it once was. A number of Hindus are mentioned as passing the proposal without objection, but I do not propose to read out their names. The letter has been published in full. It then goes on to say :—

'Many of them stipulate that some corresponding provision be made for Sikhs, and also that it is not necessary to specifically reserve nominated seats for Muhammadans under head E of paragraph 12 of the Government of India. The bitterest opponents of any concession to Muhammadans are the Hindu lawyers, headed by a gentleman, whose name, if I were to mention it, would command the deepest respect from every member of this Council.

'The majority of the European officials are opposed to the election of two members by Muhammadans. They are not opposed to the protection of the minority rights of Muhammadans. The objection is to the conferment of a right of election on Muhammadans which would not be enjoyed by members of other communities. Most of the senior and more experienced officers condemn the proposal on following grounds :—

- ' (1) on account of objections to the elective system generally ;
- ' (2) on account of the difficulty of forming an electorate ;
- ' (3) because by nomination the rights of Muhammadans can be safe-guarded ;
- ' (4) on account of the invidiousness of professedly class legislation in general ; and
- ' (5) in particular, because Hindus and Sikhs would justly resent electoral privileges being conferred on Muhammadan Fellows and Graduates, Muhammadan income-tax and revenue-payers, and Muhammadan members of the Provincial Council which would not be enjoyed by Hindus and Sikhs of the corresponding classes.'

"The letter then goes on to the issue of nomination *versus* election :—

'There is little in the Muhammadan opinions under review that would support the view that nomination, provided that their requirements in the matter of the number of seats to be reserved for their community be met, would be accepted by them in lieu of election. There are only five or six voices raised in favour of nomination.'

Then some of these are mentioned and among them are men whose names command great respect :—

'The proposal for election was included in the Government of India scheme at the instance of the Muhammadan deputation which waited on His Excellency in October 1906. It has the advocacy of the Muslim League and the various Anjamins as well as of the *Observer* newspaper, and Muhammadan opinion is therefore more or less committed to its support. Doubtless the circumstance that elective privileges of the kind exclusively enjoyed would be a distinctive privilege of their religion explains the welcome which the proposal has met among the Muhammadans, but it is incumbent on an impartial Government not to lend its countenance to any such accentuation of a specially privileged position. The Muhammadan community will have no just cause for complaint if provision is made to secure for them such number of seats as their special position entitles them to occupy. This can be done without making an unnecessary parade of the privilege. The work of compilation of electoral lists and the publicity attending Muhammadan elections would unnecessarily emphasize their privileged position. Moreover, the chances which an election system would create for the lawyers, wire-pullers, Anjuman leaders and organizers, and other pushing and ambitious spirits among the Muhammadan community would excite the keen envy of the similar classes of Hindus, who would have no corresponding scope for their own advancement. Another forcible objection,

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to the proposal (for a separate Muhammadan electorate) is connected with the claims of the Sikhs. It is necessary to dilate on these. They are urgently passed by many of the Sikh gentlemen whose opinions are among the enclosures and are, of course, generally admitted by European officers. There is no good reason in the case of the Punjab at least for refusing to the Sikhs a recognition accorded to the Muhammadans. Such recognition, while differing in extent, should be *eiusdem generis*. If elective privileges are conferred on Muhammadans why not on Sikhs also? To do so would, however, further intensify the dissatisfaction of the Hindus at being excluded from elective privileges. Only by nomination can the rights of both Muhammadan and Sikh minorities be secured without giving rise to the charge of class preference.

"Now, Hon'ble Members are most of them familiar with the details of the scheme as ultimately approved by the Secretary of State. There were 68 members instead of 54 originally proposed. The Muhammadans of five of the major provinces were given the privilege of electing their own members. In the Punjab, however, the system of nomination was adopted. In practice, as Hon'ble Members are aware, Government has hitherto invariably consulted the leading Musalman associations in the province before making its nomination and it has thus informally broadened the basis of selection. Whether or not Hon'ble Members whose principles may incline them to favour election are disposed to accept this as a satisfactory compromise which secures the advantages of election while avoiding its invidiousness, is another point which they will have to consider. Again, I express no opinion either on my own behalf or on behalf of Government.

"But, Sir, this matter of representation on the Imperial Council was not the only point in which the Punjab was differentiated from other major provinces in the Reform of the Councils. The differentiation was carried down to the Provincial Councils as well. The provinces which returned an elected member to the Imperial Council were equipped with separate Muslim electorates returning a number of members of their own to the Provincial Councils. Hon'ble Members may ask why it was that we had no separate Muslim representation on the Provincial Council. To answer that question fully I should have to read long passages from the letter I have already quoted. All I need say at present is that the weight of Muhammadan opinion was opposed to election as a means of selecting the members of the Provincial Council. Among those who are mentioned as taking this view are the Punjab Muslim League, the Delhi Anjuman, the Editor of the *Observer*, and the leading Muhammadan lawyers of Lahore. No separate electorate was granted to Muhammadans and reliance was placed on nomination to keep the balance equal. As Hon'ble Members know, there were five elected members. We have more than double that number now, and it is arguable that results have shown that no separate Muhammadan representation is required, but here again I express no opinion.

"I do not forget, Sir, that the question of Muhammadan representation on the Provincial Council is not now directly before us, but it seems to me relevant to point out to Hon'ble Members that, while in the Punjab we have no separate Muslim electorate for the Imperial Council and no separate Muslim electorate for the Provincial Council, those provinces which have one have both. I do not say there is any necessary connection between the two, but what I do suggest is that Hon'ble Members before voting on this resolution should consider these two questions. Would or would not the grant of election for the separate Muhammadan seat on the Imperial Council be likely to lead to a demand for separate Muhammadan representation on the Provincial Council, and would they or would they not welcome such a demand?

"Now, Sir, let us turn from these aspects of the question, which though important are more or less matters of speculation, to matters of fact. Let us leave for a moment the narrower question of the best method of filling the one seat on the Imperial Council that is reserved for Muhammadans, and let us see what representation Punjab Muhammadans have actually had in the past in.

[*Mr. Thompson ; Khan Bahadur Khwaja Yusuf Shah.*]

the Imperial Council. Three seats, as we know, are set apart for Punjab representatives, one for the Muhammadans, one for the landholders and one for the elected representative of the non-official members of our Council. Since the reform of the Councils, there have been 11 occupants of these seats. Of these, 7 have been Muhammadans, 3 Sikhs and only one a Hindu. At the present moment, too, the Punjab has another nominated representative in the gallant officer who stands for the Indian ranks of the Army. And he too is a Muhammadan. Now, Sir, I do not want to say that these figures do suggest or ought to suggest any conclusion at all. I will merely say that it seems to me that they might suggest to a Hindu critic that the proper line of reform would not be to convert the Muhammadan seat into an elected seat but to throw open the Muhammadan seat to all comers in order to make the system more elastic and to secure a more even distribution of communal representation.

"The supposed Hindu critic might also go on to argue that once the Muhammadan seat becomes elective it becomes permanent, and altogether he might feel that he would prefer to wait until he knows how his party is to stand when the constitution of the Council is next revised before he commits himself to a proposal of this nature. The cards are not yet tabled, and he might feel that it is not for him to be the first to throw down his hand.

"One point more before I close. It is a small one perhaps, but yet valuable as the verdict of this Council on the way in which the power of nomination has up to the present been exercised and as a comment on the remarks of the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Muhammad Amin as regards the suspicion and distrust with which nomination is regarded. Since the Councils were enlarged, the non-official members have five times been called on to exercise their right of election to the Imperial Council. Three times they have elected a Sikh, and twice they have returned a Muhammadan, but on every occasion the gentleman on whom their choice has fallen has been a nominated member of this Council.

"That, Sir, is all I have to say, but I would make one final disclaimer of any desire to express an opinion on the merits of the proposal. I have merely made clear certain points which must be considered before the Hon'ble Members decide to make the recommendation which the Hon'ble Mover has asked them to do, certain points which I venture to think they must consider with due regard to their responsibilities to Government, to their constituencies and to themselves. And I feel sure that my Hon'ble friend the Mover would be the last man in the world to value votes cast in favour of his resolution without due regard for those responsibilities."

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Khwaja Yusuf Shah :—"Your Honour,—The principle underlying this resolution is this—that in other Provinces there is a special Moslem electorate for Provincial Councils from which members are returned to the Imperial Council. In the Punjab there is no such electorate given to the Muhammadans, and for this very reason in my opinion the present rule must stand unless a separate electorate is given to the Punjab. I think the resolution that my Hon'ble friend has moved is quite out of place, and I therefore regret to say that I have no reason to support it.

"In my humble opinion the present rule which empowers the Local Government to recommend a Muhammadan gentleman from the Punjab for a nomination on the Imperial Council is the safest so long as there are no special Muhammadan electorates in the Province. With all this I must say that the Local Government have on all the occasions tried to obtain the opinion of all the premier Moslem bodies, such as the Anjuman-i-Himayat Islam, Punjab Moslem League and the Anjuman-i-Punjab, and on all the occasions a gentleman has been selected out of the nominees whose names were sent by the representative bodies. Therefore, Your Honour, unless separate Muham-

[*Khan Bahadur Khwaja Yusuf Shah ; Khan Bahadur Saiyid Mehdi Shah ; Makhdum Sayad Rajjan Shah.*]

madan electorates are conceded to Muhammadans in the Province, this resolution in my opinion is out of place. I therefore regret to say that I am not in a position to support it. We first of all want a separate electorate because in all other Provinces Muhammadans have got a separate electorate and they can suggest a man from their electorates."

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Saiyid Mehdi Shah :—" I support the Hon'ble Nawab Sahib, because we have not yet got an electorate."

The Hon'ble Makhdum Sayad Rajjan Shah spoke in Urdu, a translation of which is as follows :—" Your Honour,—The resolution moved by the Hon'ble Mian Fazl-i-Husain is really an index of the Muhammadan public opinion in the Punjab, and not only this, the principle upon which it is based is very reasonable and sound. Two kinds of members are selected for official bodies—official and non-official—Government should have quite a free hand in the selection of official members, as they are its representatives. If the people were to demand that they would elect the representatives for Government, such a request should be deemed quite an unreasonable one. Similarly if the people were to put in a request saying that they were in the best position to gauge their representatives and that only those persons should be taken as such whom the people could confide in and rely upon, such a request on their part is, in my humble opinion, one which cannot be thrown out on any reasonable ground.

" I understand that at the time of nominating a Muhammadan from the Punjab to the Imperial Council the Government does consult two or three local Anjumans. But in the first place the local differences and factions which exist among the Muhammadans of the capital of the Punjab and its local Moslem Associations are no secret for Government, and in the second place Government is also not unaware that a large number of the leading Muhammadans in the Punjab desire to keep quite aloof in view of the mutual dissensions in these Anjumans. But even if it be taken for granted that these Associations are the exponents of the Lahore Muhammadans, there does not appear to be any reason to ignore the considerable number of Moslem Associations in the Mufassil. After all we Muhammadans who reside in the Mufassil have a right to give our opinion in this important matter. It is true that the two or three Moslem Anjumans of Lahore, which are consulted, include among its members some Muhammadan gentlemen from outside as well, but as a matter of fact on such occasions not even a very small minority of Mufassil Muhammadans, as salt in flour, take part in the meetings of the Anjumans. And I am prepared to say without fear of contradiction that the opinion which the Government gets on such occasions is in the main the expression of opinion by a few dozen Mussalmans of Lahore, the majority of whom are the common members of those Anjumans. In any case opinions are invited from these two or three Anjumans in question in an informal manner, and Government is not bound to go by their opinion, nor is any constitutional right of election conferred on the Anjumans.

" It is true that ever since the Punjab was conferred the privilege of sending a Muhammadan representative to the Imperial Council till the last nomination there has been no occasion for the Punjab to complain, but the point at issue is one of principle. It is quite possible that at times the Government nomination may be acceptable to the Muhammadan public opinion and at others it may not. If the Punjab Muhammadans, like their brethren in other Provinces are granted the privilege of electing their representative, the whole responsibility will shift on the shoulders of the electors and Government will be spared all such complaints, while at the same time the Punjab Muhammadans will feel deeply grateful to Government for this kindness.

[*Makhdum Sayad Rajjan Shah ; Khan Bahadur Khwaja Yusuf Shah ;
The President ; Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Hussain ; Mr. Thompson.*]

“The system of election has been introduced simply with a view to giving the people the full power of electing their trusted representatives, and when this principle has been accepted by Government and the Muhammadan gentlemen of other Provinces possess this right, there is no reason why the loyal and devoted Muhammadans of the Punjab should be deprived of it. The Muhammadans of the Punjab are fully confident that the Government will out of kindness accept this resolution.”

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Khwaja Yusuf Shah:—“Your Honour,—I rise to a point of order. I think the first thing to be decided is whether a separate electorate is to be given to Moslems of the Punjab or not, otherwise how can we decide.”

His Honour the President:—“The question is involved in the resolution. The resolution implies electorates—that certain bodies should elect implies that electorates should be provided.”

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Hussain in reply said.—“So far as this resolution is concerned, Your Honour, it has received the support of two representatives of district boards, and it has been opposed by two non-official members who have not come in this Council by the right of election.

“The discussion with reference to this resolution has been largely due to the fact that the Hon'ble Member-in-charge has thought fit to supply a great deal of information with reference to the resolution that I moved.

“With reference to the point of personal explanation, I am sure it was entirely due to misunderstanding. I understood the Hon'ble Member-in-charge to say in a Garden Party that he would let me know as soon as he saw the files. I did not think he expected me to call at his office, otherwise I would have been delighted to avail myself of his offer.

“Now with reference to the points that he has placed before the Council on behalf of Government. Of course he has not given his own personal opinion nor any on behalf of Government. The first is—Can an electorate be constituted? My reply is that if Sind Muhammadans can constitute an electorate to return their representatives, there is no reason why the Punjab Muhammadans should not be able to do so. If the backward Bengal can create an electorate for the purpose, is it likely that the Punjab Muhammadans will not be able to do the same? So to my mind the difficulty of electorates is due to the fact that the rules and regulations of different Provinces where these electorates exist—copies of which will be in the Council Library—have not been consulted, otherwise the difficulty is to my mind not an insurmountable one. Then it was pointed out as an abstract from the blue book that the system of election is likely to favour persons who are seeking leadership, lawyers and persons of equally pushing nature, while opinions on the subject, so far as the public are concerned, are clear.”

The Hon'ble Mr. Thompson :—“May I rise to make an explanation? The Hon'ble Member has misunderstood the passage. The point of the remark is not that it would give a chance to the classes mentioned, but that it would give a chance to those classes among Muhammadans which the corresponding classes among the Hindus and Sikhs would not possess.”

The Hon'ble Mr. Fazl-i-Hussain :—“With reference to these comparative chances of the different communities, I will presently deal with them, and I hope in a way which Government will find now far more satisfactory than it was ten years ago. What I meant was that there are two evils that have to be faced, one is that class of pushing people who would go to the electorates in order to get themselves returned by their constituencies and the other class which the

[*Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Hussain ; Mr. Thompson.*]

people in the press consider as equally obnoxious and to be discouraged, is the people who would go and seek for these nominations rather than go to the electorates. However, that is hardly the point before us, it is the difference between the systems of election and nomination.

"Now with reference to the question of over-representation of Muhammadans. I believe there was a great deal of feeling in 1909 when these reform schemes were introduced, but happily now these feelings between the two communities are not so much estranged as they used to be, and the Hindus as well as the Muhammadans realise that if one or two Hindus more or less went on the Imperial Council or on the Provincial Council, it would make no difference so far as the good government of this country is concerned and so far as the real and true advantages of India as a whole are concerned. We perfectly well know that although in the last elections out of the ten seats open to election five Muhammadans were returned and five Hindus were returned and out of the nominated seats only one-third were given to Muhammadans, but after all supposing that instead of two there were three Muhammadans and so on, the community would not have progressed more than they have done at present. I think it is a matter of satisfaction not only to the people but also to the Government that this reasonable state of feeling prevails in the Province and throughout India. Therefore, when it is pointed out to me that seven out of eleven members who have had from time to time seats on the Imperial Legislative Council on behalf of the Punjab were members of the Muhammadan community, it is, no doubt, a matter of which I would feel proud, but supposing it was reduced to five or six I do not suppose they would feel it very much. I confess I do not find my way to agree with the Hon'ble Member-in-charge upon this point when he says that it involves the taking away of the rights of Hindus or put it more correctly their chance of losing the possibility of a seat which at present is occupied by a Muhammadan."

The Hon'ble Mr. Thompson :—" May I again rise, Sir, to point out that I expressed no opinion. Consequently the Hon'ble Member cannot agree with me."

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Hussain :—" I did not mean at all to attribute that view to the Hon'ble Member-in-charge. On the contrary he expressed no opinion either personally or on behalf of Government. What I meant is that he pointed out certain possibilities for the Hindus to claim that they are under-represented. As I have said that there is not the slightest doubt that if these electorates are considered and discussed now the state of feeling is such that Hindus and Muhammadans among themselves would be very glad indeed to divide the honours equally in an honourable manner and that, to my mind, surely is not a consideration which is going to weigh so far as the enforcement of the present regulations is concerned, and I would say that the fact that one Muhammadan should be elected and not nominated should not give us a title to that seat which could not be set aside by Government as a seat which is open to nomination. This should not be misunderstood by the members of this Council. It is not really a question that the Hindu members of this Council have to consider—whether by acceding to this resolution, i.e., introducing the principle of election where there has been nomination, they would do anything which would make permanent any grievance they may have or result in the over-representation of Muhammadans.

"Now, with regard to the question of there being separate electorates for the Muhammadans in the Punjab for the local legislature. So far as I can see it is hardly a question that arises out of my resolution, not the question of electorate for the representative on the Imperial Legislative Council but the question of separate Muhammadan electorate for the local legislature for election to the local Council, and at present I am not in a position to give any well-considered opinion on that subject. All that I am at present prepared to

[Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Hussain; The President; Mr. Godley.]

say is that, whether there is a separate electorate or not, this particular resolution can be put into effect independently of that. There are some who think that if there are no separate electorates probably it would give rise to irritation, but we all know really that wherever there is election there is some kind of irritation and in the question of religion it is sometimes exhibited, but even if the election were entirely restricted to one community, irritation would be the same as it would be in such Provinces where there are only Moslem electorates or Hindu electorates. So, in the end, I would urge that this resolution is not of any far-reaching importance or of any very great consequence, that it is extremely simple, and that it does not intend to establish a prescriptive right to any seat that the Government may choose to set aside to-morrow for the representation of our Hindu fellow-countrymen. All that is intended to accomplish is that the right which is given by the Government should be exercised in a way in which it is exercised in other places, that the anomaly should be removed and that any peculiar position in this matter, as in some others to which this Province is relegated, should not be allowed to exist. With these few remarks I put the resolution before the Council."

The resolution was put to the Council and carried, seven voting for the resolution and three against it.

Tribute to the Hon'ble Mr. Godley.

His Honour the President :—"Before the Council adjourns I would like to remind the members of the fact that this is the last meeting at which one of the oldest and most valuable members of the Council, the Hon'ble Mr. Godley, will attend. I believe he has been a member of this Council since 1910. It is sufficient for me to say how much the Punjab Education Department and all who are interested in the progress of education in the Punjab owe to him and how valuable his advice and assistance have been to this Council, and I hope the Hon'ble Members would like me to say in their behalf that we all wish him a long life and prosperity in his retirement which he has so well earned."

The Hon'ble Mr. Godley :—"I need hardly say that I thank Your Honour and the members of the Council very heartily for the kind expressions which you have thought fit to use in connection with my resigning my seat in this Council. I am afraid my part in the debates has not been a very prominent one, but I have answered a very large number of questions put by Hon'ble Members in their thirst for information on educational subjects at various times. I do not know whether those answers satisfied the curiosity and their thirst for information, but I never was able to discover from the expressions of the questioners whether my answers were as satisfactory as desired. Anyhow, I am sure they caused no interruption of our friendly relations.

"In this connection before we close, I would like to say that I have been, as Your Honour has remarked, a member of this Council since 1910, and I may be allowed to say that one agreeable feature of the debates in this Council, as it seemed to me, has always been the very friendly spirit which actuated them. There has been no acrimonious feeling and no sharp lines and party divisions. I am sure all the members of the Council will agree with me if I venture to express a hope that this state of things will long continue."

ADJOURNMENT.

The Council adjourned *sine die*.

LAHORE :

S. W. GRACEY,

The 13th March 1917.

Secretary, Legislative Council, Punjab.

Appendix A.

Statement showing the number of Honorary Magistrates and Sub-Registrars in the Ambala Division and the number of such posts held by Jats.

District.	Honorary Magistrates.	Sub-Registrars.	NUMBER OF JATS HOLDING THE POST.	
			Honorary Magistrates.	Sub-Registrars.
Ambala	18	6	*6	1
Karnal	5	3	†2	...
	(1 post vacant in Kaithal.)	(1 post vacant in Kaithal.)		
Rohtak	13	4	2	1
Gurgaon	6	5	...	...
Simla	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
Hissar	7	5	...	...
Total	50	24	10	2

*5 of these are Jat Sikhs. } These are the only Sikhs employed in either capacity.
 †2 of these are Jat Sikhs. }

Appendix B.

Statement showing the number of Hindus, Muhammadans and Sikhs employed in certain Headquarters Offices in Lahore and other offices in the Punjab, answered by the Hon'ble Mr. J. P. Thompson to the question put by the Hon'ble Sardar Bahadur Sardar Gajjan Singh at the meeting of the Council held on the 22nd April 1910.

Serial No.	NAMES OF OFFICES.	1	2	3	REMARKS.
		Hindus.	Muhammadans.	Sikhs.	
1	Registrar, Co-operative Societies ...	3	3	...	
2	Financial Commissioners, Punjab ...	31	16	3	
3	Directors of Land Records, and Agriculture and Industries.	30	20	2	
4	District and Sessions Judges in the Punjab ...	195	249	32	
5	Punjab Irrigation Secretariat and subordinate offices.	383	339	53	
6	Punjab Public Works Department, Buildings and Roads Branch, and Superintending and Executive Engineers.	127	77	17	
	Total ...	759	703	107	

Appendix C.

Translation of Robkar of Revenue Extra Assistant Commissioner, dated 13th September 1891, together with the order of Mr. E. O'Brian, Deputy Commissioner, Kangra District.

AND their owners are entitled to cut the trees except in such areas as have been now during *ishtimal* made the property of their owners. This is the proper procedure. Therefore this report with the original *ijrai kheswat* is forwarded for orders, and it is submitted that orders have been given that only large areas should remain as *kharij bachh* and that the trees situated therein shall be considered their property (*sic*); my submission therefore is that only those large areas shall be considered *kharij bachh* which have been entered in the name of owners since settlement. Orders on other points are clear; on this point only doubts should be cleared up.

On this the following instructions were issued by Rai Sahib:—

The report of the Tahsildar is in detail and reasonable; the *banjar* entered in the name of owners at last settlement in 'separate ownership is all previously *dakhil bachh*; the *kharij bachh ghas, bar, bhet, &c.*, has been shown as *minhai* for the sake of convenience and equalizing the *bachh*; all this area should now also be *dakhil bachh*.

There remain those areas which have been attached to proprietary holdings since settlement. Of these all small areas such as fields, etc., will be *dakhil bachh*. The trees situated therein will belong to the owners; Government has not interfered. But in large areas which have been included in proprietary holdings on account of partition of *shami'at* or at the time of *ishtimal* in accordance with instructions, the trees will be the property (of Government). Now as before they should be *kharij bachh*. The trees should not belong to the people; but this area has been included in the assessment in the assessment papers; still it has been assessed to less than one-half *mohasili*; in my opinion these areas should remain as before *kharij bachh*. Whoever shall deposit the value (of the trees) should be allowed to break up (the land). I am pressing this matter because there are many *shamilat* areas which people have partitioned or by collusion had entered in their name in the *ishtimal* in order that they might get possession of the trees, which are Government property; although they have never felled them nor have they any right to fell them. Therefore, if the *samindars* include any such areas in the *bachh*, then a note should be made in the margin that the trees belong to Government and not to the *samindars*. Through the mere cunning of the *samindars* in making any area *dakhil bachh* Government rights in trees should not be destroyed; nor were the *samindars* ever entitled to such trees nor are they now. Areas which contained at last settlement *banjar* and *kharetar* and where there is an entry to that effect in the margin should not be made *dakhil bachh*. If the *samindars* wish to include them in the *bachh* there is no objection; but, in any case, there must be a remark that the trees belong to Government, not to the *samindars*; but in any area which has been converted into cultivated land out of the *shamilat* or out of a holding, the trees should belong to the owners, since all cultivated land has been included in the *bachh*; therefore, it is ordered that the original report should be submitted to the Deputy Commissioner for sanction.

(Sd.) R. A.

Dated the 13th September 1891;

I most certainly agree with the proposal of the Rai Sahib. All the large areas assessed at settlement will, in any case, remain *dakhil bachh*. In all large areas which since settlement have been included in proprietary holdings by means of partition or otherwise, if the owners were in the habit of taking the trees before, then, in any case, it is necessary that revenue should be assessed and that they should take the trees; but if before they had no right to take the trees and now they have partitioned the land merely with the object that, by reason of the land being attached to a proprietary holding and assessed to revenue they may become owners of the trees, then if they wish they can have these areas; but they can have them only on the conditions which were attached to the land before it became their property—*aur tarah se hai* (this is unintelligible) and small areas according to the report of the Revenue Assistant will, in any case, be *dakhil bachh*. Returned, for information, and action is to be taken accordingly.

(True translation.)

Appendix D.

(SEE ANSWER TO QUESTION No. 6.)

Wholesale prices per munda of wheat at Lahore on the 15th June 1886—1916.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
1890.		1897.	1898.	1899.	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.	1908.	1909.	1910.	1911.	1912.	1913.	1914.	1915.	1916.
Rs. A. P.		Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
2 8 0	3 5 1	2 5 9	1 15 3	3 0 11	3 11 1	2 4 4	2 11 11	2 6 3	2 5 1	3 7 2	6 3	5 2 7	4 11 3	3 10 2	2 15 6	3 3 0	3 10 0	3 13 0	4 13 6	4 7 0	

Appendix E.

(SEE ANSWER TO QUESTION NO. 19.)

Statement showing the number of miles of metalled roads maintained by each of the district boards of the province and the grants from provincial revenues made to each board during the 5 years ending 1915-16.

Districts.	Mileage.	1911-12.	1912-13.	1913-14.	1914-15.	1915-16.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Hissar	50	1,030	1,030	7,588	31,847	2,500
Rohtak	170	24,400	24,400	24,400	82,400	36,400
Gurgaon	122	17,800	17,800	21,800	71,647	36,243
Karnal	95	20,200	20,200	20,200	72,047	30,769
Ambala	91	26,670	26,670	29,000	89,447	39,447
Simla ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...
Kangra ... ..	...	...	...	...	40,000	12,000
Hoshiarpur	78	2,000	12,000	9,000	66,000	23,000
Jullundur	120	28,000	24,000	24,000	91,000	41,000
Ludhiana	138	15,000	12,000	15,000	61,000	32,000
Ferozepore	54	16,000	12,000	12,000	80,000	32,000
Lahore	36	16,550	16,550	16,550	73,050	33,050
Amritsar	94	10,000	10,000	10,000	66,500	21,500
Gurdaspur	43	5,000	5,000	5,000	42,000	16,000
Sialkot	63	14,900	14,900	14,900	54,900	25,900
Gujranwala	137	33,550	33,550	33,550	98,550	44,550
Rawalpindi	40	5,000	550	550	63,000	10,000
Jhelum	5	3,000	5,450	5,000	56,000	14,000
Gujrat	23	11,500	12,000	12,000	69,000	16,000
Shahpur	80	23,500	30,000	27,000	46,000	16,000
Attock	48	10,000	12,000	11,460	69,000	14,000
Mianwali	3	7,000	...	4,000	37,000	10,000
Multan	39	20,000	15,000	32,500	77,000	24,129
Muzaffargarh	21	...	15,000	20,000	36,000	17,000
Jhang	14	3,600	5,000	7,241	27,000	17,000
Dera Ghazi Khan	2	19,400	2,000	12,000	19,000	20,871
Montgomery	24	28,000	13,000	...	91,000	11,000
Lyallpur	132	32,000	50,000	28,250	25,000	10,000
Total	1,708	3,90,100	3,90,100	4,01,588	16,07,398	611,348

Note.—In addition to the above grants, a grant of two lakhs was distributed by Commissioners in 1913-14, but the details of the distribution could not be obtained in time for inclusion in the statement. The statement, moreover, does not include the special grants for new colony roads made in 1915-16 to the three boards as shown below:—

	Rs.
Gujrat	50,000
Multan	1,50,000
Montgomery	1,10,000

APPENDIX G.

(SEE ANSWER TO QUESTIONS NOS. 48 AND 49.)

Statement showing results of recruiting for the Indian Army from 1st August 1914 to 31st December 1916.

District.	Taluk.	A. SIKHS.		B. MUSLIMANS.				C. HINDUS.						D. OTHERS.		Total.	REMARKS.	
		Jat Sikhs.	Others.	Baluchas.	Punjabis.	Hindustanis.	Rajputs.	Others.	Dogra.	Kajpats.	Jats.	Brahmans.	Ahirs.	Gujars.	Others.			Christians.	Other religions.
Hisar	Hisar	...	...	1	...	47	165	25	...	44	553	28	29	6	242	...	...	1,130
	Hansi	...	...	10	...	10	307	08	...	36	548	61	24	17	129	...	...	1,199
	Bhiwani	...	...	...	...	...	193	67	...	190	577	41	24	...	80	...	...	1,165
	Fatehabad	...	...	...	3	11	28	19	...	40	399	5	6	10	111	...	...	993
	Sirsa	...	...	...	...	...	9	68	...	11	177	5	3	...	108	...	...	676
	District Total	240	57	11	3	68	692	237	...	320	2,451	133	85	33	730	...	...	4,803
Rohtak	Rohtak	...	...	...	...	20	600	20	...	41	630	135	2	5	55	...	...	1,620
	Jhajjar	...	...	25	...	60	73	57	...	54	1,084	162	427	7	66	...	1	2,006
	Gohana	...	...	2	...	23	123	9	...	7	475	47	4	1	19	...	...	709
	Sonepat	...	...	...	...	11	12	16	...	10	571	71	...	11	29	...	...	731
	District Total	...	...	27	...	114	814	102	...	112	2,769	416	433	24	169	...	1	4,900
Gurgaon	Gurgaon	...	...	2	...	80	67	105	...	181	170	93	610	183	103	...	...	1,623
	Nowri	...	...	...	...	...	183	18	...	107	110	719	15	45	...	...	...	1,332
	Falwal	...	...	27	...	40	27	44	...	10	225	23	...	105	23	...	...	627
	Nuh	...	...	...	...	482	13	68	...	78	1,010	11	65	67	10	...	2	912
	District Total	...	...	...	...	426	...	...	...	...	5	3	...	...	1	5	...	440
Gurgaon	Ferozpur	...	...	...	...	3	8	50	...	33	100	25	3	484	21	...	9	742
	Bahagpur	...	...	...	...	1,034	297	291	...	409	727	169	1,407	856	208	...	11	5,470

These figures are up to 31st May 1916.
Subsequent figures not received.

16	Karnal	27	10	...	...	...	63	60	13	...	...	33	...	...	335
17	Panipat	...	...	...	...	...	1	180	25	1	21	25	...	...	325
18	Kaithal	3	...	1	...	...	9	65	7	1	2	14	...	2	120
19	Thanesar	30	33	...	10	...	13	85	11	...	1	28	...	...	291
	District Total	60	48	1	16	...	85	308	56	2	24	100	...	2	1,077
20	Ambala	73	47	...	...	...	15	5	5	...	...	19	...	...	185
21	Jagadhri	4	8	3	...	...	9	5	1	...	1	7	...	...	40
22	Narnagarh	11	24	...	...	...	29	4	6	...	2	10	...	...	102
23	Kharar	424	162	3	...	...	33	21	6	1	7	40	1	8	780
24	Ropar	445	137	...	22	1	12	1	10	...	2	2	2	4	697
	District Total	957	378	5	22	1	98	35	23	1	12	78	3	12	1,813
25	Simla	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
26	Kot Eliahi	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
27	Bhispar State	...	...	...	...	...	221	8	86	...	3	...	...	...	425
28	Beslahr State	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	...	...	5
29	Nalagarh State	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	8	...	...	20
	District Total	...	1	...	...	...	114	8	89	...	3	13	...	...	465
30	Falanpur	...	...	...	2	...	1,637	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,639
31	Hansi	...	...	...	...	...	1,391	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,391
32	Dehra	...	2	...	...	...	667	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	671
33	Kangra	...	...	...	4	...	698	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	694
34	Nurpur	...	...	...	1	...	460	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	461
	District Total	...	2	...	9	...	4,023	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	4,025
35	Una	60	40	...	...	...	270	18	45	...	8	18	...	...	482
36	Gurushahar	263	22	...	...	...	184	31	9	...	...	97	...	...	602
37	Hoshiarpur	378	133	...	...	...	91	13	17	...	21	63	2	13	876
38	Dasuya	175	274	...	...	...	407	10	12	...	...	73	...	9	1,079
	District Total	876	469	...	...	...	968	72	83	...	24	251	3	22	3,129

These figures are up to May 1916.
 Later figures have not been received.

Under Districts are included Rajpoots,
 Pathis, Brahamas, Jats and Ghuribs,
 &c.

These figures are up to May 1916.
 Later figures have not been received.

Statement showing results of recruiting for the Indian Army from 1st August 1914 to 31st December 1916—continued.

District.	Tahsil.	A. SIKHS.				B. MUSLIMANS.				C. HINDUS.							D. OTHERS.		REMARKS.
		Jat Sikhs.	Others.	Rajpoots.	Others.	Punjabis.	Hindostanis.	Rajpoots.	Others.	Dogra.	Rajpoot.	Jats.	Brahmans.	Ahirs.	Gujars.	Others.	Christians.	Other religions.	
Jullunder	Jullunder	423	215	62	180	110	...	29	7	...	...	25	...	...	51	13	67	
	Phillaur	261	115	19	12	17	...	4	...	...	...	5	...	...	17	...	...
	Nakodar	267	65	22	20	31	...	...	...	...	...	9	...	...	25	2	19	
	Navashahr	344	178	47	57	...	...	22	...	...	1	11	...	...	51	...	...
	District Total	1,275	573	150	269	188	...	65	7	...	1	50	...	...	144	15	80	
Ludhiana	Ludhiana	802	393	120	85	224	...	1	...	...	...	32	...	...	15	1	...	
	Samrala	369	120	23	35	69	...	...	...	...	...	8	...	...	13	5	...	
	Jagson	540	255	48	57	92	...	...	...	...	...	17	...	...	12	4	...	
	District Total	1,701	810	191	177	385	...	1	...	...	...	57	...	...	40	10	...	
Ferozepore	Ferozepore	136	0	8	21	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	23	...	14	
	Zira	73	15	13	44	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	4	...	
	Nathana	202	2	2	1	5	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	12	
	Moga	403	156	1	47	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Mukhar	74	37	2	...	14	...	...	1	...	1	14	...	...	4	...	...
	Fazilka	5	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...
	Abolar	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	...	...	...	...	...	...
District Total	920	227	23	113	23	1	28	1	...	6	21	...	...	42	11	80		
Total.																		1,223	
																		440	
																		460	
																		711	
																		2,823	
																		1,679	
																		638	
																		1,055	
																		3,372	
																		9	
																		200	
																		159	
																		224	
																		6-6	
																		130	
																		13	
																		1,432	

These figures are up to May 1916.
Later figures have not been received.

Sl. No.	District	187	14	123	...	14	21	...	3	12	...	...	...	75	08	520
54	Lahore	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
55	Kasur	207	47	11	2	20	72	...	...	6	...	...	...	26	58	510
56	Chunab	85	12	4	...	7	10	...	2	8	...	...	...	22	11	170
District Total		480	73	137	2	41	112	...	2	35	...	...	...	47	137	1,218
50	Amritsar	848	565	142	4	57	314	4	...	42	...	...	...	112	10	433
57	Feroz Khan	808	432	287	...	95	...	...	...	18	...	...	...	80	62	1,778
58	Ajvalah	450	90	207	...	124	75	...	1	17	...	...	...	10	35	38
District Total		2,112	1,080	636	4	276	419	4	1	77	...	...	...	214	103	471
59	Gurdaspur	261	227	224	...	71	63	29	10	0	...	...	...	31	43	974
60	Batala	377	127	132	...	92	24	...	1	3	...	...	...	1	32	700
61	Shakargah	214	62	114	...	143	101	...	258	4	...	...	...	42	13	1,002
62	Pathankot	20	39	33	...	22	5	...	133	1	10	...	...	40	4	322
District Total		872	435	503	...	358	193	28	418	7	60	...	...	120	92	3,088
63	Sialkot	155	78	87	...	02	174	21	135	58	31	...	...	30	41	884
64	Feroz	165	14	24	...	5	29	...	2	8	...	...	...	4	10	258
65	Daska	89	3	17	...	14	35	...	14	7	4	...	...	4	92	4
66	Raya	291	151	32	1	35	40	...	2	7	...	...	...	5	29	605
67	Zafarwal	53	3	28	...	230	57	11	38	3	9	...	...	3	...	425
District Total		741	249	188	1	305	344	32	201	69	62	...	...	62	121	4
68	Gujranwala	93	73	27	...	...	46	...	2	4	...	...	...	11	6	272
69	Wazirabad	15	28	8	...	...	10	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	1	73
70	Hasrubad	6	3	4	...	...	9	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	22
71	Khanwah Dugran	64	147	5	...	...	25	...	6	1	...	...	...	13	96	617
72	Shakapur	12	184	...	...	...	8	...	1	...	...	...	...	2	6	213
District Total		192	700	41	...	...	108	...	9	0	...	...	...	28	110	1,197

These figures are up to June 1916.
Later figures have not been received.

* 111 Gujran.

These figures are up to May 1916.
Later figures have not been received.

These figures are up to May 1916.
Later figures have not been received.

+ 387 Mazahis.
+ 146 Labana.

Statement showing results of recruiting for the Indian Army from 1st August 1914 to 31st December 1910—continued.

REMARKS.

District.	Taluk.	A. Sikhs.		B. MUHAMMADANS.				C. HINDUS.						D. OTHERS.		Total.	
		Lat Sikhs.	Others.	Balochs.	Punjabis.	Hindustanis.	Rajputs.	Others.	Jats.	Brahmans.	Ahirs.	Gujars.	Others.	Christians.	Other religions.		
Gujrat	Gujrat	20	443	...	1,215	...	44	624	1	10	9	9	...	70	8	...	2,368
	Kharan	76	63	...	2,591	...	747	1,228	...	13	...	6	...	2	2	3	4,728
	Phalia	...	7	...	228	...	91	35	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	362
	District Total	106	513	...	4,034	...	862	1,787	1	23	9	16	...	72	10	3	7,455
Shahpur	Sargolias	82	63	12	107	...	42	26	...	...	...	6	...	16	89	...	413
	Bhars	...	...	6	103	...	8	10	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	123
	Shahpur	...	10	21	116	...	...	20	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	107
	Kuashab	...	17	23	705	...	65	19	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	889
Jhelum	District Total	82	90	61	1,091	...	115	75	...	...	...	6	...	18	89	...	1,637
	Jhelum	...	19	...	2,062	...	282	905	...	...	...	8	...	17	...	...	3,263
	Prad Dasan Khan	...	...	...	1,073	...	276	412	...	...	...	17	...	21	...	...	1,770
	Chakwal	...	60	...	1,258	...	512	792	...	...	...	28	...	63	...	...	2,093
Rawalpindi	District Total	...	69	...	11,395	...	1,070	12,169	...	...	...	83	...	90	...	...	7,844
	Rawalpindi	83	...	...	1,345	...	637	628	...	...	...	43	...	...	...	...	2,016
	Gojer Khan	...	60	4	1,080	...	1,151	1,205	...	...	...	65	...	12	...	...	3,574
	Kahala	...	43	1	737	...	1,133	744	...	...	...	181	...	13	...	...	2,862
Rawalpindi	Murreo	...	...	...	1,655	...	...	248	...	...	...	22	...	...	...	...	1,923
	District Total	33	93	5	14,723	...	2,951	2,895	...	...	...	312	...	25	...	...	10,967

These figures are upto March 1910. Later figures have not been received.

* 505 Awans.

† Fakhr 265; Moghal, 469; Jats 1,349; Awans 1,309; Gujars 366; Sayads 248.

‡ 393 Kashmiris.

§ Gakhar 4,000; Moghal 275; Awans 824; Gujars 269; Sayads 248; Dhimial 350; Dhimial 719; Saiti 1,086; Qureshi 174; Pathans 41; Kothwale 124.

87	Attock	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	944
88	Fatehjang	...	30	670	...	460	398	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,562
89	Firdgheeb	...	6	1,048	...	88	328	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,482
90	Talag'g	...	0	1,470	...	63	354	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,921
	District Total	...	47	3,823	...	623	1,372	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5,680
91	Minawali	...	2	101	...	...	109	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	342
92	Jan Khel	...	...	23	...	...	318	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	342
93	Blakkar	...	...	16	...	...	11	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	43
	District Total	...	2	100	...	...	508	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	727
94	Dipalpur	...	11	4	161	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	210
95	Pakpattan	...	1	12	20	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	60
96	Montgomery	...	5	7	27	...	35	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	295
97	Gugera	...	...	14	127	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	146
	District Total	...	17	37	325	...	37	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	681
98	Lyalpur	...	166	123	...	2	36	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	478
99	Sannabri	...	63	45	...	8	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	203
100	Toha Tak Singh	...	59	36	...	2	18	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	199
101	Jaranawah	...	...	73	...	8	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	205
	District Total	...	402	278	...	17	65	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,146
102	Jhags	...	...	41	...	...	19	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	66
103	Chileot	...	...	...	...	...	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
104	Shorkot	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	District Total	...	...	41	...	...	23	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	70

168 Avenue, St. John,
443 Pabani.

Statement showing Results of recruiting for the Indian Army from 1st August 1914 to 31st December 1916—concluded.

District.	Taluk.	A. SIKHS.		B. MUSLIMANS.				C. HINDUS.						D. OTHERS.		Total.	REMARKS.		
		Jat Sikhs.	Others.	Bahichs.	Punjabis.	Hindustanis.	Rajputs.	Others.	Dogra.	Rajputs.	Jats.	Brahmans.	Ahirs.	Gujars.	Others.			Christians.	Other religions.
Mullian	Mullian	...	...	...	...	...	...	50	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	64	
	Mulhi	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	
	Kabrwal	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	
	Shujabad	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	
	Lodhran	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	
	District Total	4	1	2	...	...	3	62	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	78	
Munafargah	Leiah	...	...	10	15	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	28	
	Sauwan	...	...	1	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	
	Allper	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Munafargah	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	
	District Total	...	1	13	18	...	...	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	37	
Sera Ghedi Khan	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	
	GRAND TOTAL	11,090	0,207	667	20,680	1,225	9,075	11,000	4,253	2,824	0,373	1,705	1,028	979	2,660	862	805	84,247	

Appendix H.

 REVISED FINANCIAL STATEMENT SHOWING FIGURES UNDER
 MAJOR HEADS FOR THE YEARS 1915-16 TO 1917-18.

NOTE.

THE Revised Financial Statement differs from the advance copy supplied to Hon'ble Members on the 6th March in the following respects :—

REVISED ESTIMATES, 1916-17.

The provincial share of Ordinary Revenue has been reduced by half a lakh and that of Sale of Waste Lands by Rs 75,000, the total reduction under "I—Land Revenue" being thus Rs. 1,25,000. On the expenditure side a reduction of half a lakh has been made under "33—Famine Relief" and a lakh under "45—Civil Works—In charge of Public Works Officers." All these changes are the result of further information as regards actuals.

BUDGET ESTIMATES, 1917-18.

As foreshadowed in the Memorandum it has been found necessary to cut down the estimate under Ordinary Revenue owing to the failure of the winter rains and the provincial share has been reduced accordingly by four lakhs. Under transfers between Imperial and Provincial Rs. 10,70,000 have been entered as a non-recurring assignment on account of the profits of the Wheat Scheme, and a corresponding increase has been made under the expenditure head "26-A—Agriculture." In consequence of the continued absence of rain in any appreciable quantity it has been considered advisable to provide another lakh under "33—Famine Relief" to meet probable expenditure on fodder concessions. Owing to the worseness of the financial position entailed by the alteration under the Land Revenue head the expenditure budget has been curtailed by reducing the head "20—Police" to the extent of half a lakh and "45—Civil Works" by Rs. 3,75,000.

LAHORE :

O. F. LUMSDEN,

The 12th March 1917. }

Financial Secretary to Government, Punjab.

REVISED FINANCIAL STATEMENT SHOWING FIGURES UNDER

HEADS OF ACCOUNT.	Actuals, 1915-16.	Budget, 1916-17.	Revised, 1916-17.	Budget, 1917-18.
	Rs. 1,000	Rs. 1,000	Rs. 1,000	Rs. 1,000
Opening balance	52,21	60,23	63,55	1,03,08
<i>Provincial Revenue and Receipts.</i>				
I—Land Revenue	1,39,89	1,33,37	1,47,11	1,40,31
IV—Stamps	29,06	29,00	30,00	30,50
V—Excise	35,30	31,82	37,50	32,67
VI—Provincial Rates	31	29	37	30
VIII—Income Tax	9,28	11,70	11,96	12,90
IX—Forest	17,27	15,41	15,58	15,74
X—Registration	3,56	3,25	3,68	3,58
XII—Interest	2,46	2,66	2,46	2,44
XVI-A—Law and Justice—Courts of Law	5,68	5,28	5,90	7,00
XVI-B—Law and Justice—Jails... ..	4,44	4,00	4,89	4,38
XVII—Police	1,99	2,82	2,58	2,18
XIX—Education	4,91	5,05	5,11	5,24
XXA—Medical	40	46	41	40
XXB—Sanitation	38	70	97	81
XXI-A—Agriculture	2,27	1,94	2,09	2,41
XXI-B—Scientific and Miscellaneous Departments	27	29	32	30
XXII—Receipts in aid of Superannuation	1,02	1,00	80	80
XXIII—Stationery and Printing	89	1,10	98	1,14
XXV—Miscellaneous	4,30	3,60	4,81	5,46
XXIX—Irrigation—Major Works.	Direct Receipts— Civil	1	3	1
	Public Works	1,19,01	1,27,50	1,32,75
XXX—Irrigation—Minor Works and Navigation.	Indirect Receipts— Portion of Land Revenue due to Irrigation.	53,96	51,00	54,68
	Civil	17	12	28
XXXI—Civil Works	Public Works	50	80	50
	Civil	1,58	1,63	1,81
Transfers between Imperial and Provincial (vide Appendix A).	Public Works	2,03	1,80	2,10
	Civil	47,65	36,85	36,66
Total Provincial Revenue and Receipts	4,88,52	4,73,44	5,07,43	5,19,40
GRAND TOTAL	5,40,73	5,38,67	5,70,98	6,22,48

MAJOR HEADS FOR THE YEARS 1915-16 TO 1917-18.

HEADS OF ACCOUNT.	Actuals, 1915-16.	Budget, 1916-17.	Revised, 1916-17.	Budget, 1917-18.	
<i>Provincial Expenditure.</i>					
	Rs. 1,000	Rs. 1,000	Rs. 1,000	Rs. 1,000	
1—Refunds and Drawbacks	87	97	1,08	92	
2—Assignments and Compensations	33	37	34	39	
3—Land Revenue	49,47	51,44	47,73	51,13	
6—Stamps	89	87	89	89	
7—Excise	1,13	1,30	1,22	1,29	
10—Income Tax	6	14	13	14	
11—Forest	9,24	10,00	9,47	11,34	
12—Registration	1,26	1,24	1,27	1,30	
13—Interest on Ordinary Debt	2,01	2,05	1,97	2,05	
18—General Administration	12,41	12,64	12,71	12,66	
19-A—Law and Justice—Courts of Law	47,44	46,56	45,27	46,74	
19-B—Law and Justice—Jails	17,94	18,28	18,46	19,46	
20—Police	64,25	70,11	65,31	70,14	
22—Education	44,10	42,70	42,53	46,32	
24A—Medical	12,41	9,44	8,71	11,05	
24B—Sanitation	7,25	7,25	8,36	7,67	
26-A—Agriculture	11,83	12,86	12,93	24,45	
26-B—Scientific and Miscellaneous Departments	1,39	1,62	1,46	1,75	
29—Superannuation Allowances and Pensions	23,15	25,34	25,04	26,63	
30—Stationery and Printing	7,65	8,22	7,90	8,47	
32—Miscellaneous	3,67	8,81	5,18	11,75	
33—Famine Relief	1,58	...	5,80	1,85	
36—Reduction or Avoidance of Debt	1,40	1,40	1,40	...	
42—Irrigation—Major Works	Working Expenses—				
	Civil	1	...	...
	Public Works	51,75	51,50	52,08	50,48
	Interest on debt	36,19	37,38	36,97	37,62
43—Minor Works and Navigation.	Civil	43	46	68	78
	Public Works	1,60	1,40	2,08	2,77
45—Civil Works	Civil	13,78	13,58	11,16	12,72
	Public Works	51,69	40,27	40,42	54,58
Total Expenditure	4,77,18	4,78,26	4,67,90	5,17,39	
Closing balance	63,55	55,41	1,08,08	1,05,00	
GRAND TOTAL	5,40,73	5,33,67	5,76,98	6,22,38	

MEMORANDUM BY THE FINANCE MEMBER.

Part I.

THE first part of this memorandum deals with the general financial position of the Province in the current and ensuing years.

2. The following table affords a general view of the position :—

	1915-16.		1916-17.		1917-18.
	Revised.	Actuals.	Budget.	Revised.	Budget.
	(Rs. 1,000.)	(Rs. 1,000.)	(Rs. 1,000.)	(Rs. 1,000.)	(Rs. 1,000.)
Opening balance	₹2,21	52,21	60,23	63,55	1,02,83
Revenue	4,55,34	4,88,52	4,73,41	5,68,68	5,12,70
Expenditure	4,77,22	4,77,18	4,78,26	4,79,40	5,09,94
Closing balance	60,23	63,55	55,41	1,02,58	1,05,59

The difference of about 3 lakhs between the actuals and the revised estimates of Revenue for 1915-16 is mainly accounted for by unexpected increases in the last few weeks of about a lakh each under the heads V—Excise and IX—Forests and of half a lakh under XXV—Miscellaneous. These increases were however counterbalanced by a decrease of 3½ lakhs under XXIX—Irrigation—Major Works—Direct Receipts and the balance would accordingly have been practically unchanged, had it not been for the operation of the rule under which this Province receives an assignment when necessary to bring the nett Provincial Irrigation Revenue to 41 lakhs. The total expenditure estimate was extremely accurate and there were few important differences under the various Major Heads apart from an under-estimate of 1½ lakhs under 42—Irrigation—Working Expenses and a reduction in expenditure of about one lakh under 20—Police.

REVISED ESTIMATES, 1916-17.

3. When the budget was framed for the current year prospects were distinctly gloomy. A poor monsoon had been followed by an almost complete failure of the winter rains. Agricultural operations on which the prosperity of this Province so largely depends were seriously menaced not merely in respect of crops but also as regards the cattle which do not enjoy to the same extent the comparative protection afforded by the canals. In addition to these serious internal conditions the shadow of the Great War overhanging the Province was a factor which could not be ignored in estimating income. It was thus essential that the budget as framed should make full allowance both for local conditions and for the effects of the world-embracing conflagration. As the year progressed however it became evident that the dismal expectations would not be realised. The Great War cloud, it is true, still hangs overhead, but its effect on provincial revenues has been singularly slight, while the other clouds dissolved in rain so copious during the monsoon period that complaints of an excess began to make themselves heard. As a pleasing result the estimates of revenue framed for the current year have proved to be substantially below the mark. As a matter of fact money has been flowing in with such rapidity—thanks to the excellence of the kharif—that several changes have had to be made on the original revised figures. As an example it may be mentioned that one district which estimated collections of suspensions amounting to Rs. 25,000 actually paid about one and three-quarter lakhs. While the largest increase is naturally to be

found under the head Land Revenue, practically every head of any importance shows a welcome advance on the original estimates. The most striking exception will be found under XVII—Police and for the reasons given in last year's memorandum this decrease is itself a matter for congratulation indicating as it does a reduction in the number of punitive posts quartered on villages in consequence of habitual misconduct.

4. The increase under Vd—Excise is deserving of special note. It is partially accounted for by increase duties but its steady growth points to general prosperity. In framing the budget estimate under this head three factors were taken into consideration—(a) the poor agricultural prospects affecting the spending power of the community, (b) the reduction in consequence of the war of the number of troops permanently stationed in the Punjab, and (c) the spread of the temperance movement. It was anticipated that the cumulative effect of these three factors would cause a reduction of consumption equivalent to three and a half lakhs of revenue, but events have shown that in place of a diminution a rise of one and three-quarter lakhs may be expected. There appear to be no grounds for supposing that in spite of all the efforts of temperance societies and reformers and the various restrictions placed by Government upon sale at fairs, &c., the liquor habit is spreading; the increased consumption seems to be due simply to the fact that habitual consumers in consequence of the good kharif and high prices obtained for produce of all kinds have been able to spend more money on this form of luxury, while, thanks to the efforts of the special preventive department, supplies of illicit spirit have been curtailed. No explanation has been furnished of the expansion as regards malt liquors but it may be assumed that it is largely caused by the substitution of local beer for the imported article owing to increased charges and difficulties of supply.

5. The growth under the head XVI-A—Law and Justice—Courts of Law is mainly confined to the Minor Head "Fines and Forfeitures" and the reason for the increase is not very obvious. The crusade against short terms of imprisonment especially in the case of first offenders may possibly contribute to the result but the figures appear also to be evidence of the general prosperity, fines being paid in preference to the option of imprisonment. It is also suggested that when money is plentiful many petty cases are taken to court which would otherwise be settled in the village. Under XVI-B the jail receipts are swollen by large orders placed by the military authorities for supplies of various articles such as blankets. The nett cost to the Province of the maintenance of the large number of evil-doers is still considerable and every increase on the receipt side is to be welcomed, provided it is not accompanied by a corresponding rise of expenditure.

6. The large improvement under XXIX—Irrigation is highly satisfactory. Part of it follows as a natural corollary from the increase under I—Land Revenue, but a considerable part is due to actual extension of irrigation on the Triple Canal System and further increases on this account are anticipated in next year's budget.

7. On the expenditure side every effort continues to be made to conserve provincial revenues. It will be remembered that the budget as framed even after the drastic curtailments rendered necessary by the conditions which then obtained failed by nearly five lakhs to keep within the limits of the estimated income. As was explained at the time however this deficit was largely nominal representing as it did a reserve of five lakhs for unforeseen contingencies and the assurance was given that this reserve would not be utilized save for urgent necessity in order that there might be no trenching on the provincial balance. Though this special restriction was rendered superfluous by the great improvement in receipts, the promise has been faithfully redeemed and it is anticipated that the expenditure for the year will fail to reach even the attenuated figure proposed exclusive of this reserve and that the provincial balance will as the result of this year's working be some thirty-nine and a quarter lakhs better than the opening balance which in itself was as pointed out in paragraph 2 of this memorandum about 3½ lakhs better than expectation.

8. An examination of the Major Heads will show that expenditure has been reduced under most of the important heads. Improved conditions rendered it possible to discontinue after June the payment of grain compensation allowance and in several districts such payments automatically ceased the previous month. Considerable savings were made possible under various heads owing to the placing of the services of so many officers at the disposal of the military authorities in connection with the war. The only head exhibiting a serious increase in expenditure is 33—Famine Relief due to the large advantage taken of the system of fodder concessions. While the extensive network of canals is sufficient to assure the Province under ordinary circumstances against the horrors of famine, any prolonged scantiness of rainfall seriously affects the fodder supply and special measures become essential in certain districts if the lives of the cattle are to be preserved. These fodder concessions have been greatly appreciated and though the expenditure involved is considerable, it may safely be said that even from the economic point of view it is thoroughly sound.

9. The largest absolute decrease will be found under 20—Police. Though a substantial portion of the reduction is accounted for by the discontinuance of grain compensation allowance payments, considerable economies have been effected in contingent expenditure while the diminution in the number of punitive posts helps to improve the figures.

10. The difference in the totals under 3—Land Revenue is also appreciable but it is distributed under a number of heads as explained in the second part of this memo. and need not be discussed here. Under the head 45—Civil Works—Civil the decrease is in large measure due to the introduction in the Rawalpindi Division of the consolidated grant to District Boards, in places of various grants for specific purposes, the general grant being debited to the head 32—Miscellaneous.

11. There is a small but very satisfactory decrease under 30—Stationery and Printing which calls for a few words of explanation in view of the enormous rise in the cost of paper. All departments were asked to cut down their indents to the smallest possible amounts and to take all precautions against wastage. A small informal committee met at Simla to discuss methods of reducing consumption and various suggestions then made have been adopted. Wherever this has been found practicable cheaper qualities of paper are being employed; forms have been reduced to half their previous size whenever this could be done without sacrifice of utility; the circulation of all reports, returns and reviews has been curtailed; and efforts are being made to diminish the quantities of paper required for the Gazette by limiting the number of officers to whom complete copies will be sent. Other minor improvements have been effected and though it is not possible for the reduction of expenditure to keep pace with the continued increases in price, the measures taken have considerably curtailed the loss which would otherwise have been incurred.

12. None of the increases on the side of the account appear to require discussion here. The details will be found under the respective heads in the second part of this memorandum.

BUDGET FOR 1917-18.

13. The budget has been framed on optimistic lines, but the almost complete failure of the winter rains up to date is seriously affecting the prospects of what at one time promised to be a bumper spring crop and it will probably be necessary to reduce the estimates to some extent—a process which involves a corresponding curtailment of expenditure in order to avoid any drawal on the provincial balance. Though it has been possible to find room for various schemes of very urgent desirability, the general orders restricting expenditure to the anticipated income are still in force and any falling off of receipts must be accompanied by a *pro tanto* limitation on the debit side.

14. While it is still expected that the irrigated crops will prove good and that the riverain harvest will be fair, the higher lying unirrigated

lands have already suffered appreciably from the drought, though, thanks to the long continuance of the past monsoon, the position is not as bad as might have been expected. To some extent too any losses will be offset by the good prices obtainable for agricultural produce, while districts which have done their duty in connection with the war are benefitting by the large sums of money remitted by those employed by the military authorities in various capacities. On the whole therefore though the early hopes of a record harvest cannot now be maintained, there is every reason to expect a fair outturn and the general position does not warrant a gloomy budget. The excellence of the fodder crops last kharif has been a great asset during this present period of drought.

15. Though the present figures will require some modification before they assume their final form, they will even then be of a satisfactory character. The estimated income as shown amounts to Rs. 4,79,88,000 to which has to be added Rs. 32,82,000 representing the nett result of transfers between Imperial and Provincial revenues. The total expenditure has been assumed at Rs. 5,09,94,000, thus allowing for a small surplus of about 2½ lakhs.

16. Prior to any discussion of the figures under the various heads attention may be drawn to the changes in the form of the budget. It will be noticed that the heads XX and 24—Medical now appear as XX-A and 24-A—Medical and XX B and 24-B—Sanitation. This alteration has been made under orders of the Government of India and the new classification will enable those interested to see at a glance what the exact position is. The second change is of much greater importance to the Province generally. It involves the disappearance of the familiar figure of Rs. 1,40,000 under the head Reduction or Avoidance of Debt. The figure will also be found missing in the list of recurring contributions from Imperial to Provincial. This sum represented the yearly insurance against famine payable by the Government of India until the total credit reached 10 lakhs. From the point of view of provincial finance this system was not thought to be disadvantageous so long as two famines did not succeed each other at a short interval. But recent experience as regards fodder concessions which are debited to this head has shown that so far as this Province is concerned the system was throwing a heavy burden on the revenues. The credit balance at the close of 1915-16 was nil, so that all that was available to meet the heavy expenses of the current year was the Rs. 1,40,000 assignment plus the assistance given of one-half of the expenditure incurred above the amount at credit. Under the new system 33—Famine Relief will become an ordinary divided head, $\frac{3}{4}$ ths being debitable to Imperial and the remaining $\frac{1}{4}$ th being borne from Provincial revenues. Had this system been in force during the current year the Province would have benefited to the extent of Rs. 2,50,000, and though year by year the probability of a serious famine is reduced by the expansion of canals and improvements in the way of well irrigation, any protracted failure of the rains will involve fodder scarcity, and the payment of consequent charges in the ratio mentioned should in the long run prove more advantageous to the Province than the discarded scheme having for its object the gradual building up of famine credits.

17. On the receipt side of the accounts it will be seen that under the majority of heads allowance has been made for gradual expansion and this despite the fact that for budget purposes it is assumed that war conditions will obtain throughout the year. Exceptionally, small decreases will be found under X—Registration, XVI-B—Jails, XVII—Police, XX-B—Sanitation, XXX—Irrigation—Minor Works and Navigation (Public Works), XXXI—Civil Works—Civil. In all cases, however, the reductions are of trifling amount. In the case of the first named the decrease is ascribed to a probable falling off owing to improved agricultural conditions in the number of documents registered. If this explanation be correct, the reduction is really a matter for congratulation and a similar remark applies to the figures under XVII—Police where a decrease of Rs. 38,000 under Punitive Police is anticipated. The jail figures allow for some falling off from the exceptional demands made by the military authorities during the present year. The Sanitation decrease is not due to any expected check in progress but is caused by the omission of a special credit of

Rs. 23,000 to the Plague Disinfection Depôt. The Irrigation Budget XXX—Minor Works and Navigation (Public Works) assumes a decrease of Rs. 10,000 from the Dane Dam and Canal, while the small reduction of Rs. 6,000 under XXXI—Civil Works—Civil is the result of several unimportant variations.

18. No reference has so far been made to the only large decrease which occurs under the head I—Land Revenue. The reason for this is that the decrease is purely apparent. To arrive at the real position it is necessary to add the portion of land revenue credited to the Irrigation Head XXIX—Major Works, and if this be done the decrease of 4 lakhs is at once converted into a surplus of over two and a quarter lakhs. With the extension of irrigation, the portion of land revenue credited under head "XXIX" naturally tends to expand.

19. The increases on the income side do not call for special remarks. Under IV—Stamps, VIII—Income-Tax, XIX—Education and XXI-A—Agriculture the figures represent normal progress on the basis of the Revised estimates for the current year. The small addition to XXIII—Stationery and Printing is accounted for by the fact that greater use is being made of jail presses. The total under XXIX—Irrigation—Major Works allows for extension of the irrigated area by means of the new canal. The Excise figures allow *inter alia* for the enhancement of the duty on opium.

20. On the expenditure side the substantial increase is largely explained by the inclusion of some 30 lakhs of unallotted expenditure which after examination by the Finance Committee now finds a place in the budget.

As might have been expected the head which has benefited most from the improved conditions is 45—Civil Works—Public Works,—a head which as explained last year generally affords a fairly good indication of the state of the provincial finances. In the increase of 17 lakhs provision is made for various projects which, though of urgent desirability, had to be deferred on account of the financial stringency. Under the sister portion 45—Civil Works—Civil the grants for Colony roads have again been included and a sum has been set aside for certain payments to be made to the States of Koti and Keonthal.

21. Under most of the other heads which exhibit substantial increases provision has been made for grain compensation allowances. Under 3—Land Revenue a special sum of 1½ lakhs has been entered in connection with Thal Survey operations. The figures under XI—Forests allow for larger expenditure in connection with the removal of timber by Government agency and for the development of new irrigated plantations. Under 19-B—Law and Justice—Jails provision is made for the continuance of high dietary charges and for the purchase of increased amounts of raw material for the manufacture of blankets required by the military authorities. The budget figures under 20—Police have no sinister significance. Apart from the considerable sums included on account of grain compensation allowances they are mainly the result of an allotment of Rs. 2,30,000 towards the scheme for the reclamation of the criminal tribes.

22. The comparatively large totals under the heads 22—Education and 24-A—Medical require a word of explanation. The former includes an extra lakh in grants-in-aid with the addition of the new recurring and welcome assignment of 1½ lakhs from the Government of India for improving the training and pay of teachers. The Medical head makes provision for the extra maintenance charges which result from the completion of the King Edward Memorial Scheme and also for the payment of a special grant of one lakh to the fund to enable it to clear off all surplus expenditure. This lakh, it may be mentioned, was granted to assist in the scheme for opening cheap grain shops, but as it was not required owing to the improvement in the position it is being recently returned to Government.

23. Under 24-B—Sanitation last year's grant of 3 lakhs to the Sanitary Board has been increased to 4 lakhs while provision has also been made for expenditure on plague, though it is hoped that the Province may continue to enjoy its present comparative immunity from that disease. The Agricultural Department continues to expand and as its importance to the community is unquestioned every effort has been made to supply its wants. This head includes expenditure in connection with the co-operative movement, and provision has been made for the much-needed strengthening of the staffs. The large increase under 32—Miscellaneous is mainly represented by the reserve fund of 5 lakhs, but it also includes a lakh for development grants to District Boards and also a sum of Rs. 40,000 to complete the introduction of the Copying Agency Scheme.

24. The expenditure has been entered on generous lines and represents an addition of no less than 40 lakhs on the Revised. Though some reduction will be necessitated by the continued holding off of the rains the balance should enable the various departments to make appreciable progress during the coming year. In view of the fact that, as explained by the Hon'ble Sir W. Meyer in the Imperial Council, "the financial history of the provinces must continue to be one of severe restriction of expenditure so long as the war lasts," the sanctioned provision must be regarded as highly satisfactory.

25. The statement (Appendix A) containing details of transfers between Imperial and Provincial revenues does not require any lengthy explanation. Reference has already been made to the disappearance of the recurring grant of Rs. 1,40,000 in connection with the Famine Insurance Scheme (paragraph 16) and to the new assignment of Rs. 1,75,000 for the improvement of the training and pay of teachers (paragraph 22). The reduction in the amount of the grant in connection with the sales of town sites is a natural corollary of the reduced estimates under that sub-head. The additional recurring assignment of Rs. 13,400 granted on account of the scheme for importing charas and bharg in bond into the Delhi Province is self-explanatory. Import in bond is admissible under the rules, but at the time of the separation of the Delhi Province no allowance was made in the terms of settlement for the possible introduction of this system and up to the present time the duty has been credited to provincial revenues. The alteration proposed by the Delhi authorities thus involved a loss of receipts and on the representation of this Government an assignment has been granted as compensation on the basis of the Delhi consumption from this Province during the past three years. Two small non-recurring grants have been received in the course of the year and recently a sum of Rs. 1,61,000 has been credited to meet certain expenses connected with the Dhar Housing Scheme which forms part of the general proposal for the improvement of Simla. This money has been placed at the disposal of the Municipal Committee, Simla.

26. During the year the Government of India found it necessary to raise the rate of interest on the loans made to Provincial Governments and the minimum rate at which loans can be granted to local bodies, &c., has been fixed at 5 per cent. with effect from 1st October 1916 as compared with 4 per cent. the rate previously in force. Local Governments were allowed the option of increasing the rates at which takavi loans were granted but, after full consideration, it was decided that for the present no extra charge should be made to cultivators. Owing to the good rains there was an exceptionally brisk demand for this form of assistance and an application had to be preferred for an increased grant of 2½ lakhs.

27. The special income-tax assessing agency to which a reference was made in last year's memorandum has been employed during the year in certain towns of the Lahore and Jullundur Divisions. A report of the results has not yet been received, but it is anticipated that its labours will produce a more equitable as well as a more complete assessment. The income-tax machinery is by no means perfect but improvements at no dis-

tant date were foreshadowed in the Hon'ble Finance Member's recent speech introducing the Imperial Financial Statement for 1917-18.

28. The local Finance Department has had a busy year and various changes have been introduced which it is hoped will prove beneficial. Perhaps the most important measure has been the introduction of the system whereby grants to District Boards are made in a consolidated form for a term of years. The change does not affect educational grants which will continue to have a separate existence, but all other grants will be lumped together and the District Boards will be left to distribute these grants as they think best, subject to the general condition that the works and services entrusted to their charge are efficiently maintained. The work of consolidation is by no means as simple as might appear to be the case and so far the scheme has been introduced only in the Rawalpindi Division. Figures for the Ambala Division are, however, complete and some progress has been made in connection with the remaining divisions. It is hoped that the scheme will be completed for the whole Province early in the coming financial year. The change is an important step in the direction of financial local self-government.

29. An important modification introduced experimentally with the permission of the Government of India is the system by which service postage stamps are paid for by book transfer instead of in cash. Reports received so far on the working of this experiment are most satisfactory, and it seems probable that the system will be adopted permanently. It obviates the handling of large sums of money and thus lessens opportunities for fraud.

30. Under orders from the Government of India local allowances were classified throughout as remunerative or compensatory (now termed duty and local) according as they were granted for additional work and responsibilities or for dearness of living. The classification involved considerable labour as many of the allowances dated back to early days, and it was not always easy to trace the original orders conveying sanction. Further progress was made in the direction of simplifying contingent expenditure and the contract grant system was extended to District and Sessions Judges. The procedure introduced as an experiment under which the local Accountant-General prepared the estimates in the case of all the permanently sanctioned establishments has given rise to no complaints and has relieved local officers of part of the burden of budget preparation and the experiment will be continued for another year subject to a favourable report. Finally the method of adjusting the charges for the accommodation and treatment in civil hospitals of the sick and wounded returning from the seats of war has been definitely settled. Certain expenses are a charge on provincial revenues, the remainder are passed on to the Controller of War Accounts.

31. As was the case last year this memo. has been prepared on the figures of the 2nd edition and a note will be prefixed to the finally revised copies of the Financial Statement which will be furnished to Hon'ble Members on the 12th instant explaining any changes of importance made in the 3rd edition of the estimates. The second part of this memo. has according to custom been drafted by the Under-Secretary, Financial (Mr. Barry), and the slight changes made last year have been continued: a list of all important re-appropriations has been appended and the figures under Major and Minor heads have been incorporated in the body of the memorandum.

Part II
REVENUE.

I.—LAND REVENUE.

HEADS OF ACCOUNT.	Actuals, 1916-18.	Budget, 1916-17.	Revised, 1916-17.	Budget, 1917-18.
	Rs. 1,000	Rs. 1,000	Rs. 1,000	Rs. 1,000
REVENUE AND RECEIPTS.				
<i>I—Land Revenue—</i>				
Ordinary revenue	3,46,40	3,31,06	3,65,76	3,71,61
Sale of Government estates ...	6,49	5,00	6,50	3,08
Sale-proceeds of waste lands and redemption of land tax.	24,61	23,00	22,94	25,89
Assessment of alienated land, less quit-rents—service commutations.	1,69	1,70	1,69	1,75
Rents, etc., of fisheries	9	9	13	11
Miscellaneous	8,41	7,90	9,05	8,18
Total ...	3,87,69	3,68,75	4,06,07	4,10,62
<i>Deduct—</i> Portion of land revenue due to Irrigation transferred to "XXIX—Irrigation—Major Works."	1,07,92	1,02,00	1,09,35	1,22,00
Net total shared ...	2,79,77	2,66,75	2,96,72	2,88,62
<i>Deduct—</i> Imperial share—one-half ...	1,39,88	1,33,38	1,48,36	1,44,31
Provincial share—one-half ...	1,39,89	1,33,37	1,48,36	1,44,31

As will be seen at once from the figures above the financial position under this head is very much better than was anticipated when the estimates were framed early in 1916. It is true that the poorness of the rabi necessitated heavy suspensions of land revenue, especially in the South-Eastern districts, but on the whole the crop was not quite so bad as was at one time feared. The good monsoon enabled large quantities of suspended arrears to be collected and fluctuating collections also benefited considerably owing to the larger area irrigated. The revised estimate under ordinary revenue shows an increase of Rs. 13,21,000 under Fixed collections and Rs. 21,49,000 under Fluctuating.

The largest contributor to the increase under ordinary revenue is Gujranwala (under *Fluctuating*) followed by Jullundur, Hoshiarpur, and Gurgaon (under *Fixed*) and Lyallpur, Montgomery, and Shahpur (under *Fluctuating*). In Sialkot Fluctuating revenue will benefit to the extent of over 2 lakhs at the expense of Fixed.

The receipts from sale of Government estates are always somewhat difficult to predict. The increase of a lakh under this head is chiefly due to better receipts than originally estimated in Gurgaon and Muzaffargarh. Under Sales of Waste Land considerably higher receipts than were first expected are now being allowed for in Gujranwala, Shahpur, Montgomery and Multan, while in Lahore and Lyallpur the figures now adopted are considerably below the sanctioned estimates. The increase under Miscellaneous collections is mainly under Fines and Recoveries and Rent of Lands leased for a single year or harvest. The good rains encouraged cultivators to take up land and in Montgomery alone over a lakh has already been received this year from these short leases.

The budget provides for recoveries from suspended revenue amounting to some 6½ lakhs. The figure adopted under Fixed collections is, partly on this account and partly owing to a rise of some 3 lakhs in the assessments of Lahore, Kangra and Shahpur, higher than the revised estimate by Rs. 6,76,000, while that under Fluctuating collections provides for a drop of Rs. 91,000, owing to the receipts this year being somewhat abnormal. A decrease in receipts from sale of Government estates is anticipated in Gurgaon, Lyallpur and Muzaffargarh, while the improvement of nearly 3 lakhs under Waste Lands is almost entirely due to higher receipts having been allowed for in Montgomery, most of the other districts showing smaller figures. Under Miscellaneous the decrease is due to the fact that in view of the poor winter rains it would be unsafe to count on the high receipts obtained this year from lands leased for a single harvest on account of the good monsoon.

*IV—STAMPS.

HEADS OF ACCOUNT.	Actuals, 1915-16.	Budget, 1916-17.	Revised, 1916-17.	Budget, 1917-18.
	Rs. 1,000	Rs. 1,000	Rs. 1,000	Rs. 1,000
Sale of general stamps ...	18,03	17,85	19,13	19,62
Sale of court-fee stamps ...	37,64	37,70	38,40	38,95
Sale of plain paper to be used with court-fee stamps.	78	77	81	80
Duty on impressing documents ...	1,24	1,27	1,25	1,22
Fines and penalties ...	41	40	40	40
Miscellaneous ...	1	1	1	1
Total ...	58,11	58,00	60,00	61,00
<i>Deduct</i> —Imperial share—one-half ...	29,05	29,00	30,00	30,50
Provincial share—one-half ...	29,06	29,00	30,00	30,50

*Not open to discussion.

This year's budget was purposely framed on rather cautious lines owing to the failure of the winter rains of 1915-16, so with this year's good monsoon it is not surprising that the revised estimates under General stamps and Court-

fee stamps exhibit considerable increases over the budget. These two minor heads are increasing ones and allowance for a continuance of the increase has been made in the estimates for next year. The variations under the other minor heads are inconsiderable.

V—EXCISE.

HEADS OF ACCOUNT.	Actuals, 1916-16.	Budget, 1916-17.	Revised, 1916-17.	Budget, 1917-18.
	Rs. 1,000	Rs. 1,000	Rs. 1,000	Rs. 1,000
License and distillery fees and duties for the sale of liquors and drugs.	60,05	54,99	66,12	67,05
Acreage on land cultivated with poppy	1	1	3	3
Transit duty on excise opium ...	1,20	75	1,30	1,00
Gain on sale-proceeds of excise opium	9,26	7,81	7,51	9,30
Fines, confiscations and miscellaneous	8	8	4	8
Total ...	70,60	63,64	75,00	77,35
Deduct—Imperial share—one-half ...	35,30	31,82	37,50	38,68
Provincial share—one-half ...	35,30	31,82	37,50	38,67

When the budget under this head was framed last year the financial outlook was somewhat grave owing to the failure of the rabi crop and a low figure was purposely adopted. The good monsoon is the chief factor accounting for the very considerable excess in the revised estimate. Under license and distillery fees, etc., the increase is partly due to slightly higher results obtained in the auctions of the licenses which took place in January this year, but chiefly to a very considerable increase in the receipts from duty on malt liquors which are expected to exceed last year's actuals by about 3½ lakhs. This large increase is partly due to the increase in duty from 3 annas to 4 annas and 6 pies per gallon and partly to considerably larger sales owing to restricted imports of beer from Europe. Still-head duty shows an increase of over a lakh on foreign spirits and nearly four lakhs on country spirits. The receipts from opium and its preparations are expected to be some Rs. 30,000 lower than was anticipated, while those from other drugs show a rise of about three-quarters of a lakh. The receipts under transit duty on excise opium and gain on sale-proceeds of excise opium are both somewhat difficult to forecast, and the figures adopted in the revised estimates have been based on the actuals for the first ten months of the financial year.

In the budget, allowances have been made for the excellence of the kharif harvest and the comparatively high prices which the cultivator is getting for his produce, both of which tend to swell the receipts under this head. The auction sales of licenses, etc., already show an increase of some 90,000 rupees as compared with last year's results, five-sixths of which will affect the figures for 1917-18. For the rest the revised estimate under license and distillery fees, etc., has more or less been followed in the budget. Under gain on sale-proceeds of excise opium the figure which has been adopted allows for the increase in the sale price from April 1st, 1917. It must be realized, however, that the receipts under the whole major head depending as they do so much on the material prosperity of the people are difficult to predict with any certainty.

*VI—PROVINCIAL RATES.

HEADS OF ACCOUNT.	Actuals, 1915-16.	Budget, 1916-17.	Revised, 1916-17.	Budget, 1917-18.
	Rs. 1,000	Rs. 1,000	Rs. 1,000	Rs. 1,000
Rates and cesses on land ...	31	29	37	30

*Not open to discussion.

The increase in the revised estimate over the budget is mainly due to a special item of about Rs. 6,000 expected from the Hardit Singh Estate, Bawalpindi District.

†VIII—INCOME-TAX.

HEADS OF ACCOUNT.	Actuals, 1915-16.	Budget, 1916-17.	Revised, 1916-17.	Budget, 1917-18.
	Rs. 1,000	Rs. 1,000	Rs. 1,000	Rs. 1,000
Income-tax ...	18,56	23,40	23,93	25,80
<i>Deduct</i> —Imperial share—one-half ...	9,28	11,70	11,97	12,90
Provincial share—one-half ...	9,28	11,70	11,96	12,90

†Not open to discussion.

The increase in the budget as compared with last year's actuals was mainly due to the enhanced rates which came into force this year. The revised has been put at Rs. 53,000 more than the budget, mainly on account of larger receipts than were anticipated from income-tax on salaries and pensions and interest on Government securities.

In the receipts from the first two of these a further slight rise of Rs. 20,000 has been allowed for in 1917-18, while the estimate under Ordinary Collections has been put at nearly 1½ lakhs above the revised, mainly on account of normal expansion and the results expected from the Special Assessing Agency.

IX—FOREST.

HEADS OF ACCOUNT.	Actuals 1915-16.	Budget, 1916-17.	Revised, 1916-17.	Budget, 1917-18.
	Rs. 1,000	Rs. 1,000	Rs. 1,000	Rs. 1,000
I—Timber and other produce removed from the forests by Government agency.	3,66	5,85	6,16	7,79
II—Timber and other produce removed from the forests by consumers or purchasers.	12,00	8,02	8,20	6,56
III—Confiscated drift and waif wood	44	23	22	22
IV—Revenue from forests not managed by Government.	3	3	3	3
V—Miscellaneous ...	1,14	1,28	97	1,14
Total ...	17,27	15,41	15,58	15,74

The reasons for the variations under the different minor heads are as follows :—

Revised Estimates, 1916-17.

I—Timber, etc., removed from forests by Government agency.—More available timber and better ruling prices in the Lahore Division are expected to yield Rs. 29,000 more than was originally anticipated, while the rise in price of resin products will, it is assumed, cause an increase of Rs. 76,000. On the other hand, abandonment of fellings in the Kalesar Forest, sales of smaller trees in the Bashahr Forests, and an over-estimate in the Rawalpindi Division account for an expected fall of about Rs. 33,000, and in addition the inadequacy of the tramway in the Changa Manga Plantation will, it is believed, result in a drop in income from sales of firewood to the extent of no less than Rs. 63,000.

II—Timber, etc., removed from forests by purchasers.—Larger sales of *chil* trees cut in improvement fellings in Kangra and better prices for *chil* in Rawalpindi are expected to bring in about Rs. 37,000 more than the budget allowed for, and better sales of grass in the Lahore and Chenab Divisions will, it is hoped, result in an increase of nearly Rs. 10,000. Against these, however, must be set an anticipated drop of about Rs. 23,000 from the Bashahr Division owing to the sales of smaller trees.

V—Miscellaneous, — Rs. 30,000.—This is attributed to water for temporary cultivation in the Khanewal Plantation being available for a small area only.

Budget Estimate, 1917-18.

I—Timber, etc., removed by Government agency, + Rs. 1,63,000.—This is anticipated as a result of more expensive departmental fellings in the Rawalpindi Division, the proposed departmental cutting of bamboos in Kangra Forests, and the extension and commencement of resin-tapping in the Rawalpindi and Kangra Divisions, respectively.

II—Timber, etc., removed by purchasers, —Rs. 1,64,000.—Due to the expectation that smaller trees will be available for sale in the Bashahr Division, and that there will be smaller sales of trees in the Kangra Division. The substitution of departmental for purchaser's agency in the Rawalpindi Division, the approaching completion of forest clearance in colonization lands in the Multan Division, and a more normal income from grass are other factors contributing to the decrease.

V—Miscellaneous, + Rs. 17,000.—This is attributable to the expected extension of temporary cultivation in the Khanewal and Chichawatni Plantations.

X—REGISTRATION.

HEADS OF ACCOUNT.	Actuals,	Budget,	Revised,	Budget,
	1915-16.	1916-17.	1916-17.	1917-18.
	Rs. 1,000	Rs. 1,000	Rs. 1,000	Rs. 1,000
Fees for registering documents ...	270	244	280	270
Fees for copies of registered documents	67	64	68	68
Miscellaneous ...	19	17	20	20
Total ...	356	325	368	358

The increase under fees for registering documents occurs chiefly in the Rohtak, Gurgaon, Lahore, Sialkot, Gujranwala, Gujrat, Lyallpur, Jhang and Multan Districts, and is believed to be due to the failure of last year's crops which resulted in more extensive registration of documents and to the negotiation of their property by grantees in Lyallpur who have acquired proprietary rights.

The estimates for next year practically repeat last year's actuals.

XII.—INTEREST.

HEADS OF ACCOUNT.	Actuals, 1915-16.	Budget, 1916-17.	Revised, 1916-17.	Budget, 1917-18.
	Rs. 1,000	Rs. 1,000	Rs. 1,000	Rs. 1,000
Interest on loans to municipal and other public corporations (excluding Presidency Corporations).	1,23	1,25	1,14	1,23
Interest on loans to land-holders and other notabilities.	1	1	...	1
Interest on advances to cultivators ...	1,11	1,29	1,19	1,12
Interest on miscellaneous loans and advances.	6	3	5	3
Interest on advances to Co-operative Credit Societies.	5	8	8	5
Total ...	2,46	2,66	2,46	2,44

Slightly smaller receipts from interest on loans to local bodies and advances to cultivators are anticipated owing to the outstandings being smaller. The good monsoon has also facilitated the recovery of takavi advances, and the receipts next year are expected to be approximately the same as those in 1915-16.

*XVI-A.—LAW AND JUSTICE—COURTS OF LAW.

HEADS OF ACCOUNT.	Actuals, 1915-16.	Budget, 1916-17.	Revised, 1916-17.	Budget, 1917-18.
	Rs. 1,000	Rs. 1,000	Rs. 1,000	Rs. 1,000
Sale-proceeds of unclaimed and escheated property.	19	17	26	21
Court-fees realised in cash ...	6	5	5	5
General fees, fines and forfeitures ...	4,19	4,01	5,30	5,40
Miscellaneous fees and fines ...	1,18	1,03	1,26	1,30
Miscellaneous ...	6	2	3	4
Total ...	5,68	5,28	6,90	7,00

*Not open to discussion.

The minor head 'General fees, fines, and forfeitures' (mainly magisterial fines) has of late years exhibited a tendency towards regular expansion. On this account Rs. 5,43,000 was put in the budget for 1915-16. The causes, whatever they were, which temporarily arrested the expansion last year seem to have disappeared, and the receipts for the first ten months of 1916-17 support the assumption that a continuance of the growth in the income from magisterial fines which marked the years 1913-14 and 1914-15 may be expected. Possibly the general prosperity of the cultivating classes owing to the good kharif crop and the high prices obtained for the produce of the soil may create a tendency to pay fines more readily instead of going to prison, but the causes of this growth are somewhat obscure.

XVI-B.—LAW AND JUSTICE—JAILS.

HEADS OF ACCOUNT.	Actuals, 1915-16.	Budget, 1916-17.	Revised, 1916-17.	Budget, 1917-18.
	Rs. 1,000	Rs. 1,000	Rs. 1,000	Rs. 1,000
Jails	24	15	19	18
Jail manufactures	4,20	3,85	4,70	4,20
Total	4,44	4,00	4,89	4,38

Large increases are expected in the receipts from jail manufactures from certain jails, chiefly Montgomery, on account of big contracts being undertaken for the Military Department for the supply of blankets. It is impossible to say whether these abnormal conditions will prevail next financial year, and to be on the safe side a lower figure has been adopted for the budget.

XVII.—POLICE.

HEADS OF ACCOUNT.	Actuals, 1915-16.	Budget, 1916-17.	Revised, 1916-17.	Budget, 1917-18.
	Rs. 1,000	Rs. 1,000	Rs. 1,000	Rs. 1,000
Police supplied to Railways ... ..	...	...	...	...
Police supplied to public departments, private companies and persons.	1,30	2,18	1,86	1,46
Cash receipts under the Arms Act	1	...	1	1
Fees, fines and forfeitures	45	41	46	46
Superannuation receipts	1	2	1	1
Miscellaneous	22	21	24	24
Total	1,99	2,82	2,58	2,18

With the restoration of law and order in the Central Punjab it has been possible to reduce considerably the number of punitive police which accounts for the decrease in the revised estimate as compared with the budget for the current year.

A still further decrease has been allowed for in next year's estimates.

XIX.—EDUCATION.

HEADS OF ACCOUNT.	Actuals, 1915-16.	Budget, 1916-17.	Revised, 1916-17.	Budget. 1917-18.
	Rs. 1,000	Rs. 1,000	Rs. 1,000	Rs. 1,000
Fees, Government Colleges, general ...	61	62	67	70
Fees, schools, general ...	3,50	3,75	3,65	3,75
Ditto, special ...	17	15	15	15
Miscellaneous ...	63	53	64	64
Total ...	4,91	5,05	5,11	5,24

This is an increasing head, and the revised and budget provide for a moderate growth as compared with the actuals of past years.

XX-A.—MEDICAL.

HEADS OF ACCOUNT.	Actuals, 1915-16.	Budget, 1916-17.	Revised, 1916-17.	Budget, 1917-18.
	Rs. 1,000	Rs. 1,000	Rs. 1,000	Rs. 1,000
Medical School and College fees ...	19	20	20	20
Hospital receipts ...	...	...	...	...
Lunatic Asylum receipts ...	14	14	13	15
Medicines sold by Civil Surgeons ...	...	...	...	...
Contributions ...	...	...	...	...
Miscellaneous ...	7	12	8	5
Total ...	40	46	41	40

XX-B.—SANITATION.

Sanitation and Vaccination receipts ...	38	70	97	81
Total ...	38	70	97	81

This year a new system has been initiated of accounting for the receipts and expenditure under XX—Medical in order to show the expenditure on sanitation separately. A new head XX-B—Sanitation has been opened on the revenue side, and a new head 24-B—Sanitation on the expenditure side.

XXI-A.—AGRICULTURE.

HEADS OF ACCOUNT.	Actuals, 1915-16.	Budget, 1916-17.	Revised, 1916-17.	Budget, 1917-18.
	Rs. 1,000	Rs. 1,000	Rs. 1,000	Rs. 1,000
Agricultural receipts	88	74	88	1,19
Veterinary receipts	1,39	1,20	1,21	1,22
Total	2,27	1,94	2,09	2,41

Additions of Rs. 5,000 under Well Department receipts and Rs. 8,000 under Public Garden receipts are expected, the former being due to the increasing popularity of the tube-well and the latter to an excellent mango crop in the Shalamar Gardens. A drop of Rs. 5,000 below the sanctioned budget under Income from Farms is balanced by an anticipated increase of the same amount in the receipts from the Agricultural College, Lyallpur, in consequence of an increase in the number of students.

Public Garden receipts are not expected to be so high next year, but some Rs. 34,000 more have been allowed for under sale of American Cotton Seed as the Director of Agriculture and Industries has been buying up large quantities for resale with a view to popularizing this most profitable type of cotton.

XXI-B.—SCIENTIFIC AND MISCELLANEOUS DEPARTMENTS.

HEADS OF ACCOUNT.	Actuals, 1915-16.	Budget, 1916-17.	Revised, 1916-17.	Budget, 1917-18.
	Rs. 1,000	Rs. 1,000	Rs. 1,000	Rs. 1,000
Examination fees	3	3	3	3
Fees for inspection of boilers	20	10	20	21
Miscellaneous	4	7	9	6
Total	27	29	32	30

The figures under this head call for no remarks.

XXII.—RECEIPTS IN AID OF SUPERANNUATION, RETIRED, AND COMPASSIONATE ALLOWANCES.

HEADS OF ACCOUNT.	Actuals, 1915-16.	Budget, 1916-17.	Revised, 1916-17.	Budget, 1917-18.
	Rs. 1,000	Rs. 1,000	Rs. 1,000	Rs. 1,000
Contributions for pensions and gratuities.	1,02	1,00	80	80

Last year's actuals seem to have been exceptional and the revised estimate and that for next year have been put at a figure approaching more closely the actuals for 1914-15.

XXIII.—STATIONERY AND PRINTING.

HEADS OF ACCOUNT.	Actuals, 1915-16.	Budget, 1916-17.	Revised, 1916-17.	Budget, 1917-18.
	Rs. 1,000	Rs. 1,000	Rs. 1,000	Rs. 1,000
Stationery receipts ... ..	...	...	...	...
Sale of Gazettes and other publications	7	5	7	7
Other Press receipts	75	1,05	91	1,07
Total	82	1,10	98	1,14

The decrease in the revised estimate is chiefly due to lower cost of printing work executed for Public Departments by Jail Presses.

XXV.—MISCELLANEOUS.

HEADS OF ACCOUNT.	Actuals, 1915-16.	Budget, 1916-17.	Revised, 1916-17.	Budget, 1917-18.
	Rs. 1,000	Rs. 1,000	Rs. 1,000	Rs. 1,000
Unclaimed deposits	82	25	81	52
Sale-proceeds of Darbar presents	...	...	...	...
Sale of old stores and materials ...	6	2	2	2
Sales of lands and houses	35	56	65	51
Fees for Government audit	12	13	12	12
Contributions	15	...	...	...
Rents	6	9	9	9
Miscellaneous fees, fines and forfeitures	22	22	22	21
Miscellaneous	2,50	2,31	2,80	4,38
Percentage on capital cost of furniture supplied to high officers.	1	1	1	1
Treasure-trove ... ..	...	...	...	...
Extraordinary items ... ..	...	...	9	..
Total	4,30	3,60	4,81	5,46

Unclaimed deposits has maintained its reputation for being a minor head for which it is impossible to estimate with any degree of accuracy, and the figure adopted for the revised has been based on the information available up to date. The receipts from Sales of land and houses come almost entirely from Sargodha. The increase in the revised under Miscellaneous is mainly due to higher Copying Agency receipts.

The budget for next year allows for fewer sales of lands and houses, etc. The increase under Miscellaneous is due partly to the introduction of the new

Copying Agency system which it is hoped to be able to effect from April 1st and partly to the fact that a lakh which was granted to the Punjab Imperial Indian Relief Fund in 1914-15 for starting cheap grain shops is expected to be refunded as it was not required for the purpose for which it was given.

XXIX.—IRRIGATION—MAJOR WORKS.

HEADS OF ACCOUNT.	Actuals, 1915-16.	Budget, 1916-17.	Revised, 1916-17.	Budget, 1917-18.
	Rs. 1,000	Rs. 1,000	Rs. 1,000	Rs. 1,000
Direct receipts—				
In charge of Civil Officers (owner's rate)	2	...	6	3
Imperial share—one-half ...	1	...	3	2
Provincial share „ ...	1	...	3	1
Direct receipts—				
In charge of Public Works Officers ...	2,38,03	2,55,00	2,65,50	2,71,00
Imperial share—one-half ...	1,19,02	1,27,50	1,32,75	1,35,50
Provincial share „ ...	1,19,01	1,27,50	1,32,75	1,35,50
Indirect receipts—				
Portion of Land Revenue due to Irrigation (transferred from "I—Land Revenue")	1,07,92	1,02,00	1,09,35	1,22,00
Imperial share—one-half ...	53,96	51,00	54,67	61,00
Provincial share „ ...	53,96	51,00	54,68	61,00
Total ...	3,45,97	3,57,00	3,74,91	3,93,03
Imperial share—one-half...	1,72,99	1,78,50	1,87,45	1,96,52
Provincial share „ ...	1,72,98	1,78,50	1,87,46	1,96,51

Owing to the failure of last year's winter rains a cautious estimate was framed. This failure, however, caused an increased demand for canal water, and the rabi crop as a whole turned out rather better than was expected. The kharif area irrigated has also been above the average and the year has been tolerably free from widespread calamity and remissions are in consequence not expected to be high. The increases occur mainly on the Sirhind and Upper Bari Doab Canals, but on the Upper Chenab and Lower Bari Doab Canals too the results have been better than were at first anticipated. The increase under Indirect Receipts is due to the same causes.

In the budget allowance has been made for the extension of irrigation on the new canals, chiefly the Upper Chenab, Lower Bari Doab and Upper Jhelum.

XXX.—IRRIGATION—MINOR WORKS AND NAVIGATION.

HEADS OF ACCOUNT.	Actuals, 1915-16.	Budget, 1916-17.	Revised, 1916-17.	Budget, 1917-18.
	Rs. 1,000	Rs. 1,000	Rs. 1,000	Rs. 1,000
In charge of Civil Officers ...	17	12	23	46
In charge of Public Works Officers ...	50	80	60	50
Total ...	67	92	83	96

The Revised estimate under Minor Works in charge of Civil Officers includes Rs. 17,000 on account of receipts from the Kitchen-Irving Canals in the Montgomery District for which the original budget did not provide. The decrease in the receipts from works in charge of Public Works officers is mainly due to restricted irrigation from the Shahpur Provincial Canals where the rabi supplies have been abnormally low.

Next year's budget provides for an increase of Rs. 14,000 from the Kitchen Canals and Rs. 4,000 from the Gurgaon Bunds.

XXXI.—CIVIL WORKS.

HEADS OF ACCOUNT.	Actuals, 1915-16.	Budget, 1916-17.	Revised, 1916-17.	Budget, 1917-18.
	Rs. 1,000	Rs. 1,000	Rs. 1,000	Rs. 1,000
In charge of Civil Officers ...	1,58	1,63	1,81	1,75
in charge of Public Works Officers ...	2,03	1,80	2,10	2,10
Total ...	3,61	3,43	3,91	3,85

The increase in the receipts from works in charge of Civil Officers is mainly due to an item of Rs. 15,000 under Tolls where against an original estimate of about Rs. 40,000 the Deputy Commissioner of Rawalpindi now anticipates an income of Rs. 54,400 in consequence of higher auction bids. The receipts from Encamping Grounds are expected to be better by Rs. 4,000, and Ferry receipts show a decrease of about Rs. 3,000. In the case of the works in charge of Public Works Officers, the original budget appears to have been an under-estimate. Next year's budget provides for slightly lower receipts from works in charge of Civil Officers, the decrease being the result of several relatively unimportant variations.

The increase in the assignment on account of the Imperial share of the sale-proceeds of town sites is due to sales much in excess of the original estimates, chiefly in Gujranwala, Shahpur, Jhang and Lyallpur. The Dhar housing scheme for which an assignment of Rs. 1,61,000 has been made has already been referred to. As regards next year, the abolition of the assignment of Rs. 1,40,000 in connection with the Famine Insurance scheme has already been explained in the note under '36—Reduction or Avoidance of Debt', and provision has been made under '22—Education' for spending the lakh and three quarters assigned for the improvement of pay and training of teachers. The assignment of Rs. 13,000 for the scheme for the import of charas and bhlang in bond from the Punjab into Delhi has been discussed in the first part of the Memorandum.

EXPENDITURE.

1—REFUNDS AND DRAWBACKS.

HEADS OF ACCOUNT.	Actuals, 1915-16.	Budget, 1916-17.	Revised, 1916-17.	Budget, 1917-18.
	Rs. 1,000	Rs. 1,000	Rs. 1,000	Rs. 1,000
Revenue refunds—Provincial ...	87	97	1,08	93

A sum of Rs 43,167 has had to be refunded to the incumbent of the Nankana Sahib Jagir in the Gujranwala District, but Excise refunds are expected to be Rs. 15,000 less than the budget.

The budget for next year allows for an increase of Rs 5,000 over this year's budget under income-tax refunds as the new Act may not improbably lead to more refunds being granted.

*2—ASSIGNMENTS AND COMPENSATIONS.

HEADS OF ACCOUNT.	Actuals, 1915-16.	Budget, 1916-17.	Revised, 1916-17.	Budget, 1917-18.
	Rs. 1,000	Rs. 1,000	Rs. 1,000	Rs. 1,000
Assignments and compensations—Provincial	33	37	34	39

*Not open to discussion.

3—LAND REVENUE.

Charges of district administration ...	24,16	26,08	24,44	24,91
Survey and settlement ...	8,20	8,51	6,94	9,29
Land records and registration ...	17,02	16,75	16,21	16,79
Allowances to district and village officers	9	10	10	10
Management of Government estates...	...	...	4	4
Total ...	49,47	51,44	47,73	51,13

The decrease of Rs. 64,000 below the original budget under Charges of District Administration is anticipated chiefly under the following heads:—

	Rs.
General Establishment ...	1,08,000
Sub-Divisional Establishment ...	31,000
Forest Reserves and Grazing Lands ...	15,000

The first of these includes a decrease of nearly Rs. 43,000 under Salaries due to the absence of so many officers on deputation and active service. A saving is also expected under Contract Contingencies. A smaller expenditure on grain compensation allowance owing to the fall in prices at the end of 1914-15 when the prohibition of the export of wheat was enforced accounts for almost all of the decrease under Sub-Divisional Establishment, while the saving under the third of these heads is due to less expenditure on the scheme for the afforestation of the Hoshiarpur Siwaliks. The decrease under Survey and Settlements is due partly to the temporary postponement of the Thal Survey in

Mianwali for which a lump provision of Rs. 85,000 had been made in the current year's budget, and partly to savings in the provision for the Dera Ghazi Khan and other settlements. On the other hand, the Surveyor-General has intimated an increase of about Rs. 32,000 in the cost of Professional Survey parties.

Under Land Records and Registration the decrease is chiefly due to the discontinuance of the grain compensation allowance already alluded to.

The budget under Charges of District Administration calls for no remarks. The increase is mainly due to higher provision for grain compensation allowance than the amount incurred this year. In the budget a lakh and a half has been provided under Professional Survey parties for a survey of the Thal tract in connection with the Sind Sagar Canal project, and extra provision had also to be made for the Multan and Simla settlements.

Under Land Records and Registration owing to the economy which has been exercised this year, it will be necessary to incur special expenditure on the construction and repair of Patwarkhanas which accounts for an increase of Rs. 17,500 as compared with the Revised. The balance of the increase is mainly due to provision for grain compensation allowance.

6—STAMPS.

HEADS OF ACCOUNT.	Actuals, 1915-16.	Budget, 1916-17.	Revised, 1916-17.	Budget, 1917-18.
	Rs. 1,000	Rs. 1,000	Rs. 1,000	Rs. 1,000
Superintendence ...	31	30	26	26
Charges for the sale of general stamps ...	73	69	75	72
Charges on sale of court-fee stamps ...	27	27	28	28
Discount on plain paper ...	7	6	7	7
Stamp paper supplied from Central Stores ...	40	42	42	41
Total ...	178	174	178	177
<i>Deduct</i> —Imperial share—one-half ...	89	87	89	88
Provincial share—one-half ...	89	87	89	89

Under Superintendence a saving of some Rs. 4,000 is expected in Contract Contingencies.

7—EXCISE.

HEADS OF ACCOUNT.	Actuals, 1915-16.	Budget, 1916-17.	Revised, 1916-17.	Budget, 1917-18.
	Rs. 1,000	Rs. 1,000	Rs. 1,000	Rs. 1,000
District Executive Establishment ...	1,95	2,29	2,00	2,24
Distilleries ...	31	31	34	34
Total ...	2,26	2,60	2,43	2,58
<i>Deduct</i> —Imperial share—one-half ...	1,13	1,30	1,21	1,29
Provincial share—one-half ...	1,13	1,30	1,22	1,29

The decrease under District Executive Establishment is mainly due to smaller expenditure on rewards to the extent of Rs. 12,000.

As regards next year's budget higher provision has been made under Detective Establishment as Mr. Kemball, the officer on special duty, is not expected to take leave next year as he did this.

10—INCOME-TAX.

HEADS OF ACCOUNT.	Actuals, 1915-16.	Budget, 1916-17.	Revised, 1916-17.	Budget, 1917-18.
	Rs. 1,000	Rs. 1,000	Rs. 1,000	Rs. 1,000
Collection of Income-tax ...	12	28	27	29
<i>Deduct</i> —Imperial share—one-half ...	6	14	14	15
Provincial share—one-half ...	6	14	13	14

The Revised estimate calls for no remarks. In the budget for 1917-18 provision has been again made for the Special Assessing Agency.

11—FOREST.

HEADS OF ACCOUNT.	Actuals, 1915-16.	Budget, 1916-17.	Revised, 1916-17.	Budget, 1917-18.
	Rs. 1,000	Rs. 1,000	Rs. 1,000	Rs. 1,000
A—Conservancy and Works—				
I—Timber and other produce removed from the forests by Government agency.	1,29	2,34	2,29	3,14
II—Timber and other produce removed from the forests by consumers or purchasers.	7	7	6	6
III—Confiscated drift and waif wood ...	23	11	9	10
IV—Revenue from forests not managed by Government.	...	...	...	...
V—Rent of leased forests and payments to shareholders in forests managed by Government.	51	52	52	52
VI—Live and dead stock ...	23	47	20	47
VII—Communications and buildings ...	83	55	50	56
VIII—Demarcation, improvement and extension of forests.	1,21	82	99	1,25
IX—Miscellaneous ...	8	12	7	15
Total Conservancy and Works ...	4,45	5,00	4,72	6,25
B—Establishment—				
I—Salaries ...	1,28	1,42	1,35	1,49
II—Establishments ...	2,11	2,21	2,13	2,27
III—Allowances ...	1,01	93	88	92
IV—Contingencies ...	39	44	39	41
Total Establishment ...	4,79	5,00	4,75	5,09
Total ...	9,24	10,00	9,47	11,34

A new tramway purchased for the Changa Manga Plantation was surrendered to the Military Department which accounts for the savings under VI—Live and Dead Stock. The increase under VIII—Demarcation, extension and improvement of forests—is due to the re-starting of sowing operations in the Chichawatni and Khanewal Plantations.

The drop of a quarter of a lakh under B—Establishment is mainly the outcome of several relatively small variations, the most important of which is a decrease under grain compensation allowance.

The variations in next year's budget are explained as follows :—

A-I.—The employment of departmental agency in follings in the Rawalpindi Division and on bamboo cutting in the Kangra Division account for about Rs. 40,000, while resin-tapping operations in Kangra are expected to cost about Rs. 45,000 more than in the current year. These activities are expected to result in an increase of about Rs. 1,63,000 in revenue as explained in the note under IX—Forests. Under VI—Live and Dead Stock provision has again been made for a new tramway for Changa Manga, and under VIII Rs. 6,000 have been provided for jungle clearance in Khanewal and about Rs. 20,000 for starting the Tera Irrigated Plantation.

Under B—Establishment the increase over the revised is chiefly under salaries, establishments and grain compensation, the first two being accounted for by the extra work on some of the new plantations which is to be undertaken.

12—REGISTRATION.

HEADS OF ACCOUNT.	Actuals, 1915-16.	Budget, 1916-17.	Revised, 1916-17.	Budget, 1917-18.
	Rs. 1,000	Rs. 1,000	Rs. 1,000	Rs. 1,000
District charges	1,26	1,24	1,27	1,30

*13—INTEREST ON ORDINARY DEBT.

HEADS OF ACCOUNT.	Actuals, 1915-16.	Budget, 1916-17.	Revised, 1916-17.	Budget, 1917-18.
	Rs. 1,000	Rs. 1,000	Rs. 1,000	Rs. 1,000
Interest on Provincial Advance and Loan Account.	2,01	2,05	1,97	2,05

*Not open to discussion.

Owing to the higher rate of interest which the Government of India is having to pay for its borrowings, the Local Government is to be charged 4½ per cent. on the average outstandings of loans granted after 1st October 1916 instead of at the old rate of 3½ per cent. This accounts for the increase in next year's budget as compared with the revised. The rather low revised is due to anticipated smaller outstandings on 31st March 1917 than were allowed for in the original budget.

18 - GENERAL ADMINISTRATION.

HEADS OF ACCOUNT.	Actuals, 1915-16.	Budget, 1916-17.	Revised, 1916-17.	Budget, 1917-18.
	Rs. 1,000	Rs. 1,000	Rs. 1,000	Rs. 1,000
Salary of the Lieutenant-Governor ...	96	96	96	96
Staff and household expenses of the Lieutenant-Governor	65	66	66	67
Expenditure from contract allowance ...	17	18	18	18
Tour expenses ...	42 ⁷ / ₈	50	50	50
Legislative Council ...	6	7	10	7
Civil Secretariat ...	3,68	3,73	3,86	3,88
Financial Commissioners ...	2,42	2,32	2,48	2,46
Commissioners ...	3,16	3,00	3,06	3,00
Civil office of account and audit ...	89	92	91	94
Total ...	12,41	12,64	12,71	12,66

Under Civil Secretariat an expected saving of some Rs. 8,000 under Contingencies partly counterbalances an increase of Rs. 21,000 due to the appointment of an officer on special duty in connection with the criminal tribes, whose salary had been provided for under the head 20—Police.

Under the head Financial Commissioners the decrease of Rs. 14,000 in the revised estimates is mainly the result of savings due to smaller expenditure than was anticipated on advertisement charges in connection with auctions of waste lands.

The increase of Rs. 6,000 over the sanctioned budget for Commissioners is due to extra provision for leave allowances. Under other heads the budget follows the revised.

19-A—LAW AND JUSTICE—COURTS OF LAW.

HEADS OF ACCOUNT.	Actuals, 1915-16.	Budget, 1916-17.	Revised, 1916-17.	Budget, 1917-18.
	Rs. 1,000	Rs. 1,000	Rs. 1,000	Rs. 1,000
Chief Court ...	5,00	4,91	4,93	5,02
Law Officers ...	4,21	3,22	3,21	3,15
Civil and Sessions Courts ...	17,46	18,02	17,49	18,08
Courts of Small Causes ...	46	53	48	51
Criminal Courts ...	19,61	19,02	18,86	19,18
Refunds ...	70	86	80	80
Total ...	47,44	46,56	45,27	46,74

A larger expenditure on salaries and establishment to the extent of Rs. 10,000 and Rs. 5,000, respectively, has been incurred under Chief Court owing to the fact that insufficient provision had been made for the salaries of the 8th Judge and his establishment. This extra expenditure was largely met by curtailing the expenditure on contingencies. Under Civil and Sessions Courts compensation for dearness of food and contingencies show decreases of Rs. 33,000 and Rs. 16,500, respectively, while leave arrangements account for an excess of about Rs. 16,000 under salaries. Under Criminal Courts decreases of Rs. 43,000 under salaries, Rs. 15,000 under grain compensation allowance and Rs. 19,000 under diet and road money to witnesses are partly balanced by excesses anticipated to the extent of Rs. 9,800 under Special Tribunal and Rs. 7,500 under Judicial Establishment. In the budget for next year the 8th Temporary Additional Judge and his establishment have been provided for for 6 months. Under Civil and Sessions Courts larger provision has been made under grain compensation allowance and salaries, and the same reason accounts for the increase under Criminal Courts also.

19-B—LAW AND JUSTICE—JAILS.

HEADS OF ACCOUNT.				Actuals, 1915-16.	Budget, 1916-17.	Revised, 1916-17.	Budget, 1917-18.
				Rs. 1,000	Rs. 1,000	Rs. 1,000	Rs. 1,000
Jails	...	...	...	16,20	16,36	16,06	17,05
Jail manufactures	...	...	...	1,74	1,92	2,40	2,41
Total				17,94	18,28	18,46	19,46

During the first half of the year the jail population was large, but prices were comparatively low. During the second half the number of convicts was decreased by many being drafted into labour corps for Mesopotamia, but on the other hand the price of food-grains had risen and also that of woollen and cotton yarns. On the whole, the revised estimate shows considerable increases under dietary charges and clothing and bedding, and decreases under superintendence, sick diet and extra or special diet, transfer charges, and compensation for dearness of food. Jail manufactures show an increase owing to large orders placed by the Army Department for blankets and the necessity of purchasing larger quantities of raw material. Budgetting under this head is always somewhat guess work as the expenditure on dietary charges, which is one of the largest items, depends upon the price of food-grains and the size of the jail population—two factors which cannot be predicted with any degree of accuracy. The increase of nearly a lakh which has been provided for is mainly on account of anticipated higher expenditure on dietary charges owing to the present high price of food-grains and the improbability of their falling appreciably in the near future owing to the poor winter rains and the continued demand for wheat for export. Higher provision has also been made for grain compensation allowance and to a lesser degree for clothing and bedding.

20—POLICE.

HEADS OF ACCOUNT.	Actuals, 1915-16.	Budget, 1916-17.	Revised, 1916-17.	Budget, 1917-18.
	Rs. 1,000	Rs. 1,000	Rs. 1,000	Rs. 1,000
Superintendence	2,25	1,90	1,89	1,88
District Executive Force	54,34	59,23	54,78	59,09
Special Police	1,33	1,41	1,30	1,34
Railway Police	3,32	4,53.	4,34	5,18
Criminal Investigation Department	2,77	2,76	2,76	2,88
Cattle-pounds	13	18	13	17
Miscellaneous	10	9	10	9
Refunds	1	1	1	1
Total	64,25	70,11	65,31	70,64

In view of the disturbed conditions in parts of the Punjab in the beginning of 1915, it was considered advisable when framing the budget for the current year to make a somewhat liberal provision under this head. Consequently the return to normal conditions has resulted in considerable savings, and it has been possible to reduce considerably the temporary force of Reserve Police which it had been necessary to maintain. The large savings under District Executive Force are made up of several items, the most important of which are Rs. 1,78,000 owing to the discontinuance of grain compensation allowance and Rs. 1,09,000 under Contingencies. Under the latter head a lump addition of Rs. 60,000 to contract contingencies had been made, but the progress of actuals suggests that this addition will be utilized to the extent of Rs. 2,000 only. A sum of Rs. 30,000 had been provided under this head for the reclamation of criminal tribes, but the charges on this account are being recorded under the head "18—General Administration." The Punitive Police being less, the expenditure on them is anticipated to be smaller by Rs. 31,000. Against these and other smaller decreases there are excesses anticipated under the heads Travelling allowance—Rs. 45,000, and Cost of railway warrants—Rs. 20,000.

In the budget a sum of Rs. 2,30,000 has been provided under the head District Executive Force for the scheme for reclamation of criminal tribes and Rs. 1,48,000 for grain compensation allowance against actual expenditure this year which is not expected to exceed forty to fifty thousand. Provision has also been made for new Police Stations at Khanewal and Channun which are necessitated by the extension of canal irrigation in those areas, and rather higher provision has also been made for travelling allowance. Under Railway Police the increase is partly due to the opening of new lines, and the cost of Police on the North-Western Railway will probably exceed that during the current year by some Rs. 10,000. The rest of the increase under this minor head is chiefly due to the fact that the revised estimate for the current year

is lower than it otherwise would have been owing to the payment of certain arrear contributions by the East Indian Railway. The increase under Criminal Investigation Department occurs partly under Police Force and partly under Allowances.

22—EDUCATION.

HEADS OF ACCOUNT.	Actuals, 1915-16.	Budget, 1916-17.	Revised, 1916-17.	Budget, 1917-18.
	Rs. 1,000	Rs. 1,000	Rs. 1,000	Rs. 1,000
University	87	88	88	88
Direction	84	83	78	79
Inspection	3,16	3,30	3,33	3,49
Government Colleges—General ...	1,75	1,78	1,75	1,82
Government Schools—General ...	8,25	8,41	8,26	8,74
Government Schools—Special ...	4,20	4,74	4,26	4,38
Grants-in-aid	23,42	21,07	21,55	22,63
Scholarships	1,28	1,15	1,40	1,32
Miscellaneous	33	39	31	36
Refunds ... ..	...	1	1	1
Lump provision for equipment of Government Educational buildings.	...	20	...	15
Lump provision for improvement of pay and training of teachers.	...	...	...	1,75
Total	44,10	42,76	42,53	46,32

Under Government Schools—General the portion of the cost of the Military Asylum at Sanawar borne by Provincial revenues is expected to be Rs. 20,000 more. As this institution is really an Imperial one, the Government of India have been addressed with a view to an increase being made in the annual assignment for it. On the other hand, savings under the minor head are anticipated under Masters, Rs. 13,000; Grain compensation allowance, Rs. 8,000; and Contingencies, Rs. 5,000. The budget for the current year contained a lump provision of Rs. 23,000 under Government Schools—Special for grants for training classes which have been accounted for in the revised under the head Grants-in-aid where the charges on this account are being recorded. The balance of the decrease is anticipated chiefly under Training Schools. Under Grants-in-aid Rs. 23,000 of the increase is due to the reason just mentioned, and the balance of the excesses occur chiefly under maintenance grants to aided schools and grants to local bodies for the encouragement of vernacular education, partly balanced by savings under miscellaneous grants. No expenditure has been shown against the lump provision of Rs. 20,000 for equipment of Government Educational buildings as it has been debited to other minor heads.

In the budget the increase under Inspection occurs chiefly under Salaries. Under Government Schools—General a higher provision has been made for masters of secondary schools for boys and girls and for grain compensation allowance, while the larger expenditure provided for under Govern-

ment Schools—Special is mostly for training schools. Under Grants-in-aid the following increases have been provided for:—

			Rs.
Grants to aided schools	...	...	20,500
Grants to local bodies	...	...	40,000
Miscellaneous grants ...	...	...	32,000
Grants paid directly to colleges	...	...	3,000

In accordance with recent instructions from the Government of India a lump provision of a lakh and three-quarters has been made for improvement of the pay and training of teachers, and an equal assignment has been made from Imperial to Provincial to meet the extra charge.

24-A—MEDICAL.

HEADS OF ACCOUNT.	Actuals, 1915-16.	Budget, 1916-17.	Revised, 1916-17.	Budget, 1917-18.
	Rs. 1,000	Rs. 1,000	Rs. 1,000	Rs. 1,000
Medical establishments ...	3.45	3.87	3.66	3.68
Hospitals and dispensaries ...	5.50	2.07	1.86	3.94
Grants for medical purposes ...	5	5	5	5
Medical School and College ...	2.72	2.86	2.51	2.66
Lunatic Asylums ...	64	52	57	65
X-Ray Institute ...	...	...	...	...
Chemical Examiner ...	5	7	6	7
Refunds ...	...	...	...	...
Total ...	12.41	9.44	8.71	11.05

24-B—SANITATION.

Sanitation and Vaccination establishment.	64	66	62	62
Grants for sanitary purposes ...	3.96	3.16	5.79	4.19
Expenses in connection with bubonic plague, malaria and epidemics.	2.41	3.18	1.70	2.61
Bacteriological Laboratories and Pasteur Vaccine Institutes.	24	25	25	25
Refunds ...	...	...	...	...
Total ...	7.25	7.25	8.36	7.67

As already explained the old head "24—Medical" has been subdivided into two as shown above, but it will be convenient here to consider them together. An increase in the revised of about Rs. 20,000 owing to the rise in price of quinine has been more than counterbalanced by large savings under Establishments owing to depletion of staff by officers going on military service

and their places in some cases being taken by others on lower pay. Under Hospitals and Dispensaries contingencies show an increase of about Rs. 10,000 owing to higher charges for diet of patients and the rise in the price of medicines, while smaller expenditure is anticipated under Allowances (chiefly grain compensation allowance) and Salaries. Out of the lump sum of Rs. 42,000 provided for the extension of the Mayo Hospital only Rs. 35,000 will probably be spent this year. The decrease of Rs. 35,000 under Medical School and College is due partly to the fact that the Principal of the Lahore Medical College was on furlough for about 2 months in the present year and partly to officers on lower salaries than the budget provided for being at present attached as Professors. This accounts for a saving of Rs. 32,000, the balance being due to smaller expenditure against the lump provision of Rs. 8,000 for the extension of the Lahore Medical College. An extra lakh has been placed at the disposal of the Sanitary Board in the current year and the Government of India have made an assignment to provincial revenues of Rs. 1,61,000 for a grant to the Simla Municipality for the Dhar Housing scheme which is also debitible to grants for sanitary purposes. Large savings are expected under plague expenditure owing to the comparative immunity from the disease in an epidemic form enjoyed by the Punjab this year, while slightly higher expenditure is anticipated on malaria work.

In the budget Rs. 20,000 has been provided for grants to indigent bodies and institutions for hospitals, Rs. 90,000 for the extension of the Mayo Hospital and a lakh for the King Edward Memorial Scheme, all of which have been put under Hospitals and Dispensaries. Larger expenditure in connection with plague has also been provided for as it would be unsafe to count on continued immunity next year.

26 A—AGRICULTURE.

HEADS OF ACCOUNT.	Actuals, 1915-16.	Budget, 1916-17.	Revised, 1916-17.	Budget, 1917-18.
Agriculture	Rs. 1,000	Rs. 1,000	Rs. 1,000	Rs. 1,000
Veterinary charges	5,21	5,89	5,65	6,59
Co-operative Credit	6,02	6,37	6,91	6,24
	60	60	72	92
Total	11,83	12,86	12,33	13,75

Under the minor head Agriculture travelling allowances under Superintendence and Punjab Agricultural College show an increase of about Rs. 5,000, while a saving of about Rs. 8,000 is expected under Other Supervising staff owing to leave arrangements. Under Agricultural Experiments a saving of Rs. 11,700 is anticipated in the pay of agricultural assistants due partly to vacancies and partly to officers on lower salaries being employed than provided for in the budget. A saving of about Rs. 26,000 is also expected owing to the difficulty experienced in purchasing certain machinery for which provision had been made. An extra grant of Rs. 20,000 has been made for the purchase of American cotton seed for re-sale during the sowing season, and other experiments are expected to show an increase of Rs. 6,000.

Under botanical and other gardens there is a decrease of about Rs. 9,000.

In the budget, allowance has been made for the fact that the Agricultural Department is a rapidly expanding one. Other Supervising Establishment shows an increase of about Rs. 27,000 mainly on this account. Three-quarters of a lakh have been provided under agricultural experiments for well-boring and other machinery against a sum of Rs. 40,000 in the revised, while Rs. 35,000 have again been provided for seed operations with cotton. The increase under Experimental Farms is due to the expansion of

the work of the Department and the employment of extra muqaddams, and under several of the minor heads a slightly larger provision has been made for grain compensation allowance than the sums expected to be spent during the current year on this item.

The decrease under Veterinary charges occurs to the extent of Rs. 4,000 under Superintendence and Rs. 31,700 under Subordinate establishment. The former is the result of small variations under different heads while the latter occurs to the extent of Rs. 16,500 under contributions to the District Boards, and the balance of the decrease is chiefly due to savings in the salaries of veterinary assistants. The decrease under contributions is due to general grants-in-aid having been made to the District Boards of the Rawalpindi Division (debitable to the head "32—Miscellaneous") in lieu of the various grants for specific purposes. In the budget larger provision has been made under Superintendence (Rs. 11,000), Veterinary instruction (Rs. 4,900), Subordinate establishment (Rs. 6,000), Hospitals and Dispensaries (Rs. 2,400), and grain compensation allowance.

The increases both in the revised and the budget under Co-operative Credit are due to the increase in the number of societies and the necessity for providing a larger staff of gazetted and non-gazetted officers to supervise and assist their activities.

26-B.—SCIENTIFIC AND MISCELLANEOUS DEPARTMENTS.

HEADS OF ACCOUNT.	Actuals, 1915-16.	Budget, 1916-17.	Revised, 1916-17.	Budget, 1917-18.
	Rs. 1,000	Rs. 1,000	Rs. 1,000	Rs. 1,000
Imperial Institute ... ..	...	1	...	...
Provincial museums	12	8	9	11
Donations to Scientific Societies ... ..	...	...	...	...
Emigration ... ..	...	...	...	...
Inspector of Factories... ..	12	13	14	14
Registrar, Joint Stock Companies	20	20	24	31
Gazetteers and statistical memoirs...	1	1	2	1
Provincial statistics	9	9	9	9
Examinations	7	2	5	5
Steam Boilers Inspection establish- ment.	10	11	13	15
Preservation and translation of ancient manuscripts.	...	1	...	1
Fisheries Department	24	26	22	30
Grants for Industrial Settlements...	19	15	13	2
Encouragement of industries	22	40	20	46
Miscellaneous	3	14	14	11
Refunds ... ..	...	1	...	...
Total	1,39	1,62	1,46	1,75

Under this head the provision for Registrar, Joint Stock Companies, represents one-fourth of the charges of the combined office of the Registrar, Joint Stock Companies and Co-operative Credit Societies. The increases in the revised and budget are therefore due to the same causes which have been discussed in the note under the previous head. As regards the encouragement of industries, the whole question is at present being dealt with by Sir Thomas Holland's commission, and when its report has been presented it is probable that the expenditure under this head will increase. At present Government's hands are rather tied in the matter for want of suitable schemes.

29.—SUPERANNUATION ALLOWANCES AND PENSIONS.

HEADS OF ACCOUNT.	Actuals, 1915-16.	Budget, 1916-17.	Revised, 1916-17.	Budget, 1917-18.
	Rs. 1,000	Rs. 1,000	Rs. 1,000	Rs. 1,000
Superannuation and retired allowances	21,55	23,00	23,00	24,50
Commuted value of pensions ...	71	1,50	1,25	1,35
Compassionate allowances ...	37	39	42	44
Gratuities	40	39	31	33
Pensions for distinguished and meritorious services.	5	5	5	5
Refunds	7	1	1	1
Total ...	23,15	25,34	25,04	26,68

This is an increasing head and with the gradual expansion and progress of the Province it is probable that the normal growth of the last few years will be maintained.

30.—STATIONERY AND PRINTING.

HEADS OF ACCOUNT.	Actuals, 1915-16.	Budget, 1916-17.	Revised, 1916-17.	Budget, 1917-18.
	Rs. 1,000	Rs. 1,000	Rs. 1,000	Rs. 1,000
Stationery purchased in the country	1,20	1,48	1,24	1,24
Government Presses ...	2,83	2,89	2,69	3,14
Printing at private presses ..	38	40	39	38
Lithography	82	80	70	98
Stationery supplied from Central Stores.	2,42	2,65	2,88	2,73
Refunds ... ..	...	...	...	...
Total ...	7,65	8,22	7,90	8,47

Smaller expenditure is expected to be incurred this year on stationery purchased in the country under all heads save criminal courts where actuals suggest a probable inadequacy of about Rs. 2,000. The saving is probably due to some extent to the Government orders enjoining economy in the use of stationery. Under Government Presses a saving of about Rs. 7,000 is expected under grain compensation allowance and Rs. 16,000 under the detailed head II Press. The decrease under lithography is due to an over-estimate in the current year's budget. Under Stationery supplied from Central Stores, an extra grant of Rs. 10,200 has been made to the Public Works Department for printing.

paper for non-account forms, the cost of which was previously borne by the Accountant General's budget. The expenditure on binding material, etc., incurred by the Superintendent, Government Printing, is also expected to exceed the budget estimate by Rs. 12,000.

Under Government Presses, the budget provides for a higher expenditure to the extent of Rs. 35,000 under Secretariat Press owing to the increase in the work to be printed and the necessity for purchasing new machinery. Jail presses show an increase of Rs. 3,000. The increase under Lithography is due to larger provision having been made for the cost of lithographing patwaris' forms owing to the rise in the cost of paper. Under Stationery supplied from Central Stores the estimates submitted by heads of departments have, in most cases, been cut down with a view to enforcing economy in the consumption of stationery, but the total figure shows an increase as compared with last year's actuals partly owing to larger requirements and partly to the rise in prices.

32.—MISCELLANEOUS.

HEADS OF ACCOUNT.	Actuals, 1915-16.	Budget, 1916-17.	Revised, 1916-17.	Budget, 1917-18.
Rents, Rates and Taxes ...	Rs. 1,000 3	Rs. 1,000 2	Rs. 1,000 4	Rs. 1,000 3
Rewards for proficiency in Oriental languages and allowances to Language Examination Committees.	12	10	10	10
Books and Periodicals ...	...	...	...	1
Donations for charitable purposes ...	3	3	3	4
Charges on account of European vagrants.	3	6	3	5
Rewards for destruction of wild animals.	3	5	3	6
Petty establishment ...	2,74	3,02	3,00	3,57
Irrecoverable temporary loans written off.	3	2	2	1
Miscellaneous charges for treatment of patients at Pasteur Institute, Kasauli.	15	15	15	15
Contributions ...	7	10	1,57	2,42
Miscellaneous and unforeseen charges...	13	5,15	10	5,20
Miscellaneous refunds ...	30	10	10	10
Annual stipends to holders of literary titles.	1	1	1	1
Total ...	3,67	8,81	5,18	11,75

The majority of the minor heads here are unimportant and the figures for expenditure under them call for no remarks. Under Contributions, Rs. 1,34,000 has been debited to this head in consequence of the introduction of a new system of grants to district boards in the Rawalpindi Division in accordance with which a single consolidated grant is made to each board instead of a number of grants for specific purposes which had been provided for in the budget under other heads, and the provision for which has now been transferred

to this head. A grant of Rs. 17,500 was also made to the municipal committee, Montgomery, in order to enable it to meet its outstanding debts. As explained in last year's memorandum, provision was made in this year's budget for a reserve of Rs. 5,00,000 for unforeseen contingencies. Expenditure incurred against this allotment has been debited to the appropriate heads, hence the smallness of the figures shown in the revised.

In the budget the increase under petty establishment is mainly in consequence of the introduction of the new copying agency system, while under contributions, though the special contribution to the Montgomery Municipal Committee already mentioned will not be required next year, a lakh has been provided for grants to district boards for development expenditure. Five lakhs have again been provided as a reserve for unforeseen charges.

23—FAMINE RELIEF.

HEADS OF ACCOUNT.	Actuals, 1915-16.	Budget, 1916-17.	Revised, 1916-17.	Budget, 1917-18.
	Rs. 1,000	Rs. 1,000	Rs. 1,000	Rs. 1,000
Famine Relief	1,58	...	6,30	85

The increase in the revised estimate under this head is entirely due to the heavy expenditure incurred on fodder concessions owing to the fodder famine which preceded the burst of the monsoon this year. The prospects as regards fodder are more hopeful this year as the good rains enabled the cultivators to accumulate a certain reserve.

36—REDUCTION OR AVOIDANCE OF DEBT.

HEADS OF ACCOUNT.	Actuals, 1915-16.	Budget, 1916-17.	Revised, 1916-17.	Budget, 1917-18.
	Rs. 1,000	Rs. 1,000	Rs. 1,000	Rs. 1,000
Reduction or Avoidance of Debt ...	1,40	1,40	1,40	...

In the revised estimate the usual provision has been made under this head. In the budget no provision has been made as the Secretary of State has decided to introduce a new method of meeting expenditure on famine relief. In future as explained in the first part of this memorandum, the expenditure will be debited to Imperial and Provincial revenues in the proportion of three to one and the annual assignment of Rs. 1, 40,000 from Imperial to Provincial will cease.

42—IRRIGATION—MAJOR WORKS.

HEADS OF ACCOUNT.	Actuals, 1915-16.	Budget, 1916-17.	Revised, 1916-17.	Budget, 1917-18.
	Rs. 1,000	Rs. 1,000	Rs. 1,000	Rs. 1,000
Working expenses—In charge of Civil Officers—				
Owner's rate refunds ...	2	...	...	...
Imperial share—one-half ...	1	...	...	...
Provincial share „ ...	1	...	...	...
Working expenses—In charge of Public Works Officers.	1,03,49	1,03,00	1,04,15	1,00,96
Imperial share—one-half ...	51,74	51,50	52,07	50,48
Provincial share „ ...	51,75	51,50	52,08	50,48
Interest on debt ...	72,37	74,77	73,94	75,24
Imperial share—one-half ...	36,18	37,39	36,97	37,62
Provincial share „ ...	36,19	37,38	36,97	37,62
Total ...	1,75,88	1,77,77	1,78,09	1,76,20
Imperial share—one-half ...	87,93	88,89	89,04	88,10
Provincial share „ ...	87,95	88,88	89,05	88,10

In the case of works in charge of Public Works Officers, a saving of two and-a-three-quarter lakhs is expected under Works and Repairs. This is made up of a decrease of about Rs. 6,00,000 under Works owing to the postponement under the orders of the Local Government of all new works and works which were not absolutely necessary. Under Repairs, however, the recent heavy monsoon necessitated a considerable outlay on repairs to canal banks, and the budget allotment under this head will, it is anticipated, prove too low by about Rs. 2,50,000. Establishment shows an increase of about three and-a-quarter lakhs partly owing to an under-estimate under various temporary heads on the new canals and probably also to the fact that a smaller proportion of the establishment was charged against the Capital head. Other items show an increase of Rs. 50,000. This occurs mainly on the Lower Chenab Canal where special purchases of tools and plant have been necessary owing to heavy repair works.

43—IRRIGATION—MINOR WORKS AND NAVIGATION.

HEADS OF ACCOUNT.	Actuals, 1915-16.	Budget, 1916-17.	Revised, 1916-17.	Budget, 1917-18.
	Rs. 1,000	Rs. 1,000	Rs. 1,000	Rs. 1,000
In charge of Civil officers ...	43	46	68	75
In charge of Public Works officers ...	1,60	1,40	2,03	2,77
Total ...	2,03	1,86	2,71	3,55

In the case of works in charge of Civil Officers, the increase both in the revised and the budget is due to the incorporation of the accounts of the Kitchen-Irving Canals in Montgomery in the accounts of the Province. The increased expenditure expected this year on works in charge of Public Works Officers is due to the entertainment of new establishment and the purchase of tools and plant in connection with the Thal survey. In the budget while there are decreases under establishment and other items, works and repairs taken together are higher by Rs. 65,000 and a special provision of Rs. 66,000 has been entered for the Bhakra dam scheme. Fifteen thousand rupees have also been provided for the preliminary investigation of a proposal to construct a small canal in the Pind Dadan Khan Tahsil of the Jhelum District.

45—CIVIL WORKS.

HEADS OF ACCOUNT.	Actuals, 1915-16.	Budget, 1916-17.	Revised, 1916-17.	Budget, 1917-18.
	Rs. 1,000	Rs. 1,000	Rs. 1,000	Rs. 1,000
In charge of Civil officers ...	13,78	13,58	11,16	12,72
In charge of Public Works officers ...	51,69	40,27	41,42	55,33
Total ...	65,47	53,85	52,58	71,05

The saving anticipated under works in charge of Civil Officers this year is made up of a number of items, the chief of which are Rs. 66,000 under Contributions as the full amount of 3½ lakhs provided for grants for Colony roads is not likely to be required, staging bungalows establishment Rs. 4,300, staging contingencies Rs. 6,200, petty construction and repairs Rs. 5,000. There is also a saving of Rs. 1,11,000 under this head as this allotment was transferred to the head "32—Miscellaneous" in consequence of the introduction of the system of consolidated grants to district boards to which allusion has already been made. A sum of about Rs. 47,000, which was provided in the budget for payment of compensation to certain hill Rajas is not likely to be disbursed this year. In the budget for 1917-18, 3½ lakhs have again been provided for grants for colony roads and about half a lakh has been allotted for the payment to the hill Rajas just referred to. Petty construction and repairs are also expected to cost Rs. 10,000 more.

This year an extra grant of Rs. 1,20,000 was made late in the year chiefly for urgent repairs and for certain works the necessity for which had not been foreseen when the budget was framed. Recently further grants of Rs. 1,17,000 and Rs. 32,000 have been made for the purchase of certain property in Simla for the residences of officers, while on the other hand the recent temporary stoppage of goods traffic and the continued difficulty experienced in obtaining material have involved large lapses of grants. In next year's budget it has been possible to provide for a number of urgent works which had had to be omitted last year owing to lack of funds. The list was discussed in detail at the meetings of the Finance Committee. An extra provision of one lakh over and above what had been originally fixed upon has been made to provide for the re-grant of lapses of allotments for certain works which it is hoped to spend next year.

Provincial Balances.

As already explained in the first part of the Memorandum, the opening balance at the beginning of the current financial year amounted to Rs. 63,55,000 or Rs. 3,32,000 more than had been anticipated. The budget provided for a closing balance of Rs. 55,41,000, whereas the good monsoon and the other causes, to which reference has been made above, have so far improved the financial position that the provincial balance on 31st April 1917 is expected to be no less than Rs. 1,02,83,000. This figure includes a balance of Rs. 11,17,000 of the assignment given by the Government of India for Sanitation.

The revenue in 1917-18 is expected to exceed the expenditure by Rs. 2,76,000, leaving a closing balance on 31st April 1918 of Rs. 1,05,59,000, of which Rs. 11,17,000 will represent the unspent balance of the Government of India assignment for Sanitation.

LAHORE :

O. F. LUMSDEN,

The 7th March 1917.

Financial Secretary to Government, Punjab.

Statement of re-appropriations exceeding Rs. 10,000 which have been sanctioned by the Local Government in the course of the year.

Head of account.	Nature of demand.	Amount.
		Rs.
1—Refunds and Drawbacks —Land Revenue refunds.	Refund of revenue collected by Government which should have been credited to Nankana Sahib.	40,000
19-A—Law and Justice— Chief Court.	Additional temporary judgeship for inspection of Courts.	12,550
20—Police, District Executive Force.	Entertainment of temporary Sub-Inspectors, Head Constables and Constables.	27,200
24-A—Medical ...	Additional grant for purchase of quinine ...	26,000
24-B—Sanitation ...	Additional grant to the Sanitary Board for distribution to local bodies.	1,00,000
26-A—Agriculture ...	Additional grant for purchase of cotton seed.	20,000
30—Stationery and Printing	Printing of Patwari and Kanungo forms in Jail Press.	15,000
32—Miscellaneous ...	Grant to the Municipal Committee, Montgomery, for payment of outstanding debts.	17,500
42—Irrigation—Major Works.	Special repairs to Sirhind and Upper Sutlej Canals.	75,000
	Additional grant to meet cost of works on Upper Chenab, Lower Bari Doab, Lower Chenab and Upper Sutlej Inundation Canals.	1,00,000
43—Minor Works and Navigation.	Preparation of project estimate of Sind-Sagar Canal.	30,000
	Survey work in connection with the Bhakra Storage Reservoir.	30,000
45—Civil Works in charge of Public Works Officers.	Construction of the Punjab Lunatic Asylum Quarantine block.	15,000
	Acquisition of properties in Simla for use as residences for Government Officers.	1,49,600
33—Famine Relief ...	Fodder concessions ...	6,30,000

Abstract of Proceedings of the Council of the Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab assembled for the purpose of making Laws and Regulations under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1915.

THE Council met at Government House, Lahore, at 10-30 A.M. on Tuesday, the 24th April 1917.

PRESENT :

His Honour Sir MICHAEL FRANCIS O'DWYER, K.C.S.I., I.C.S., Lieutenant-Governor, *Presiding*.

The Hon'ble Mr. JOHN PERRONET THOMPSON, I.O.S.

The Hon'ble Mr. JAMES ALEXANDER RICHEY.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Khawaja YUSAF SHAH.

The Hon'ble Mr. HERBERT JOHN MAYNARD, C.S.I., I.O.S.

The Hon'ble Mr. OSWALD FARQUHAR LUMSDEN, I.O.S.

The Hon'ble Nawab Sir BAHRAM KHAN, MAZARI, K.O.I.E.

The Hon'ble Sardar Bahadur Sardar GAJJAN SINGH.

The Hon'ble Chaudhri LAL CHAND.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Sayid MEHDI SHAH.

The Hon'ble Pandit JAWAHAR LAL, BHARGAVA.

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur RAM SARAN DAS, O.I.E.

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Pandit SHEO NARAIN.

The Hon'ble Mr. DAVID WANN AIKMAN, O.I.E.

The Hon'ble Mr. JAMES CURRIE.

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Bakhshi SOHAN LAL.

The Hon'ble Raizada BHAGAT RAM.

The Hon'ble Sayid MAKHDUM RAJAN SHAH.

The Hon'ble Mr. CREWE ARMAND HAMILTON TOWNSEND, I.C.S.

The Hon'ble Mr. PATRICK JAMES FAGAN, I.C.S.

The Hon'ble Khan Sahib Mirza MUHAMMAD IKRAM ULLAH KHAN.

The Hon'ble Diwan Bahadur Diwan DAULAT RAI.

The Hon'ble Mr. EDWIN WOODALL PARKER.

The Hon'ble Mr. HENRY DUFFIELD CRAIK, I.C.S.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Malik MUHAMMAD AMIN KHAN.

The Hon'ble Colonel HAROLD HENDLEY, M.D., I.M.S.

The Hon'ble Mr. STEPHEN WILLIAM GRACEY, I.C.S.

OATH OF OFFICE.

The Hon'ble Mr. JAMES ALEXANDER RICHEY took the prescribed oath of allegiance to the Crown.

CAPTURE OF BAGHDAD.

His Honour the President :—

"The Council will remember that at the last meeting they authorised me to convey to His Excellency the Viceroy a message of congratulation on the success of our arms in Mesopotamia. In reply to that message His Excellency wired as follows :—

"Please convey my thanks to the Punjab Legislative Council for their congratulations on the success of our forces in Mesopotamia. They will be proud that the Punjab was strongly represented in General Maude's Army."

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE.

The Hon'ble Mr. Craik laid on the table a reply* to the Hon'ble Chaudhri Lal Chand's question No. 27 asked at the meeting of the 13th March 1917.

* See Appendix A.

[*Rai Bahadur Ram Saran Das ; Mr. Fagan.*]

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Ram Saran Das asked :—

Land Revenue
income and
expenditure.

1. “ (a) Is the Government aware that the actual income from head Land Revenue during the period 1909-10 to 1915-16 has been practically stationary, being Rs. 2,83,36,000 in 1909-10 and Rs. 2,79,77,000 in 1915-16, and that the revised estimate for 1916-17 and budget estimates for 1917-18 also do not show any improvement ?

“ (b) Is the Government aware that in the same period expenditure under head Land Revenue has increased from Rs. 21,53,000 in 1909-10 to Rs. 24,16,000 in 1915-16, an increase of over 12 per cent., and that in the revised estimates for 1916-17 and budget estimates for 1917-18 the expenditure under this head is still increasing, being Rs. 24,91,000 in the budget proposed ?

“ (c) If answer to (a) and (b) be in the affirmative, will the Government kindly inform this Council what steps, if any, they propose to keep increase in expenditure in proportion to the increase in income under this head ? ”

The Hon'ble Mr. Fagan replied :—

“ The figures quoted in part (a) of the question are budget figures under Receipt head I for “ net total shared ” land revenue, after deduction of that portion of total land revenue which is due to canal irrigation and which is transferred to Receipt head XXIX—Irrigation—Major Works, half of it being credited to Imperial and half to Provincial. The figures quoted do not therefore show the real facts relative to the growth of land revenue during the period with which the question deals. Including the amounts transferred to head XXIX the actuals for land revenue of all classes have in fact risen from 313·87 lakhs in 1909-10 to 387·69 lakhs in 1915-16. The revised estimate for 1916-17 is 404·57 lakhs and the budget for 1917-18 402·62 lakhs. The increase in actuals between 1909-10 and 1915-16 was therefore 73·82 lakhs or nearly 24 per cent. During the same period ordinary land revenue, excluding such fluctuating and uncertain elements as proceeds from the sale of Government estates and of waste land, increased from 283·76 lakhs to 346·40 lakhs, that is, by 62 lakhs or 22 per cent. The corresponding revised estimate for 1916-17 is 365·76 lakhs and the budget for 1917-18 363·61 lakhs.

“ The increase in total land revenue during the above period was mainly in the portion transferred to head XXIX which rose from 30·51 lakhs to 107·92 lakhs or by 77·41 lakhs. This large enhancement is due, of course, to the opening of new canals. Its exclusion from the figures for “ net total shared ” land revenue which are quoted by the Hon'ble Member would naturally lead to a conclusion such as that drawn in part (a) of the question.

“ The figures quoted in part (b) appear to be incorrect. The actuals under Land Revenue Expenditure head 3 for 1909-10 and 1915-16 were 47·86 lakhs and 49·47 lakhs, respectively, which show an increase in the latter year of slightly more than 3 per cent. as compared with one of 12 per cent. stated in the question. The revised estimate under this head for 1916-17, is 47·73 lakhs which is less than the actuals for 1909-10, while the budget estimate for 1917-18 is 51·13 lakhs. The increase shown by the last figure is mainly due to the inclusion of provision for the Sind Sagar Thal Survey as already explained by me at the last meeting of the Council.

“ To part (c) of the question no reply appears to be required in view of the replies given to parts (a) and (b). ”

[Rai Bahadur Ram Saran Das ; Mr. Richey ; Mr. Lumsden.]

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Ram Saran Das asked :—

2. “ (a) Will the Government kindly inform this Council as to what proportion of the non-recurring Imperial grant of Rs. 29,75,000 for Education received by this Province in 1912-13 has been spent on—

- (i) School houses ; and
(ii) School hostels ?

“ (b) Will the Government also kindly inform this Council what portions of the Imperial non-recurring grants made since 1910-11 have been included in the Provincial budgets under—

- (i) Education ;
(ii) Public Works ; and
(iii) Any other head ? ”

The Hon'ble Mr. Richey replied :—

“ (a) The non-recurring Imperial grant of Rs. 29,75,000 for education consists of three items—

	Rs.
(i) For general purposes	25,25,000
(ii) For the development of University work ...	2,00,000
(iii) For the improvement or erection of Hostels	2,50,000

“ Of this sum Rs. 22,49,713 have been spent on school buildings, i.e., 75·6 of the total grants.

“ On school houses the expenditure has been 38·6 of the total grants.

“ On hostels the expenditure has been 13·3 of the total grants. The remaining 23·8 of the total grants has been spent through the agency of the Public Works Department on projects which include both schools and hostels and which cannot be accurately sub-divided.

“ (b) The figures required in the second part of the question are —

	Rs.
(i) Under Education	26,66,000
(ii) Under Public Works	12,12,000
(iii) Under other heads	Nil.

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Ram Saran Das asked :—

3. “ Will the Government kindly inform the Council in what manner and on what objects in each year since 1911-12 have the Imperial non-recurring grants of Rs. 20,67,000 for sanitation made to this Province in 1911-12 and 1912-13 been spent ? ”

The Hon'ble Mr. Lumsden replied :—

“ I prefer to answer question No. 11 first, which precedes it in time and without which it is not easy to answer question No. 3.

“ It is difficult to give a satisfactory reply to the Hon'ble Member's question, as it is not always possible to discriminate in practice between those schemes which have been financed from the Imperial non-recurring grants and those for which the money has been found from the resources of this Government. Statement A placed upon the table, however, shows items totalling to Rs. 8,69,378 which have been entered in the register maintained for the purpose as debited to the Imperial non-recurring grant of 9 lakhs for education during the years 1911-12, 1912-13 and 1913-14. The balance was distributed over several works in the year 1914-15, but details of the distribution are not readily available.

“ Of the 10 lakhs grant for Sanitation 5 lakhs were earmarked for the Research Institute at Kasauli. Statement B placed on the table shows the expenditure debited to the Imperial grants for Sanitation during the years 1911-12 and 1912-13. It may be pointed out that the grants were made

[Mr. Lumsden.]

at the close of the financial year 1910-11 and were carried in the Provincial balance until required for expenditure.

"Toenable the Hon'ble Member to understand the statement, I may append a word of explanation. The questions necessarily overlap somewhat, but the total of the two statements added together (the details of which are given in the statements appended to questions Nos. 11 and 3) give a total of Rs. 30,67,000, which is the total amount of non-recurring grants given by the Government of India. Rupees 5,00,000, as already explained, was earmarked for Kasauli. The statements, when added together, show totals of Rs. 17,77,006 which, with the balance of Rs. 7,89,994, make up the total of Rs. 25,67,000."

"As regards this unexplained balance, Hon'ble Members are no doubt aware that, owing to financial stringency, local bodies have not been able to take up as many projects as usual to which grants could ordinarily be made, and secondly, owing to the great rise in the cost of material and the impossibility of obtaining certain classes of materials, progress in this direction has been necessarily delayed."

STATEMENT A.

Statement showing the expenditure incurred from the non-recurring grants for Education.

Serial No.	Particulars.	Amount.
		Rs.
1911-12.		
1.	Construction of workshops for the Mayo School of Art, Lahore.	1,490
2.	Additions to the buildings of the Normal School, Rawalpindi	7,163
3.	Construction of Workshops for the Central Training College, Lahore.	5,707
4.	Construction of Queen Mary's College, Lahore	60,321
5.	Purchase of R. B. Buta Singh's property for the Government High School, Rawalpindi.	1,800
6.	Construction of Lower Primary class rooms for the Government High School, Muzafargarh.	5,694
7.	Construction of Lower Primary class rooms for the Government High School, Amritsar.	9,670
8.	Construction of a temporary school building at Chorutta, Dera Ghazi Khan.	5,800
9.	Additions and alterations to the Government High School, Rohtak.	4,063
10.	Purchase of the Mor Serai for the Government High School, Rewari.	15,064
11.	Building grant to the Convent School, Multan	11,715
12.	Building grant to the Convent School, Murree	10,000
13.	Building grant to the Station School, Rawalpindi	7,212
14.	Mission High School, Lahore, building grant	15,000
15.	Building grant to the Convent School, Rawalpindi	4,240
16.	Building grant to the Cathedral Girls' High School, Lahore.	470
17.	Building grant to St. Bede's College, Simla	1,181
Total		1,83,690
1912-13.		
1.	Building grant to the T. J. High School, Qadian, towards the completion of the boarding-house.	6,200
2.	Building grant to the District Board, Sialkot, for a Training Class at Sambrial.	3,300
3.	Building grant to the District Board, Jhelum, for a Training Class at Rohtas.	6,540
4.	Building grant to the District Board, Gujrat, for a Training Class at Daulat Nagar.	4,608
5.	Building grant to the Cathedral Orphanage, Lahore	12,000
6.	Grant to the District Board, Hissar, to cover the expenses incurred in opening a Training Class at Hissar.	223
7.	Construction of Workshops for the Mayo School of Art, Lahore	44,661

[Mr. Lumsden.]

Serial No.	Particulars.	Amount.
1912-13.		
8.	Construction of new buildings for the Government High School, Campbellpar.	54,319
9.	Construction of new buildings for the Government High School, Gujrat.	52,502
10.	Construction of new buildings for the Government High School, Dharmśala.	85,157
11.	Grants to the District Boards of the Delhi, Rawalpindi and Multan Districts for the buildings of Vernacular Middle and Primary Schools.	95,792
12.	Acquisition of a site for the Government High School, Sialkot.	16,603
13.	Construction of a shed for the swimming bath of the Government College, Lahore.	8,487
14.	Provision of additional accommodation for the Government High School, Rewari.	6,586
15.	Construction of the temporary additional accommodation for the Lawrence School, Gora Gali.	14,401
16.	Acquisition of the old hospital buildings at Karnal and their conversion into additional class rooms and a boarding-house for the Government High School.	25,000
17.	Construction of the Government Engineering School, Rasal ...	3,328
18.	Building grant to the Convent School, Murree ...	10,000
19.	Building grant to the T. J. High School, Qadiān, for the erection of a new school building.	15,000
20.	Construction of Queen Mary's College, Lahore	15,000
21.	Building grant to the Mission High School, Gujranwala	16,000
22.	Building grant to the Khalsa High School, Gujranwala	30,000
23.	Building grant to the Convent School, Simla	4,904
24.	Ditto ditto ditto	3,593
25.	Ditto ditto ditto	675
Total		5,85,688
1913-14.		
1.	Building grant to the Mission High School, Gujranwala ...	14,000
2.	Building grant to the Convent School, Murree ...	5,000
3.	Building grant to the Kirpa Ram Anglo-Sanskrit High School, Bhera.	5,000
4.	Building grant to the Mission School, Lahore ...	2,104
5.	Building grant to the Church Mission Primary School, Multan	9,000
6.	Building grant to the Cathedral Orphanage for Boys, Lahore	10,000
7.	Construction of a new Biology and Physics Laboratory for the Government College, Lahore.	1,00,000
8.	Building grant for the Cathedral High School for Girls, Lahore.	1,721
9.	Grant placed at the disposal of the Commissioner, Ambala Division, for the erection and improvement of school buildings.	3,175
Total		1,50,000

STATEMENT B.

Statement showing the expenditure incurred from the non-recurring grants for Sanitation.

Serial No.	Particulars.	Amount.
1911-12.		
1.	For improving the sanitary condition of Delhi Bela	24,926
2.	Ditto ditto ditto	20,000
3.	Purchase of spraying machine for Lahore Municipality	14,000
4.	Freight, etc., for the above machine from Delhi to Lahore	400
5.	For filling up Dhab at Amritsar ...	1,00,000
Total		1,59,326

[Mr. Lumsden, Rai Bahadur Ram Saran Das ; Mr. Maynard.]

Serial No.	Particulars.	Amount.
	1912-13.	Rs.
1.	European stores required by the Chief Malania Officer, Punjab.	Medical 750
2.	For sanitary improvement of Delhi	... 1,45,000
3.	Sanitary experiments	... 2,600
4.	Pay of Major Young, Health Officer, Delhi	... 578
5.	Ambala Water-Works Improvement	... 30,000
6.	Amritsar City Sewage Scheme	... 2,20,000
7.	Sialkot Water-Supply Scheme	... 1,00,000
8.	Rawalpindi Intramural Drainage Scheme	... 1,50,000
9.	Dharmasala Water-Supply	... 1,900
	Total	... 6,50,828

Reply to question No. 3.—

"A statement furnishing the information desired by the Hon'ble Member is placed on the table. It will be noticed that of the total amount Rs. 7,90,000 are still unspent and form part of the Provincial balance as explained in the final paragraph of part II of the Financial Memorandum where the item of Rs. 11,17,000 includes Rs. 3,27,000 of unexpended recurring grant.

Statement showing the disposal of the non-recurring Imperial grants for Sanitation.

Grants received from the Government of India —				Rs.
During	1910-11	...	...	5,00,000
"	1911-12	...	...	6,17,000
"	1912-13	...	...	14,50,000
	Total	...	...	25,67,000
*Expenditure in 1911-12				1,59,326
*Expenditure in 1912-13				6,50,828
Expenditure in 1913-14—				Rs.
1.	Isa Khel Water-Supply	...	...	5,000
2.	Watering cart and storage tank, Multan	...	...	14,286
3.	Anti-Malarial Measures, Gujrat	...	...	300
4.	Additional grant to the Sanitary Board for distribution.	...	...	50,000
5.	Storm Water Outfall Drain, Lahore	...	...	16,359
6.	Ferozapore Drainage Scheme	...	...	12,000
7.	Bhera Drainage Scheme	...	...	33,500
8.	Lahore Sewage Scheme	...	...	16,55,000
				7,86,445
Expenditure in 1914-15--				
	Simla Sewage Scheme...	...	...	1,65,000
	Dera Ghazi Khan Water-Works	...	...	115,407
	Total expenditure during 1911-12 to 1914-15	...	...	17,77,006
	Balance on 31st March 1915	...	...	7,80,994"

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Ram Saran Das asked :—

Local opinion
in regard to
liquor shops.

4. "(a) Will the Government kindly inform this Council to what extent local opinion has in the past been consulted in the matter of establishing or continuing liquor shops in particular localities ?

"(b) Will the Government kindly state to what extent they have in the past consulted Municipal and District Boards when establishing or continuing liquor shops in territories administered by them ?"

The Hon'ble Mr. Maynard replied :—

"(a) If the Hon'ble Member will refer to the concluding paragraph of my answer to the Hon'ble Pandit Jawahar Lal Bhargava's second question at

*Details given in reply to the other question of the Hon'ble Member.
†Part of the grant of 9 lakhs, Rs. 2,45,000 debited to recurring grant.
‡Part of the grant of Rs. 50,000; balance debited to recurring grant.

[Mr. Maynard ; Rai Bahadur Ram Saran Das ; Mr. Lumsden.]

the last meeting of this Council, he will see generally to what extent local opinion has in the past been consulted. Under present rules local bodies are to be consulted regularly once a year in November or December on certain excise questions, among which are included new licenses and the reduction of existing licenses. This does not preclude them from expressing opinions on these subjects at other times. The object of systematic consultation in November or December is to obtain information on which action can be taken when disposing of licenses for the coming financial year in January and February.

"(b) Prior to 1914 Municipal and District Boards were not consulted on these subjects. The system which prevailed up to that time was one of Advisory Committees constituted specially to deal with excise questions. Such committees carry less weight than local bodies dealing with local affairs in general, and were found in practice to have been of little use. The practice since 1914 of consulting Municipal and District Boards has been described in answering the first part of this question."

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Ram Saran Das asked :—

5. "(a) Will the Government kindly inform this Council what considerations led the Government not to introduce the system of election in trans-Indus municipalities ?" Election in trans-Indus municipalities.

"(b) Will the Government kindly inform this Council whether those considerations still subsist and whether the system of election cannot now be introduced in these municipalities?"

The Hon'ble Mr. Lumsden replied :—

"(a) I would refer the Hon'ble Member to the answer given by me to the exactly similar question put by the Hon'ble Sayad Rajan Shah at the meeting of this Council held on the 2nd September 1916.

"(b) Replies received in connection with a recent enquiry regarding the possibility of introducing the elective system with advantage to such municipalities show clearly that there is no strong local feeling in favour of the system. A proposal by Government that the elective system should exceptionally be introduced at Dera Ghazi Khan has called forth a vigorous protest from all the most influential inhabitants of the town, both Hindu and Muhammadan."

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Ram Saran Das asked :—

6. "Will the Government kindly inform this Council whether special steps are being taken to encourage the establishment of Co-operative Credit Societies for industrial classes.?" Encouragement of Co-operative Credit Societies among industrial classes.

The Hon'ble Mr. Maynard replied :—

"With the object of encouraging the establishment of Co-operative Credit Societies for the industrial classes a special Inspector of Artisans' Societies was appointed in 1914.

"For further information on the subject the Hon'ble Member might refer to paragraphs 26 and 27 of the latest annual report of the Registrar, Co-operative Credit Societies."

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Ram Saran Das asked :—

7. "Will the Government kindly lay on the table of this Council the new scheme by which consolidated grants for different purposes are proposed to be given to the District Boards ?" Consolidated grants to District Boards.

[Mr. Lumsden ; Rai Bahadur Ram Saran Das ; Mr. Richey ; Mr. Townsend.]

The Hon'ble Mr. Lumsden replied :—

" A short note explaining the scheme is laid on the table. Should the Hon'ble Member desire any further information on the subject I shall be glad to supply it."

NOTE.—The scheme under which consolidated grants are allotted to District Boards has for its main object a further advance in the direction of local self-Government by abolishing as far as possible all earmarked grants and thereby freeing the boards from some of their present financial shackles.

The consolidated grants which are usually fixed for a term of five years roughly represent the difference between the normal income of the board and its normal expenditure. The latter term is however interpreted in a liberal way as meaning the amount which ought to be spent annually so as to ensure that all the works and services for which the board is responsible are maintained in a state of efficiency. The new arrangement will not affect educational grants which will be continued on the old lines, while certain contributions from the boards such as those for the maintenance of non-criminal lunatics and lepers and for leave and pension contributions of Government servants employed by District Boards must be retained. All other contributions to and from the boards will be abolished.

It will be observed that the consolidated grants do not provide for expenditure on further development but it is intended to place annually at the disposal of Commissioners, whenever the financial position admits of this, certain sums for distribution to District Boards for projects involving additional outlay. In the current year's budget, for instance, a sum of one lakh has been provided for this purpose.

The system above described has been introduced in the Rawalpindi Division with effect from 1st April 1916 and in the Ambala Division from 1st April 1917.

It is being worked out for the remaining divisions.

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Ram Saran Das asked :—

New primary schools.

8. " Will the Government kindly inform this Council as to what number of new primary schools are likely to be established in the Province in the year 1917-18 ? "

The Hon'ble Mr. Richey replied :—

" The number of primary schools which local bodies propose to open during 1917-18 is 122. No figures are available for the number of primary schools to be opened by private agencies."

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Ram Saran Das asked :—

Appointment of District Board Engineers.

9. " (a) Will the Government kindly inform this Council whether there are any Government rules for selection and appointment of District Board Engineers ?

" (b) Is it a fact that Engineers of certain District Boards do not possess recognised qualifications ; if so, in what districts ?

" (c) If that is a fact, what led the boards concerned to make such a selection ? "

The Hon'ble Mr. Lumsden replied :—

" (a) Under rule XII-A of the rules published in Punjab Government notification No. 48, dated 25th February 1916, which reproduced in a consolidated form old rules scattered over a number of previous notifications ; the appointment of a District Engineer cannot be made without the previous sanction of the Superintending Engineer of the Circle.

" (b) and (c) Government has no information as to clauses (b) and (c)."

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Ram Saran Das asked :—

Expenditure of wheat profits.

10. " Will the Government kindly inform this Council for what special object under head Agriculture the wheat profits just handed over to this Province will be spent ? "

The Hon'ble Mr. Townsend replied :—

" The Government of India have ruled that the sum of Rs. 10,70,000 allotted to the Punjab out of the wheat profits is to be utilized for non-recurring expenditure on special schemes for the direct benefit of the agricultural classes, any consequent recurring expenditure being met from Provincial revenues. The precise allocation of the grant is left to the Local Government, and is still

[*Rai Bahadur Ram Saran Das ; Rai Bahadur Bakhshi Sohan Lal ;
Mr. Craik.*]

under consideration. The principal objects suggested as suitable for the expenditure in question are as follows, and if the Hon'ble Member or any other Member is in a position to suggest any other practical scheme fulfilling the conditions, Government will be glad to consider it :—The extension of the Gurdaspur Farm (to enable varietal tests of wheat to be made on a larger scale than is at present the case), and the provision of accommodation for visitors at the farm ; increased accommodation at the Lyallpur Farm ; the institution of an experimental farm for dry cultivation in the North Punjab ; the purchase of power-boring plant for tube well work, the sinking of more experimental tube wells, and the establishment of a seed farm in the Upper Jhelum Colony ; and an experimental farm in the Lower Bari Doab Colony ; the institution of several demonstration farms of an area of about 50 acres each in suitable districts, in which the District Board is willing to pay the subsequent recurring expenditure necessary for the staff of such farm ; the provision of additional veterinary hospitals in the South-West Punjab ; and, possibly, the provision of machinery for reclamation work on a large scale, by steam cultivation and other methods, of areas of land in the Lower Bari Doab Colony, which are at present unculturable."

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Ram Saran Das asked :—

11. "Will the Government also kindly state in what way the Imperial non-recurring combined grant of Rs. 19,00,000 for Education and Sanitation made to this Province in 1910-11 has been spent ?"

Expenditure of Imperial grant of 19 lakhs for Education and Sanitation.

(See reply under question No. 3.)

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Bakhshi Sohan Lal asked :—

12. "I.—Is the Government aware—

- (a) that in the last two years a considerable number of civil suits pending in the Munsif's Court at Ludhiana have been transferred to the Munsifs of Jagraon and Samrala ;
- (b) that owing to such transfer of suits from one place to another distant place, the litigants are put to great inconvenience and extra expenses ?

Transfer of suits from Ludhiana to Jagraon.

"II.—Will the Government be pleased to state—

- (a) the number of cases so transferred from Ludhiana Munsifi to Samrala and Jagraon Munsifs during the last two years ;
- (b) the number of cases instituted in Munsifi of Samrala during the last two years ;
- (c) the number of cases instituted in the Munsifi of Jagraon during the last two years ? "

"III.—Will the Government be pleased to state whether having regard to the paucity of civil work in Samrala and Jagraon Tahsils it is necessary to maintain Munsifs' Courts at Samrala and Jagraon ?"

The Hon'ble Mr. Craik replied :—

" Replies to questions I and II could not be furnished from material available in the Chief Court, and the District Judge of Ludhiana has been asked to supply figures. On receipt of his reply I will communicate with the Hon'ble Member.

" Question III.—In 1916 the Hon'ble Judges fully considered the question, and decided that it was necessary to maintain the Munsifs' Courts at Samrala and Jagraon, and that, when the file of the Ludhiana Munsif became too heavy for one Munsif, an Additional Munsif should be stationed at Ludhiana. Accordingly there has been an Additional Munsif at Ludhiana during the

[Chaudhri Lal Chand ; Mr. Townsend ; Mr. Lumsden.]

past winter. He has now been transferred elsewhere. Jagraon is on the railway line and is an important town with a local bar of its own. On the whole, the Hon'ble Judges are of opinion that the posting of only one Munsif at Ludhiana and the distribution of some Ludhiana work between Jagraon and Samrala involves the least possible dislocation and inconvenience. Care is taken that only cases from the eastern part of the Ludhiana Tahsil should go to Samrala, and cases from the western part to Jagraon. In this way sufficient work is found for all the three Munsifs in the district."

The Hon'ble Chaudhri Lal Chand asked :—

13. "(a) Will the Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Veterinary Assistants in the Punjab are forbidden to resort to private practice in addition to their official duties while their brethren in the United Provinces and Sub-Assistant Surgeons in our own Province are allowed to enjoy this right ?

"(b) If this is the case, will the Government be pleased to consider the advisability of extending the same indulgence to Veterinary Assistants in the Punjab ?"

The Hon'ble Mr. Townsend replied :—

"(a) It is the case that Veterinary Assistants in the Punjab are not allowed private practice, and that such Assistants in the United Provinces are allowed private practice, which is also permitted to Sub-Assistant Surgeons in this Province.

"(b) Government is not prepared to amend the existing rule. Veterinary Assistants in the Punjab are whole-time servants of Government and, when they entered its service, were fully aware that private practice would not be permitted. It is not permitted in the case of gazetted officers of the Department. The present arrangements work satisfactorily, and is believed to be in the interests of the public. Any change in the direction indicated by the Hon'ble Member would almost certainly result in a general lowering of the present standard of veterinary work done in the veterinary hospitals of the Province, which is at present believed to compare favourably, both in quality and quantity, with that of any other Province in India."

The Hon'ble Chaudhri Lal Chand asked :—

14. "(a) What are the rules regarding grants by the Sanitary Board to rural areas for sanitary purposes ?

"(b) What is the amount of money sanctioned by the Sanitary Board—
(i) for towns and
(ii) for rural areas
respectively during the last two years ?

"(c) Will the Government be pleased to fix a minimum which must necessarily go to rural areas ?"

The Hon'ble Mr. Lumsden replied :—

"(a) There are no special rules regarding grants by the Sanitary Board to rural areas for sanitary purposes, but the policy of Government in respect of such grants is explained in paragraph 10 of the Lieutenant-Governor's Review of the Report on the Sanitary Administration of the Punjab and proceedings of the Sanitary Board for the year 1915 which I may quote for the Hon'ble Member's information :—

"In several districts the adoption of simple regulations under this Act to promote the sanitation of villages has been approved, and in a number of cases villages have agreed to the imposition of taxation in order to meet the cost of elementary measures of conservancy. In such cases when there is an evident desire on the part of the inhabitants for sanitary progress, His Honour considers that the strict requirements of the rule may be waived, and that grants in aid of sanitary works may be given, provided the principle of self-help is not disregarded, even when half the cost of such works cannot be raised by local contributions."

Private practice of Veterinary Assistants.

Grants by Sanitary board to rural areas.

[Mr. Lumsden ; Chaudhri Lal Chand ; Mr. Townsend.]

“(b) The answer to clause (b) is as follows :—

	Grants to towns.	Grants to rural areas.
	Rs.	Rs.
1915-16	3,56,537	15,399
1916-17	3,53,881	46,119

“(c) Government does not at present propose to fix any minimum which must necessarily go to rural areas. The small proportion of the grants allotted to rural areas is due, not to any want of sympathy on the part of the Sanitary Board, but to the lack of suitable schemes, and if rural areas or District Boards on their behalf will come forward with practical schemes, the Sanitary Board will gladly consider them.”

The Hon'ble Chaudhri Lal Chand asked :—

15. “(a) Will the Government be pleased to state whether there is any provision made for the supply of good seed to the zamindars? Supply of good seed to zamindars.

“(b) Will the Government be pleased to consider the advisability of maintaining seed stores at the head-quarters of each district?”

The Hon'ble Mr. Townsend replied :—

“(a) The provision of pure seed to zamindars is a matter to which the Agricultural Department devotes much attention, as a perusal of the departmental annual reports will show. Arrangements are being made by the department to provide 5,000 maunds of pure American 4-F cotton seed in the Lower Chenab Colony and 6,000 maunds in the Lower Bari Doab Colony this spring which will be sufficient for the sowing of some 110,000 acres. These figures are largely in excess of those of last year and are in addition to considerable amounts of this cotton seed for which zamindars are making their own arrangements. Large quantities of this seed are also being provided in the Lower Jhelum Colony.

“Of Punjab No. 11 wheat, which is becoming increasingly popular in the canal colonies, the department last year arranged to provide some 15,000 maunds of pure seed.

“Arrangements are also made, though on a smaller scale, to provide pure seed of other crops, such as Pusa 12 wheat, Japan sarson, ground-nuts and long-eared bajra : and the present activities of the department in this matter are only limited by shortness of staff, which will doubtless disappear as time goes on.

“(b) A small committee which recently met at Lyallpur considered the advisability of maintaining seed stores in various parts of the Province. The decision arrived at was that in the older canal colonies, where zamindars are generally in the habit of keeping their own seed, the provision of such seed stores is not so important as in some of the submontane districts where holdings are small, the rainfall is heavy, the damage by insects to stored grain is consequently apt to be excessive, and the cultivators do not generally keep their own seed. Following that decision, the Agricultural Department hopes to erect a seed store, probably at some centre in the Hoshiarpur District, this year : on its success will depend the erection of other such stores.

“As has been already said, the Agricultural Department fully recognizes the importance of the provision of good seed to cultivators generally, and it is hoped that the demonstration farms which are gradually being formed in the Province will considerably facilitate this object.”

The Hon'ble Chaudhri Lal Chand asked :—

16. “(a) Is it a fact that the Canal Department charges the full amount of water-rate even on failed crops unless the zamindar or tenant puts in a formal application for the remission thereof? Remission of water-rates on failed crops.

[Chaudhri Lal Chand; Mr. Aikman; Mr. Thompson; Mr. Townsend.]

"(b) Is it not a fact that many such applications are rejected simply because the Zilladar can only reach the spot after the crop is cut and hence cannot decide upon the merits of the application?"

"(c) If so, will the Government be pleased to amend the rules so as to make it the duty of the authorities to put down failed crops as *kharaba* and to give the necessary remissions without waiting for a formal application on the part of the illiterate peasant?"

The Hon'ble Mr. Aikman replied :—

"(a) Remissions for failed crops are granted under rule 20 of the Canal Act, a copy of which is laid on the table.* In the case of any wide-spread recognised calamity affecting large areas, remissions of water-rates are allowed without any formal application by cultivators, but in cases of isolated failures of particular fields, the cultivator affected is expected to bring his failure to the notice of the authorities who then take steps to grant necessary remission after inspection."

"(b) The answer is in the negative.

"(c) The existing rules have been carefully considered and are regarded as suitable."

The Hon'ble Chaudhri Lal Chand asked :—

17. "(a) Will the Government be pleased to state the number of applicants for the Punjab University Double Company, classifying them as Hindus and Muhammadans and further specifying how many out of this number belong to the non-military classes of the Province?"

"(b) How many Sikhs have applied and how many of them are Jats?"

The Hon'ble Mr. Thompson replied :—

"The number of eligible applicants for the University Company is 209, out of which 126 candidates have been declared medically fit. The classification of these 126 candidates is :—

Christians	...	...	...	9
Hindus, military classes	...	...	...	7
Do. non-military classes	...	...	...	31
Muhammadans, military classes	...	...	...	12
Do. non-military classes	...	...	...	22
Sikhs, Jats	...	...	...	28
Do. others	...	...	...	17
			Total	126

The Hon'ble Chaudhri Lal Chand asked :—

18. "(a) How many cattle fairs are held in the Province under the supervision of the Government and local bodies throughout the year?"

"(b) Has the experiment of arranging exhibition of modern agricultural implements and good seeds ever been tried, and with what results?"

"(c) If not, will the Government be pleased to arrange such exhibitions at least once a year in each district?"

The Hon'ble Mr. Townsend replied :—

"(a) About forty cattle fairs (the number varies slightly from year to year) are held annually in this Province under the supervision of Government and local bodies.

Recruits to
the Punjab
University
Double Com-
pany.

Cattle fairs.

[Mr. Townsend ; Khan Bahadur Malik Muhammad Amin Khan on behalf of Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Hussain ; Mr. Thompson ; Mr. Richey ; Pandit Jawahar Lal Bhargava ; Mr. Maynard.]

"(b) and (c) Exhibitions of modern agricultural implements and of good seed have been made by the Agricultural Department for some years at selected cattle fairs: in 1916 such demonstrations were given at sixteen fairs. The results of these demonstrations were generally satisfactory, but their number cannot be greatly increased with the present available staff. As that staff increases, these exhibitions at fairs will also increase."

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Malik Muhammad Amin Khan asked on behalf of the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Hussain :—

19. "Will the Government be pleased to state whether any steps have been taken to call forth a good response for the Indian units of the Indian Defence Force? Or is it intended that this matter be left entirely to non-official enterprise?" Indian units of the Indian Defence Force.

The Hon'ble Mr. Thompson replied :—

"The Indian units to be constituted under the Indian Defence Force Act will be composed of persons other than European British subjects who satisfy the prescribed conditions, and within six months from the commencement of the Act, i.e., before the 28th August 1917, offer themselves for enrolment for general military service. The prescribed conditions have been embodied in a *communiqué* which has been issued to the Press and a copy of which has been laid on the table.*"

"It will be observed that the scope of the Act in this Province, which provides from its martial population so large a proportion of the combatant ranks of the regular army, is somewhat restricted: but the Lieutenant-Governor hopes that the response of the classes to whom the Act applies will be worthy of the traditions of the Punjab. Government officers will be prepared to furnish information in regard to the terms of enlistment and the procedure to be adopted, but the organization of recruiting will be left to non-official enterprise, which His Honour trusts will prove itself equal to the task."

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Malik Muhammad Amin Khan asked on behalf of the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain :—

20. "Will the Government be pleased to state whether the estate known as Rose Cottage, Lower Mall, Lahore, has been acquired for the Government College, Lahore, and if so, for how much; and is it intended to be utilized as a Hostel site, and if so, has any Hostel scheme been prepared?" Acquisition of Rose Cottage.

The Hon'ble Mr. Richey replied :—

"Negotiations for acquisition of the site in question are in progress, but no further statement can be made at present."

The Hon'ble Pandit Jawahar Lal, Bhargava, asked :—

21. "Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing for each of the last five years the values of the country and foreign liquors consumed in the Province?" Value of foreign and country liquor consumed in the Province.

The Hon'ble Mr. Maynard replied :—

"If the Hon'ble Member will make it plain what he means by the value of liquor, a statement as desired by him will be laid on the table. It is not clear whether wholesale price or retail price is meant, and if the former, whether the distiller's price prior to the payment of duty, or the price inclusive of duty, is meant. The still-head duty is between five and six times the amount of the distiller's price, and the retail price is eight to ten times the distiller's price."

[*Pandit Jawahar Lal, Bhargava ; Mr. Maynard.*]

The Hon'ble Pandit Jawahar Lal, Bhargava, asked :—

Detection of
illicit
distillation.

22. " In order to stimulate and secure co-operation of the public in the detection of illicit distillation of liquor, will the Government be pleased to consider the advisability of issuing instructions—

- (a) for granting liberal rewards to such private individuals as may render assistance in such detection ;
- (b) for enjoining strict performance of the duties of lambardars in this connection ? "

The Hon'ble Mr. Maynard replied :—

" (a) Liberal rewards are granted to private persons rendering assistance in the detection of illicit distillation. This policy has for many years past been carried as far as it is considered safe to carry it, without incurring the risk of encouraging the fabrication of false cases.

" (b) Under standing orders lambardars in whose villages illicit distillation occurs are punished, unless they can show cause to the contrary. The answer given by me to a question on this subject at the last meeting of this Council showed the number of lambardars dismissed for neglect of duty in this respect."

The Hon'ble Pandit Jawahar Lal, Bhargava, asked :—

Changes in
excise
arrangements

23. " Will the Government be pleased to state in detail with reference to particular districts the practical results of any changes of excise arrangements effected by the Collectors in complying with the standing orders referred to in reply to my question in the last meeting of the Council ? "

The Hon'ble Mr. Maynard replied :—

" I must ask the Hon'ble Member to put this question in a more definite form. My answers to his questions at the last meeting of the Legislative Council referred to several standing orders. It is not clear to which of these or to what particular districts his present question refers."

The Hon'ble Pandit Jawahar Lal, Bhargava, asked :—

Liquor shops
at fairs in the
Ludhiana
District.

24. " Is the Government prepared to discontinue the opening of special shops in the three fairs in the Ludhiana District and adopt measures to prevent smuggling ? "

The Hon'ble Mr. Maynard replied :—

" The question appears to convey a doubt whether measures to prevent smuggling of liquor from Native States are taken in ordinary course. All such measures as are feasible without undue expansion of establishments or risk of encouraging the fabrication of false cases and the harassment of the public are already taken. Except in certain portions of their territories, the Phulkian States, including Nabha, have recently signified their willingness, with effect from April 1st, 1918, to equalise their still-head duty with the still-head duty charged in British territory. If this be carried out as hoped, the danger of the smuggling of liquor from these three States into British territory will be removed, except to such extent as they may locally retain a lower still-head duty. The Financial Commissioner will review the decision to retain fair licenses at three fairs in Ludhiana in accordance with the changed conditions when the change occurs."

The Hon'ble Pandit Jawahar Lal, Bhargava, asked :—

Close of
permanent
liquor shops
during fairs.

25. " Will the Government be pleased to state the names of places in the Province where the permanent liquor shops are closed during the continuance of the fairs, and further to state the causes which stand in the way of closing of such shops during such times in other fair localities ? "

[Mr. Maynard ; Pandit Jawahar Lal, Bhargava ; Mr. Richey.]

The Hon'ble Mr. Maynard replied :—

" A statement is laid on the table* giving the places where the permanent liquor licenses are closed during the continuance of fairs. The general reason for not closing permanent liquor licenses at other fairs during the continuance of the fairs is that this cannot for local reasons be done without encouraging illicit distillation or illicit imports."

The Hon'ble Pandit Jawahar Lal, Bhargava, asked :—

26. " Will the Government be pleased to state the amount of expenses incurred in connection with the system of special University lectures and re-arrangement of the University Library by the expert from America during the last year ? "

The Hon'ble Mr. Richey replied :—

" The expenses incurred on special University lectures last year was Rs. 15,000. The cost of the reorganisation of the University Library by the expert from America was Rs. 15,700.

" Both sums were met from the Government of India recurring grant to the University."

The Hon'ble Pandit Jawahar Lal, Bhargava, asked :—

27. " Will the Government be pleased to state the number of scholarships, and their total amount, which have been awarded by the Government to female students during the last year for primary, secondary and high education, respectively ? "

The Hon'ble Mr. Richey replied :—

" The following scholarships were awarded for female education last year :—

5 College scholarships at a cost of Rs. 720.

19 High School scholarships at a cost of Rs. 1,365.

344 Middle School scholarships at a cost of Rs. 16,512.

1,566 Primary School scholarships at a cost of Rs. 18,792."

The Hon'ble Pandit Jawahar Lal, Bhargava, asked :—

28. " Will the Government be pleased to state, for the information of the public, the details of the educational administration of the District Board of Ferozepore, referred to on page 1 of the Report on the Progress of Education in the Punjab for the year 1915-16 ? "

The Hon'ble Mr. Richey replied :—

" The statement on page 1 of the Education Report for 1915-16 was based on the report of the Inspector of Schools for the Jullundur Division. The Inspector reported that the Ferozepore District Board had shown great zeal and energy in educational matters, especially in the provision of good school buildings and equipment. A system adopted by this Board of erecting primary school buildings for Rs. 1,000, half provided by the Board and half by the villagers, has proved very successful. Twenty-two primary schools were added during the year. The District Board provided Rs. 41,750 for expenditure on education other than buildings, but actually spent Rs. 44,430."

[Rai Bahadur Bakhshi Sohan Lal.]

RESOLUTION RE FIXING OF THIRTY YEARS AS ORDINARY
TERM FOR A LAND REVENUE SETTLEMENT IN
THE PUNJAB.

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Bakhshi Sohan Lal :—“ Your Honour,—The resolution which I have the honour to move in this Council runs as follows :—

‘ This Council recommends to His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor that he may be pleased to order that 30 years shall be the ordinary term for a land revenue settlement now in progress or hereafter to be commenced in any district of the Punjab.’

“ From a comparison of the various terms of the settlements made in the Punjab districts from time to time it appears that 20 years' term of settlement, which was adopted in the very early days of the British rule in the Punjab, has been continued to be the ordinary term of settlement up to the present time, with few exceptions, where the shorter term of 10 or 15 years and the longer term of 30 years have also been adopted. The disadvantage of renewing settlement operations at comparatively short intervals are so well known to every person having the slightest touch with agriculture that they need not be repeated at any length. The uneasiness arising from uncertainty; great botheration, vexation and harassment to the zamindars; oppression and extortion on the part of the subordinate amla; the discontent engendered by mistaken assessments; the loss to the community from the deterioration of the crops; the check on improvements, and last but not the least the heavy expenditure incurred by the State as well as by the zamindars in carrying on a settlement operation are a few of the illustrations of the manifold evils of the short term settlement. The complete remedy for these evils lies in adopting the system of permanent settlements of the land revenue all over the country, and I am sure that a day will come when benign British Government will confer this boon on the agriculturists of the Punjab. An examination of arguments *pro* and *con* the system is not strictly relevant to the subject of this resolution, and I do not propose to discuss them. But if the time is not yet ripe for that reform, I see no reason why the duration of periodical settlements should not be increased, and I submit that the duration should in no case be less than 30 years. Even as early as 1864 that great Empire-Builder, Lord Lawrence, remarked in a minute, in which he supported permanent settlement generally, that ‘ permanent settlement should not be conceded to estates of which the rental, as well as agriculture, were not fully developed, and that estates which did not fulfil these conditions ought to be assessed for 30 years.’ The advantages of a long term settlement were acknowledged so early that most of the settlements effected under Regulation 9 of 1833 in the North-Western Provinces (United Provinces of Agra and Oudh) were made for 30 years. Colonel Baird Smith, who was sent to report on the famine in Northern India, was struck by the great resistance to the calamity by the people in 1861 as compared with that offered in 1837 and 1838. Arguing that the improvement in the wealth of the peasantry and their ability to bear up against misfortune was due to the long term of settlements, he inferred that a further application of the same principle would achieve greater success. He became a strong advocate of permanent settlements, and the discussions which arose from his report led to Sir Charles Woods' famous despatch of 1862 in which Her Majesty's Government announced its resolve to sanction a permanent settlement of the land revenue throughout India. The despatch dwelt on the political and social advantages attendant to such a measure and on the stimulus it would give to agriculture and to the growth of a middle class connected with the land. The alternative to a permanent settlement was pronounced to be a long term and elaborate revision of assessments every 30 years. It is not necessary to go into the subsequent history of these proposals or into the reasons why they were not enforced. But it will suffice to say that effect

[*Rai Bahadur Bakhshi Sohan Lal.*]

has been given in the major Provinces to the alternative of having 30 years' settlement.

"In Bombay Presidency the 30-year term of settlement was introduced by the Court of Directors so far back as 1837. From thence it was extended to Madras and North-Western Provinces (United Provinces of Agra and Oudh). The same principle had been followed in the Orissa's settlement since 1868. Thirty-year settlements are the common rule in the Delhi tract. Thus among the major and important Provinces the Punjab seems to be the solitary Province to which 30 years' term of settlement has not yet been formally extended as the ordinary term of settlement.

"During the last 70 years of the peaceful British rule in the Punjab there is not a single district which has not been brought under one or more regular settlements most carefully conducted in which land revenue has been assessed and revised and records-of-rights prepared justifying the introduction of the permanent settlement in the estates of which the rental and agriculture have been fully developed, and the 30 years' settlement in the estates which do not fulfil these conditions. From time to time expression of the popular feeling on this subject has been brought before several meetings of this Council in one form or the other. In the meeting held on 13th March 1912 when a Bill was before the Council to amend certain sections of the Land Revenue Act the Hon'ble Mr. Shadi Lal moved the following amendment to section 53 of the Punjab Land Revenue Act, 1887, 'that for sub-section (3) of section 53 of the Punjab Land Revenue Act the following be substituted :—

'The Local Government shall, when confirming an assessment under sub-section (1), fix the period for which assessment is to be in force. Such period shall not ordinarily be less than 30 years.'

The amendment was ruled out of order on a technical objection and was not considered on the merits.

"In the budget meetings of this Council held on 18th April 1913 and 18th April 1914 the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Malik Muhammad Amin Khan, the Hon'ble Sardar Bahadur Sardar Gajjan Singh and the Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Lala Ram Saran Das raised their voice for long term settlements, and received sympathetic response from Your Honour and Your Honour's predecessor Sir Louis Dane, as well as from the Hon'ble Mr. Diack.

"In paragraphs 248 and 249 of the Report of the Royal Commission upon Decentralization in India I find the following remarks which are relevant to the subject of my resolution :—

"248. The Punjab Government has suggested to us an enhancement of its power in this respect, and its Chief Secretary argues that it should be able to sanction 30 years' settlements.

"249. Here, again, it seems to us that in the major Provinces Provincial Governments might have power to increase the normal settlement period up to a maximum of 30 years, or to take a less period than that normally fixed for the Province in districts in which exceptional circumstances justify this course, subject to observance of the following principles which were laid down by the Secretary of State in 1905. In backward tracts, and under exceptional circumstances, shorter terms may be fixed; and such circumstances and conditions may also justify an abbreviation, in the case of an individual district or portion of a district, of the normal term.'

"Thus we find that there is not only a persistent demand for this change in the ordinary duration of settlement on the part of the public generally, but high official opinion also appears to have been gradually coming round to this view, and under such encouraging circumstances I venture to hope that the very modest proposals made in this resolution will receive unanimous support from all the official and non-official Members of this Council, and that Your Honour's Government, which has already done so much for the agricultural classes of this Province, will confer this further boon on them, and that before laying down the reins of your high office, Your Honour will have

[Chaudhri Lal Chand.]

added another obligation to the numerous other obligations under which Your Honour has already laid the people of the Province."

The Hon'ble Chaudhri Lal Chand :—"Your Honour,—I am glad I find myself at one with the Hon'ble Bakhshi Sohan Lal. I would even submit that the demand is over-modest. The south-eastern districts enjoy this privilege already, and it would have been better if my Hon'ble friend would have proposed 50 years instead of 30. One settlement with one generation is the general principle which ought to be adopted. So when I support this resolution I should not be understood to accept this term as the ideal one or as the goal to which we ought to look forward, but I support it in the light of bringing all the other districts of the Province to the level of the more favoured or in this respect more advanced districts of South-Eastern Punjab.

"The demand, as I said, is so modest that hardly any Hon'ble Member of this Council will oppose it. While supporting the resolution I may say in the very beginning that I am fully aware of the fact that settlement operations do not mean enhancement of land revenue. In some cases land revenue has to be decreased as a matter of fact; and if during the past few years we have seen an increase in districts which have been under settlement, most of it is due to the high prices of produce that the cultivators have enjoyed for the last several years. I am not also unmindful of the value of settlements in the revising of records-of-rights and thus putting an end to hundreds of disputes which would have been a cause of ruin of many families. But I wish to point out briefly the reasons why settlement operations are so much dreaded by the people.

"Your Honour,—Of all the non-official Members I am perhaps the only one who can lay claim to personal experience of the Settlement Department. I served for about seven years as a Settlement Naib Tahsildar in as many as four districts and possess a first hand knowledge of the settlement operations and all that they imply. The remarks which I propose to make are chiefly based on intimate personal knowledge and close personal observation and inferences therefrom.

"Whether regarded from the point of view of the zamindars or from the point of view of the officers concerned, the settlement operations are not a thing to be welcomed. To take the officers' point of view first, the whole staff from the Settlement Officer downwards has to work hard continuously from year's end to year's end. The scorching heat of May, the biting cold of January, and the driving rain of August have all to be borne equally in patience and resignation. Away from the haunts of civilization and entirely cut off from the ordinary amenities of life the officers engaged in the work of settlement have to labour and toil in the midst of a population not at all well-disposed towards those devoted servants of the Crown. The rough camp life with arduous work to do from day to day possesses hardly any relieving feature to compensate the officers from trying spells of exile from civilized life which they have to endure for months together at a time. An off-day or two snatched at long and irregular intervals is all they can depend upon to have an occasional glimpse of civilization. The crop of frivolous disputes daily coming up for decision, the reluctance of the people to disclose the real state of things so necessary for framing of a settlement report, the consciousness of an atmosphere of mutual distrust and suspicion, with a number of other petty annoyances, all make the work of the officers engaged in the settlement operations doubly wearisome.

"From the zamindars' point of view, frequent settlement operations are still less welcome. In the first instance, these operations have a disturbing influence on the normal conditions of life in the area affected. The daily avocations of the agricultural population are more or less seriously interfered

[*Chaudhri Lal Chand ; Sardar Bahadur Gajjan Singh.*]

with. The requisitions of the settlement staff for the supply of labour, provisions and accommodation are not infrequently a source of considerable annoyance to the people. The attendance of the peasants at a particular spot before a particular officer is often obligatory and unavoidable. This may happen at a time when their absence from their work may cause serious injury to their interests. The advent of settlement operations is consequently regarded with alarm by the people.

"Another serious argument against the recurrence of settlement operations at inadequately long intervals is the discouraging influence which the recurrence has on the desire of the people to effect improvement in the productive power of their lands. The fear of enhancement of revenue cannot fail to damp the spirit of enterprise among the land-holding classes.

"In addition to the grounds to which I have already alluded, there are a few other general considerations also which incline me to give my support to the resolution. The acceptance of the resolution by the Government will give immense satisfaction to the land-holding classes and will be hailed as a fitting tribute to the staunch loyalty of the Military classes and the splendid services rendered by them in the present war. A settlement, if properly conducted, should not be hurried through. It will thus occupy several years. Under the present system a short term of settlement necessarily means a short period for the completion of settlement operations. A long spell of settlement operations followed by a comparatively short term would look ridiculous. The tendency in recent settlements has therefore been to hasten the completion of the operations as much as possible. Accuracy, efficiency and quality of work have thus to be sacrificed in favour of despatch.

"The existence of a provision for the revision of records every four years is an additional ground for the lengthening of the term of the settlement.

"Most of the south-eastern districts of the Province already enjoy this privilege, and it will be in the fitness of things if other districts also are allowed the same indulgence. The boon will be very much appreciated. With these few words I second the resolution put before the Council by the Hon'ble mover."

The Hon'ble Sardar Bahadur Sardar Gajjan Singh :—

"Your Honour,—The Hon'ble mover of the resolution has pointed out that on some previous occasion I expressed myself in favour of a long term settlement ; I still adhere to that opinion.

"Your Honour, nothing in this world concerns the welfare and prosperity of the zamindar more than the term of a settlement. Recurrence of settlement operations at short intervals creates in the mind of the zamindar a feeling of distrust and uneasiness which no one knows better than Your Honour. Many landholders give up efforts at improving land and developing agricultural resources. They know that with improved land and developed resources there will also come increased land revenue. As the time for re-settlement approaches, the agricultural classes with the view of evading a true estimate of the actual value of their lands contract their cultivation, cease to grow the most profitable crops, and allow wells and water-courses to fall into decay. The remedy of all this lies in long term, if not in permanent, settlement.

"Your Honour, the zamindar forms an overwhelming majority of the total population and is rightly looked upon as the backbone of the country. His prosperity and welfare ought to receive primary consideration at the hands of the benign British Government. The zamindars are fully aware of and highly grateful for what the Government has done to ameliorate their lot, but it must be admitted that still much remains to be done to improve their condition. The wealthy peasantry is a valuable asset to Government the advantages of which cannot be gainsaid, and, Sir, nothing but long term settlement can make them wealthy and contented.

[*Sardar Bahadur Gajjan Singh ; Khan Bahadur Sayid Mehdi Shah ; The President ; Rai Bahadur Ram Saran Das.*]

"The plea that rise in prices of marketable commodities has indirectly increased the value of the land is not infrequently urged forth as a sufficient ground for revision of assessment at short interval, but this plea falls to the ground when the fact is taken into account that rise in prices also means more expensive mode of living and enhanced outlay on cultivation.

"The 30-year term of settlement is now granted to the majority of the districts in the Province and was recognised by Mr. Diack in his speech in the Imperial Legislative Council of 27th February 1914. He says :—'The 30 years' term has been adopted, I believe, because it is the equivalent of a generation. So long as re-settlement occurs once in a generation and no oftener it involves little upsetting and little harassing. If we are to adopt a longer period, it can only be when prices, as well as cultivation and, irrigation, have reached a state of absolutely stable equilibrium, and that time is not yet in sight.' With this official declaration I am surprised to find why the Hon'ble mover of this resolution should ask for 30 and not 50 years' term of settlement. Personally speaking, I am strongly in favour of 50 years.

"Your Honour, the zamindars of this Province have made considerable sacrifices both in men and money in the present worldwide war, and are still ready to make further sacrifices if called upon to do so. They have contributed more than 90 per cent. recruits to the Indian Army since the outbreak of the war. Though financially poor, they have done their best in subscribing to the various war funds.

"I therefore propose an amendment to the resolution so ably moved and seconded by the previous speakers, and that amendment is that the number of years should be raised from 30 to 50 years, and hope that the amended resolution would meet with Your Honour's sympathetic consideration."

Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Sayid Mehdi Shah :—“ Your Honour,—I support the amendment.”

His Honour the President :—“ Has the Hon'ble Member given notice of the amendment ?”

Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Sayid Mehdi Shah :—“ No, Your Honour.”

His Honour the President :—“ Under the rule three days' notice is required for an amendment.”

Hon'ble Sardar Bahadur Gajjan Singh :—“ That is not absolutely necessary. An amendment can be put then and there according to the rules.”

His Honour the President :—“ I do not think the amendment is in order. If notice had been given, of course the amendment could have been discussed. As it is a case of far-reaching importance, notice should be given.”

Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Ram Saran Das :—“ Your Honour,—The most important problem in Indian administration is the land revenue policy of the Government. The prosperity of the people depends mainly on agriculture and the stability of the Indian Exchequer also depends largely on land revenue. This problem of land and land revenue has therefore attracted the attention of the Government from the very establishment of British Raj in India. In pre-British days there were held land revenue settlements, but in those days the methods of Government were not so precise as they are now. Consequently in those days periodic settlements could not be held regularly. One settlement very often subsisted for many generations, and it was in fact very seldom that settlements once regularly made were interfered with subsequently. The result was very obvious. Though in theory settlements of land revenue were to be periodical, yet in actual practice the people enjoyed a sort of a permanent settlement. On the introduction of British rule in the country, by which precise methods of Government were established, sovereign's theoretical right of making periodic settlements for land revenue was put in actual practice. In the

[*Rai Bahadur Ram Saran Das ; Mr. Fagan.*]

neighbouring Province of Agra the term of these settlements was fixed at 30 years. When the Punjab was annexed the revenue system of Agra Province was applied to this Province also, but 30-year rule was not introduced here in most of districts. It was said at that time that the Punjab was not so highly cultivated as Agra, and it was contended that on the establishment of peace and order in the land this Province would improve greatly in agriculture. On these grounds it was considered desirable to apply for the time being in this Province shorter terms of 20-year settlements. These settlements have been revised regularly after 20 years, and I submit this regularity in settlements which invariably means enhanced assessments at every revision is a thing which was never experienced in pre-British days. These frequent revisions are, therefore, troublesome to the people and are not favoured by the masses. Your Honour, now almost 70 years of British rule have passed in this Province, and I am confident the uninterrupted peace for this more than two-thirds of a century has extended to the fullest extent cultivation in most of the districts. In fact in many districts the limit of cultivation has reached a higher pitch than it is to be found in the cis-Sutlej districts of the Ambala and Jullundur Divisions—districts which formerly formed part of the Agra Province and enjoy settlements of 30-year terms. Your Honour, these more frequent settlements after every 20 years always bring about an enhanced assessment. This greater frequency of enhanced assessment in some districts rather than others introduces an invidious distinction. Land-owning classes, I should think, are all unanimous in demanding a longer term of 30 years for land revenue settlements. In all other Provinces the rule of 30-year terms prevails. Prevalence of a shorter term of 20 years in this Province denotes that this Province is not so fully developed as other Provinces, a statement which I am sure hardly applies to modern Punjab. In this respect also the Punjab feels a badge of inferiority, and backwardness is placed upon the progressive Punjab. Your Honour, the acceptance of this resolution would be very popular among the masses and would bring greater contentment and prosperity to the agricultural classes whose good Your Honour's Government has so much at heart. I cordially support this resolution."

The Hon'ble Mr. Fagan :—" Your Honour, in moving the present resolution the Hon'ble Member has materially modified the terms of the resolution which were put down in his name in the list of business at the last meeting. The effect of that modification has, no doubt, been to some extent attenuated by what has fallen from him and his supporters in the course of this debate. We have not only had the suggestion that the term of settlement should be 30 years, but it has been stated that a longer term, 50 years, is desirable. We have even had it hinted that the ultimate ideal is a permanent settlement. However, the modification, as far as it goes, is to be welcomed, because I believe it can be shown that the policy of the Punjab Government in this matter goes a very considerable way to meet the views of the Hon'ble Member and his supporters, even if it does not do so completely.

" It will, I think, be convenient, if I first endeavour to clear the ground by a very brief statement of the actual position of affairs at the present moment in the Province, in regard to the terms of settlement which are now current. Out of 28 districts, in 9 the current term of settlement is 30 years, and in a tenth, Ambala, the period of 20 years originally fixed in the 1888 was, for reasons with which I need not deal at any length now, subsequently extended to 30 years, and is now about to expire. In four others, that is to say, Sialkot, Shahpur, Jullundur and Gujrat, settlement operations have recently been completed, but no final orders have yet been passed on the settlement reports. It is, however, probable that in at least two of these districts a term of 30 years will be sanctioned. In another district, Kangra, for the three tahsils, Kulu, Dehra-Gopipur and Hamirpur, where the settlement has been completed, a term of 30 years has been sanctioned. Though no definite pronouncement can be made at present, it is not, I think, probable that a shorter term will be imposed in the other three tahsils. That accounts for the 15 districts of the Province. In 12 others the term of settlement is

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20 years. In the colony parts of Shahpur, Jhang and Gujranwala, the period fixed is 10 years, and the same applies to the Colony district of Lyallpur, except as regards the Rakh Branch, where the term of settlement is fixed at 20 years. It will thus be seen that in something over one-third of the districts of the Province at the present moment, the term of settlement is 30 years, and it is probable that that proportion will be materially increased in the not very distant future. I think I may perhaps conveniently supplement this account of the present state of things in regard to the terms of settlement by a brief sketch of the policy which has been followed in this Province in this very important matter.

“ Beginning at its south-east corner, we have the old districts of Hissar, Gurgaon, Rohtak and Karnal, which originally formed part of the tract known as the old Delhi territory, and included in the North-Western Provinces. There the first regular settlement was completed about the year 1840. In accordance with the policy then prevalent in the North-Western Provinces, in three of them, *i.e.*, Gurgaon, Rohtak and Karnal, the term of settlement fixed was 30 years, but in the district of Hissar, which was then very recently colonised and altogether undeveloped, the term fixed was 20 years. Between the years 1846 to 1863, the rest of the Province, as at present constituted, excepting the districts of Simla, Muzaffargarh and Dera Ghazi Khan, came under settlement. East of the Sutlej and Beas, a term of 30 years was fixed except again in the case of Hissar which was re-settled in the year 1863. West of the Beas and Sutlej Lord Dalhousie directed in expectation of rapid developments in consequence of recent annexation that the term of settlement should be 10 years, that is to say, the term of the first regular settlement of those districts, and those orders were carried out in nearly all cases. The incidental advantage of a short period then adopted was that it was found possible to give ample reduction on the somewhat severe assessments which had been imposed in the early summary settlements. Between 1863 to 1900 most of the districts of the Province again came under settlement, and the general term adopted was 20 years, except in the central districts of Jullundur, Ludhiana and Hoshiarpur and also in Gurgaon, Rohtak and Karnal where a 30 years' term was again adopted.

“ Between 1900 to the present time some 20 settlements have been completed, excluding those of colony tracts. In eight of those the term of settlement granted has been 30 years, so that I think it may be fairly contended that as regards this important matter, the desirability and possibility of having longer terms has certainly not been neglected by the Government of the Punjab.

“ I will now turn to the arguments which bear more directly on the subject of the resolution which the Hon'ble Member has moved. In determining the period of settlement suitable for any given tract, it seems to me that the factors which govern the decision, may on the whole be divided into two broad classes—*firstly*, those which relate to the anticipated degree of rapidity of economic development in the tract concerned in its bearing on the fiscal interests of the State, and, *secondly*, a fact which has been very much emphasized by the speakers who have preceded me, the desirability of avoiding expense to the State and inconvenience to the people which are necessarily involved in frequent repetition of settlement proceedings, and one also has, of course, to bear in mind that a certain degree of popular annoyance is inseparable from any enhancement of the State's demand. Now as regards the first of these factors, the fiscal aspect of the question, I would urge that we must bear very carefully in mind that economic development in this country and more especially in the Punjab perhaps, is due in the main, if not entirely, to large measures of improvements initiated, financed and carried out by the State. I refer, of course, to such measures as the building of railways, construction of canals, the dissemination of agricultural knowledge and improved agricultural methods, the introduction of improved agricultural staples as in the case of wheat and cotton and to all the other activities in which a progressive Government, like the Government of India, must necessarily take part. The State in

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this country, in short, is not only the ultimate landlord by immemorial usage and by statute, but it is also pre-eminently an improving landlord, a landlord which has sunk vast sums of capital in the improvement of the estate which has been committed to its care. In both these capacities it is entitled to an adequate share of the increased produce of the land and the increased value of the produce which are due not only to its own action but also to the play of those world-wide economic forces with which the Punjab is yearly being brought into closer contact. Regarding in this light then a tract where rapid development is to be expected, such as the canal colonies, where conditions are at present unstable and where they are not likely to be permanent for a considerable number of years to come, it seems obvious that an unduly prolonged term of settlement must necessarily tend to deprive the State of its fair share of the results of agricultural progress. It will operate in that way not only by deferring the date on which the State can realise its enhanced dues, but also by compelling the State to satisfy itself with an inadequate demand, inasmuch as is well known, the proportion of enhancement which can be taken at any one revision of assessment is necessarily limited by certain practical conditions,— conditions which have played a very prominent part in a recent assessment, so much so that in a district like Lahore we have the result that the total assessment recently imposed absorbed less than 8 per cent. of the gross produce of the district. Similar figures for Amritsar were something over 9 per cent., Ferozepore slightly over $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., Sialkot 11 per cent., Hoshiarpur 12. On the other hand, in tracts where development has proceeded so far that further progress is likely to be slow, a longer term is obviously permissible and also in very many respects desirable. A very lucid exposition of the policy of the Government of India was given in paragraph 18 of their resolution issued in January 1902. With Your Honour's permission I propose to read it to the Council. It runs as follows :—

“ Where the land is fully cultivated, rents fair, and agricultural production not liable to violent oscillations, it is sufficient if the demands of Government are re-adjusted once in 30 years, *i.e.*, once in the life time of each generation. Where the opposite conditions prevail, where there are much waste land, low rents, and a fluctuating cultivation, or again where there is a rapid development of resources owing to the construction of roads, railways or canals, to an increase of population, or to a rise in prices, the postponement of re-settlement for so long a period is both injurious to the people, who are unequal to the strain of a sharp enhancement, and unjust to the general tax-payer who is deprived of the additional revenue to which he has a legitimate claim.”

“ But cases are conceivable even in developed tracts where it is not so much further development that is to be anticipated as possible deterioration. I have in mind cases such as those of riverain tracts adjoining recently or newly irrigated uplands where trouble from emigration of tenants, water-logging and other similar causes is to be apprehended. Actual cases of the kind are not unknown in this Province, and prudence obviously demands that in such conditions Government should retain in its hand the power to revise and if necessary to reduce with due promptitude its demand in the interests of the revenue payers.

“ Setting aside such special cases as those, I venture to think, with all due deference to the Hon'ble Members, who have spoken, that the Province as a whole can scarcely be considered to have reached that stage of slow and steady development which would justify the adoption of a general, inelastic if not a too rigid rule, to regulate the term of settlement, and here it is, I think, that the Province is differentiated from those older provinces of India to which the Hon'ble Mover referred in his speech in supporting the resolution. While, however, emphasizing the fiscal aspect of the question I have no desire whatever to minimise or pass by the other factor, inconvenience to the people on which the Hon'ble Lala Lal Chand has dwelt so eloquently. Perhaps it would not be unfair to say that that sort of inconvenience and hardship of which we have heard and which no doubt to a certain extent occurs, though I am not prepared to accept the somewhat highly coloured picture which he has put before us, is not confined to settlement proceedings alone, but it does

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occur in the other branches of administration as well. However, I do not wish to avoid the issue in that sort of way. What I do wish is to press on the attention of the Council the very extensive series of measures which have been taken and taken continuously during the last 25 or 30 years with a view to securing and maintaining a permanent improvement in the quality of our land records. One of the main objects has been to curtail settlement operations and to decrease and diminish the expense and labour which they involve. I think it may be fairly claimed that a very large measure of success has been attained as is shown by the general abbreviation in settlement proceedings which has been secured and of which there have been some notable instances in this province during the last few years. Our ultimate goal is to reach a state of things under which special record and measurement work shall cease to be a normal part of settlement proceedings. If we have not reached the goal, at all events it is in sight. I do not of course mean to suggest that it will be possible to dispense entirely with settlement proceedings, so long as land revenue is to remain the sheet anchor of Imperial and Provincial finance in this country assessment work must be done, and it will never be an automatic work. It must necessarily occupy time and labour proportionate to its importance as the means for adjusting the periodical growth of what is after all the most important item in the revenues of the State in this country. To unduly prolong the term of settlement is to unduly restrict that growth. Perhaps it is not altogether inappropriate for me to observe on this point that suggestions directed towards restricting the further growth of State revenue or at all events suggestions which are calculated to have that effect are now-a-days not infrequent, and the public is naturally jealous of any large growth in the State's demands. At the same time these suggestions are generally in very close proximity with further proposals for substantial increases of expenditure under various administrative heads, notably sanitation and education. That also is a phase of public opinion which we can only welcome, but when the time comes for making financial provision these two lines of policy are apt to clash, and then suggestions for providing the necessary funds are generally conspicuous by their absence.

"Another argument which has been used in support of the desirability and necessity of a longer term of settlement is that the shorter term discourages improvements. I do not think that actual practical experience in this province really bears out that contention, and moreover we have rules which do afford ample protection to improvements for reasonable periods from assessment. The fact is that large landholders of the Province have not been large improvers. With some notable exceptions they have been content to collect their rents which have been enhanced automatically and substantially, in some cases enormously, and in point of fact the improvements that have been made have for the most part been made by the smaller landholders who are fully protected by the rules to which I have referred.

"I have set forth, I fear, with somewhat undue prolixity, considerations which I think militate against the adoption of anything like too rigid or inelastic rule to regulate the term of settlements. At the same time Government is fully aware of the great importance which the land-holders of the Province attach to this question and of the very widespread desire which exists for a more general adoption of a longer term of settlement. I have, I believe, His Honour's authority for saying that Government is in full sympathy with the principle that a longer term should be adopted in those districts where this can be done consistently and with due regard to the paramount claims of the State in receiving its fair share of the progressive increase in agricultural assets. Its sympathy has been shown in a practical form by the number of districts in which in recent years 30 years' term has been fixed, a number which is likely to increase in the near future.

"While this is the attitude of Government, it is not prepared to lay down or accept any inelastic rule which will tie its hands when dealing with the

[*Mr. Fagan Diwan Bahadur Diwan Daulat Rai.*]

case of a tract in which the adoption of a longer term of settlement would be inconsistent with the fiscal interests of the State as a trustee of the general public and of the general tax-payer. I hope that these explanations which I have given may not be unsatisfactory to the Hon'ble Member, but if he wishes to press his resolution to a division, Government must oppose it on the ground that the rule which it embodied in its present shape is likely to tie its hands too much and to fetter its discretion too greatly in actual practical working."

The Hon'ble Diwan Bahadur Diwan Daulat Rai :—“ Your Honour, I have but a few remarks to make, since it is not possible to speak on the proposed amendment which has been overruled by Your Honour. My friend, the Hon'ble Mr. Fagan, in putting the case for the Government has referred to a resolution of the Government of India passed in 1902 which enumerates certain considerations which generally govern the question as to the fixing of the term of settlement. But a reference to the next paragraph of the same resolution will show that the said considerations have but little force in the Punjab. The said paragraph runs as follows :—

“ Whether these considerations, justifying a shorter term of settlement than 30 years, apply with sufficient force to the Punjab and the Central Provinces at the present time ; and if they do apply at the present time, whether the force of their application will diminish with the passage of time, are weighty questions to which careful attention will be given by the Government of India on a suitable occasion .”

“ These words, my submission is, clearly show that the case of the Punjab even at that time was considered not absolutely to be a fit case to be governed by the preceding portion of that resolution. It is further clear, Your Honour, that these words were spoken 15 years ago. It is doubtful whether the considerations enumerated in that resolution did apply to the conditions prevalent in the Punjab even at that time, but 15 years is a good long time. We say that the time has come when the term of settlement should be fixed at least at 30 years.

“ There is one important point which I have noticed in the remarks made by the Hon'ble Mr. Fagan, and that is a point of principle which has been enunciated in the resolution also, *viz.*, if a shorter term of settlement is not sanctioned, the general tax-payer suffers, but my contention is that that argument does not apply here for the simple reason that the general tax-payer in the Punjab is the peasant proprietor himself. That argument also does not, I submit with deference, hold good against the propriety of the modest demand contained in the resolution proposed by my Hon'ble friend, Bakhshi Sohan Lal. It has been very eloquently stated by my friend the Hon'ble Chaudhri Lal Chand as to what difficulties and harassments people are subjected in the course of settlement operations, but to say, Your Honour, that because such harassment does occur in certain other departments also as has been said by the Hon'ble Mr. Fagan, is no argument to support these operations with consequent difficulties which they inflict upon the people. My submission is that this argument also of my friend has not got much force.

“ It is no doubt true that there have been many improvements as regards the preparation of statistics and settlement records, and consequently the difficulties of poor peasants are very much mitigated, but it cannot be denied that the general uncertainty caused by an approaching settlement has some adverse influence on the value of property, and it is a fact too well known to require special reasoning that frequent revisions of settlements interfere with the course of agricultural improvements. A short term of settlement, my submission is, Your Honour, is a distinct check upon improvements and the expenditure of capital. It has been said by the Hon'ble Mr. Fagan, if I have correctly understood him, that in practice he has not found that the approaching of settlement have led people not to make improvements. My experience is not very extensive, it is confined to a certain extent to one district. I can assure Your Honour that such a feeling does exist at least in my district where I have seen people not improving their lands when they heard that settlement operations were approaching. This is what I have seen myself in practice. Of

[*Diwan Bahadur Diwan Daulat Rai ; Nawab Sir Behram Khan ;
Pandit Jowahar Lal, Bhargava.]*

course I bow to the experience of the learned Financial Commissioner when he says that in practice these things do not appear generally.

"Your Honour, it has been so often said, and said correctly, that the zamindars who have supplied the most stalwart armies of which any country in the world may be proud of, form the economic backbone of the country, and if relief is granted to them it will redound to the strength of the Province and to the strength of the Empire.

"With these remarks I beg to associate myself with my friend the Bakhshi Sahib whole-heartedly and support the resolution."

The Hon'ble Nawab Sir Behram Khan spoke in Urdu, a translation of which is as follows:—

"Your Honour, I respectfully beg to support the resolution which has been moved by my Hon'ble friend Bakhshi Sahib, and submit that it is the earnest wish of the zamindars of the Punjab that there should be a longer term of settlement. By granting this concession Government will also not be a loser because even then revenue will be paid quite regularly. As a matter of fact the zamindars find it inconvenient if settlements are repeated at short intervals. Even if a longer term of settlement involves some loss to Government, the words of Sir John Lawrence should be borne in mind. He says—'If any milk is left in a cow, it should be the due of its calf which even when nourished remains the property of its master.'

"Prosperity of the subjects is the prosperity of the Government.

"I therefore strongly support this resolution and trust that Government will give it due consideration."

The Hon'ble Pandit Jowahar Lal Bhargava:—"Your Honour, I also support the resolution, and beg to offer a few suggestions for the consideration of this Council on the subject under discussion.

"The question raised in the resolution put forward by the Hon'ble Mover is one which so far as certain districts are concerned is already a determined one. The districts in which settlement has been completed within the recent years, *viz.*, Gurgaon, Hissar, Rohtak, Karnal, Ludhiana, Ferozepore, Gurdaspur, and some other districts, the term of the settlement has been fixed as 30 years, but I think the principle which governs the decision of the question under discussion so far as the districts named by me are concerned is one of general application, and there appears no reason why the same principle should not apply to the whole of the Punjab.

"Excluding the operation of special circumstances, such as irrigation or unexpected diminution or introduction of water-supply, 20 years' time is certainly not a period in which such conditions arise as necessitate a readjustment of relations between the Crown and the peasantry.

"In fact the main object of revised settlements, which is the making of an accurate record-of-rights, has been attained. The participation of the Crown in the prospective rise in the profits from produce of the land can be provided for by the graduated rise in the land revenue where it so admits and where a revision is unavoidable.

"The expenditure of great amount of State money and energy of Government official coupled with great harassment and extra expenditure to the cultivator in connection with the settlement operations are important matters to be considered and these certainly countervail the gain of the Government, if any, by settlements of shorter duration.

"Should there be any great change in the conditions requiring a revision of rate the same can be fixed by a rough and ready method of compromise by the Collector with the zamindar who would bless such an arrangement in preference to re-settlement:

[*Pandit Jawahar Lal Bhargava, Sayad Makhdum Rajan Shah ;
Raizada Bhagat Ram .*]

" Anyhow the rule of 30 years' term of land revenue settlement deserves introduction in these districts of the Punjab also in which it has not been introduced by this time.

" With these few words I lend my support to the resolution moved by the Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Bakhshi Sohan Lal."

The Hon'ble Sayad Makhdum Rajan Shah spoke in Urdu, a translation of which is as follows :—

" Your Honour, I will confine myself to a few words on this resolution. The general public opinion of the zamindars in the Punjab supports this resolution. If Your Honour accepts this resolution, the Punjab zamindars and their future generations will for ever remain grateful to Your Honour, and this act of kindness will enshrine in their minds a monument which they will above all others prize and remember with great regard and gratitude.

Your Honour has at heart so much sympathy for the Punjab zamindars that I do not think I need say more in support of this resolution."

The Hon'ble Raizada Bhagat Ram :—" Your Honour, the resolution which the Hon'ble Mover has proposed is very modest in its terms and I rise to support it. The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Bakhshi Sohan Lal's demand is what the Government has already graciously granted in practice. Your Honour's attention has already been drawn to paragraph 248 where we find that ten years ago the Punjab Government recognising the hardships of short term settlement suggested before the Decentralization Commission for the enhancement of the powers in this respect to enable the Provincial Government to sanction settlement for the period of thirty years. During Your Honour's time full effect has been given to this suggestion and in several districts where settlements have been completed so far as I am aware a duration of thirty years has been fixed in each case. Thus it is not necessary to dwell upon the evils of short term settlements. Your Honour's Government realises them and has tried to remove them. The trouble and the inconvenience, the loss of time, the worry and harassment which zamindars suffer during the process of settlement are but too well known. Its advent is dreaded and its progress is vexatious and the end brings no relief. Your Honour, this is no exaggeration. I am a zamindar myself and in touch with the people and know their true sentiments. But it cannot be denied that the question which is involved in this resolution as it stands is far-reaching in its effect. It will not only affect the amount of revenue raised on the land but that revenue being the chief source of income, the entire revenue system will have to be to some extent modified. If I mistake not the ratio of revenue derived from land roughly represents one-third of the entire State revenue. Hence the resolution before the Council no doubt raises a question of vital importance to the Government. The question is of an equally great importance to the agriculturists. The zamindars are willing to pay their share of the cost of the administration, but what they want is less of worry and a longer term of settlement. It cannot be denied for a moment that under the present circumstances re-settlements are necessary both in the interests of the Government as well as the zamindars.

"The main functions of a settlement are these—

- (a) Survey and demarcation of boundaries.
- (b) An enquiry into and preparation of the record of the various parties interested in the land.
- (c) A revision of assessment.

" I must acknowledge that it is of a great advantage to a zamindar to have his boundary disputes settled and the errors in the revenue record corrected,

[*Raizada Bhagat Bam ; The President.*]

but in the actual operations sufficient attention is not paid to the fulfilment of these two objects and the settlement has become more or less a process of revision of assessment.

" I must confess that the present method has several things to recommend it. The cost is less, the time of operations is shorter, the staff which preys upon the agriculturists during settlement operations is smaller, but all this simplification is secured at the sacrifice of the two main advantages to the peasants, i.e., the proper measurements of the fields and the thorough compilation of the record.

"The zamindars will be quite contented if every 50 years these advantages are secured for them, in shorter period the harassment caused by the settlement operations outweighs the advantages gained by it.

"That the zamindars are not quite contented with the system of short settlements, requires no evidence. I may mention a few facts to support my contention. We all know that in spite of the establishment of a very useful department there is no appreciable improvement in the implements of husbandry used by a cultivator, in the manner he puts in the soil, in fact in the general system in which agricultural operations are carried on. The plough and sohaga used now ordinarily by the zamindars are exactly what they were in the time of Akbar the Great. Now why should this be so. The villagers are not blind to their interests, and they would like to take as much out of the soil as possible. The real reasons are that the revenue being liable to enhancement in 10, 15, 20, or 30 years the agriculturist hesitates to invest his all, the full benefit of which he may not enjoy. The incentive to improvement is lacking, and so he is reluctant to invest more than his ancestors. If further evidence was needed we have the fact that even from the most fertile districts of the Punjab large number of agriculturists emigrate to foreign lands to work under great hardships in low and humiliating positions and spend the best part of their life in exile.

" I may add one more ground to show that zamindars suffer considerably from short term settlements by allowing good land to remain fallow and by not changing barani land into chahi through fear of enhancement of assessment.

" Your Honour, this is an agricultural province. The Government has done and is doing a great deal to ameliorate the condition of the peasantry. Your Honour, we ask for great many boons, but I honestly think that if Your Honour were to grant this concession it will be the greatest and most popular.

" With these observations I support this resolution."

" His Honour the President:— " Perhaps it will assist the Hon'ble Members to make up their minds in regard to this resolution if I make a few remarks about it at this stage. The question has been considered largely from the point of view of Punjab practice and theory, and as I happen to know something about settlement conditions in other provinces which have been referred to, and also in Native States with reference to which some rather misleading remarks have been made, I think I may be able to throw a little light from outside on a question which is of so much importance to our own Province. I may say, to start with, that having been directly connected with settlements in the Punjab, North-West Frontier, and various Native States of Rajputana and Central India, I can claim almost as much experience as the Hon'ble Chaudhri Lal Chand, and I think I can also claim that I am second to none in my sympathy with the zamindar class in my desire to save them from the harassment involved in frequently recurring settlements. Therefore, the object of this resolution has, as Mr. Fagan has stated, my hearty sympathy. At the same time, before accept-

[The President.]

ing a resolution in this binding form, it is necessary to differentiate. Where Government is already taking a fair share of the net produce from the land, and where the land is reasonably developed, a long term of settlement is desirable. Put in that form, I have no hesitation in saying I would favour the term of settlement of 30 years. The question then arises, to what extent are the districts of this Province so fully developed as to justify 30 years in each case? We have been told that in Madras and Bombay, and I think also in the Central Provinces and Orissa, a 30-years' term is the universal rule. I know a little of the conditions in the United Provinces and Madras and a very little of those of Bombay, and I have no hesitation in saying that the stage of development there reached is far greater than in most of the Punjab at the present day. The standard of assessment is also considerably higher and therefore conditions in those Provinces justify an almost universal application of the 30-years' rule. If any justification of my remarks is required as to the standard being very much higher, I would ask Hon'ble Members to compare the selling value of land in any province of British India with that of the Punjab. I do not think in any province in British India you will find that land sells for more than 25 to 50 years' purchase of land revenue. In the Punjab our land sells at 150 to 200 years' purchase of land revenue. That is to say, measured in terms of land revenue, the value of land in the Punjab is at least three times as great as in any other province in India. That is a testimony, which cannot be refuted, as to the leniency of our assessment and the leniency of the assessment has a direct bearing on the length of the settlement. Now as regards Native States, one Hon'ble Member argued that Native States had something approaching permanent settlements. Quite the contrary as far as my experience goes. I have known very few Native States which had a term of settlement exceeding ten years. Three years, five years or seven years is the general rule,—where the term is longer you will generally find that the settlement has been carried out by a British Officer,—and I may remind Hon'ble Members that, coupled with this short term of settlement, there is a rule that land broken up during the term of settlement has to pay when it is broken up, whereas in the Punjab land broken up during the term of settlement, unless by means of canal irrigation, pays nothing at all. Therefore the remarks as regards the Native States are misleading, and I am in a position to refute them authoritatively from my own knowledge. The position I have reached then is this. If the conditions in the Punjab were the same as in the fully developed provinces of India I would have no hesitation in accepting 30 years as the ordinary term. Conditions I may say in part of the Province are now fully developed and, therefore, in those parts of the Province a 30-years' settlement is increasingly becoming the rule and should become so. Now let us apply this question in a concrete way. The division which the Hon'ble Member who moved the resolution so worthily represents consists of five fully developed districts,—Kangra, Hoshiarpur, Ludhiana, Ferozepore and Jullundur. I believe that all these districts have been settled in recent years or are being settled now, and that a 30-years' term has been sanctioned, or will be sanctioned when the operations are complete. That is a practical indication of our policy in this matter. Take, on the other hand, another division. I think the matter will be clearer by taking concrete cases. Take the Multan Division which is represented by another Hon'ble Member who has spoken on this subject. That consists of six districts—Lyallpur, Montgomery, Multan, Muzaffargarh, Dera Ghazi Khan and Jhang. Well, Hon'ble Members will know that in four of these districts, that is to say, in Multan, Lyallpur, Jhang and Montgomery large canal extensions have recently or are now being carried out by the State at enormous expense. We also know that further large extensions are contemplated which will extend to Multan, and probably to Muzaffargarh. The whole system of agricultural conditions in these districts is rapidly changing,

and would it be wise, would it be feasible in these circumstances for Government, for instance, in the Lower Bari Doab Canal, directly it comes under settlement ten years hence or five years hence, would it be wise for Government or in the interests of the general tax-payer, or in the interests of the colonists themselves, to try to forecast what the conditions will be and to make a settlement for 30 years? If it attempted to do so, my belief is that it would do serious harm to the interests of the Province, for if Government did this in centres where conditions are rapidly changing, Government would naturally say, 'as we are giving you such a long term, we must try to obtain an adequate revenue.' To impose an adequate revenue in conditions which cannot be well forecasted because prices are changing, cultivation is changing, conditions of life and agriculture are changing would mean probably in many cases over-assessment, and would mean certainly an inequality of assessment. Therefore while, for instance, in the Jullundur Division, a 30-years' term of settlement is fully justified, in the Multan Division, where conditions are so rapidly changing that the position a few years hence cannot be forecasted, it would be impossible for Government to commit itself to a declaration that the 30-years' term of settlement should be imposed. We have heard also from the Hon'ble Member who represents the South-East Punjab that in his division they already have a 30-years' term of settlement. We have not heard as regards the North-West Punjab. Those are *barani* districts in which there has not been much development of cultivation, and I think in the case of those districts the Government when the question arises would certainly give due weight to the fact that in those districts any considerable extension of cultivation is unlikely, and would be inclined to favour a 30-years' term. But even in that division I might point out to the Hon'ble Member that there are two districts, Mianwali and Shahpur, where it is possible that very large changes will be brought about by the canal schemes, and we do not desire to commit ourselves to a 30-years' term of settlement where conditions are likely to undergo so great and rapid a change.

"There are other matters connected with this resolution to which I might briefly refer. In the first place if Government limits its right to exact its share of the increasing value of the crops, one might naturally ask, as has been asked, how the deficiency of revenue is to be made good. Well, we have been told that the general prosperity of the zamindars is sufficient assurance on that point. I will let that pass, but we have had ample proof in this Council that the zamindars are not willing to be taxed for the general good. I might also ask, will the receivers of rent, apart from the peasant proprietor, if Government foregoes any enhanced demand, will they be prepared to forego any enhancement of rent from their tenants? I do not think any landlord will give his tenants an assurance on that point. The Punjab landlord usually takes his rent in kind, and even if the share remains the same, the value of the rent automatically increases with the rise in prices.

"Another point is that one-ninth of our revenue is held by assignees whose revenue has been assigned by the State, and these gentlemen on historic grounds, on practical grounds, have reason also to ask that their interests in the matter should be considered, and that in our desire to be just and even lenient to the zamindar class, we should also not forget that their interests are at stake in the matter.

"I think, gentlemen, I have said enough to show that where districts are fairly developed agriculturally Government is quite willing to accept a term of 30 years, but a great part of the Province, especially the south-west of the Province, where big schemes for agricultural extension and canal irrigation are in progress at present or are likely to be introduced in the near future, at the cost of Government in those districts it is im-

[*The President ; Rai Bahadur Bakshi Sohan Lal ; Diwan Bahadur
Diwan Daulat Rai.*]

possible for Government to commit itself rigidly to a cut and dry policy. The terms of the resolution are :—

“ This Council recommends to His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor that he may be pleased to order that 30 years shall be the ordinary term for a land revenue settlement now in progress or hereafter to be commenced in any district of the Punjab.”

“ The point which I brought out is that, where circumstances justify a 30-years' settlement, Government is prepared to accept it, and is already acting on it, but we cannot accept 30 years as a general rule, irrespective of local conditions and if the Hon'ble Member would see his way to modify his resolution to the following effect, ' the Council recommends to the Lieutenant-Governor that in highly developed districts where no considerable change in agricultural conditions is to be anticipated, 30 years should be the ordinary term,' so as to leave Government a free hand to deal with districts where conditions are changing, then the Government will accept his resolution. I should regret if any division arose on this point, because I think the Hon'ble Members who have supported the resolution and Government are in practical unanimity on the point. I do not think the Hon'ble Member would say that a 30-years' settlement should be imposed in the Lower Bari Doab Canal or in Muzaffargarh or other districts where great changes are taking place or are likely to be introduced. At the same time Government already sympathize with the objects of the resolution, that where conditions are fairly stable 30 years should be the ordinary term.” (Cheers).

Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Bakshi Sohan Lal :—“ Your Honour, what I understood from the resolution I proposed, was that it allowed the exclusion of special cases as new colony tracts.”

His Honour the President :—“ My suggestion to the Hon'ble Member is to define the exclusion. The Hon'ble Member's resolution fails to define it.”

Hon'ble Mr. Sohan Lal :—“ My difficulty is that the resolution has been supported by so many members, and until I consult with all of them, I would find it very difficult to modify it. We must consult amongst ourselves before we can say how far it could be modified.”

Hon'ble Diwan Bahadur Diwan Daulat Rai :—“ May I make one remark as regards the terms of the resolution with Your Honour's permission? It says 30 years shall be the ordinary term for land revenue settlements.”

His Honour the President :—“ I suggested to the Hon'ble Member that he might put it in a more definite form, in which case Government might be prepared to accept it.”

(At this point the Council adjourned for a few minutes and the Hon'ble Mr. Sohan Lal and his supporters discussed the matter among themselves, and re-assembled after 15 minutes. On re-assembling)—

Hon'ble Mr. Sohan Lal :—“ Your Honour, I regret the members who have supported me are not in favour of agreeing to the amendment suggested.”

His Honour the President :—“ Perhaps the Hon'ble Member will say what he contemplates by the term ' ordinary ' in the resolution.”

Hon'ble Mr. Sohan Lal :—“ That such exceptional cases as new colony tracts can be excluded ; they can be taken as exceptional cases ”

His Honour the President :—“ Perhaps the Hon'ble Member in his concluding remarks will define what he means by ' ordinary.' ”

[*Rai Bahadur Bakhshi Sohan Lal ; Mr. Parker ; The President ;
Mr. Fagan.]*

Hon'ble Mr Sohan Lal :—“ I mean it to exclude such tracts as newly irrigated tracts or newly cultivated tracts ; or there may be certain other reasons besides these, but this will be the ordinary term, not the universal term to be applied to every district. The other members who have supported me or who have promised to support me wish me to represent that the resolution as it stands may be put to the vote. Diwan Daulat Rai suggested a negative form, ‘ except in highly undeveloped districts,’ that is the suggestion of Rai Bahadur Daulat Rai ; I do not know how far it is accepted by the others.”

Hon'ble Mr Parker :—“ The Hon'ble Member might withdraw his resolution and put it in a more suitable form.”

His Honour the President :—“ The objection of the Government to the resolution as it stands is not to the principle of it, but to the vagueness of its terms, and that is why Government wish what is contemplated defined.”

Hon'ble Mr. Sohan Lal :—“ These words were used in the Decentralisation Report where it is said in certain provinces 30 years is the ordinary term of the settlement, in other provinces 20 years, so far as the Punjab is concerned, the Decentralisation Report says 20 years is the ordinary term of settlement, and as regards the other provinces it says 30 years is the ordinary term of settlement, so I wish the Punjab to be brought on the same lines as the other provinces.”

His Honour the President :—“ Does the Hon'ble Member mean by ordinary, where no considerable change in agricultural conditions is to be anticipated ? ”

Hon'ble Mr. Sohan Lal :—“ Yes.”

His Honour the President :—“ Where no considerable change is anticipated 30 years shall be the ordinary term of settlement. If the Hon'ble Member will accept that definition the Government will have no hesitation in accepting the resolution. The resolution would then read :—

“ This Council recommends to His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor that he may be pleased to order that, where no considerable change in agricultural conditions is to be anticipated, 30 years shall be the ordinary term for a land revenue settlement now in progress or hereafter to be commenced in any district of the Punjab.”

“ Does the Hon'ble Member accept the resolution in that form ? ”

Hon'ble Mr. Sohan Lal :—“ I personally would have no objection, but other members object.”

His Honour the President :—“ It is for the Hon'ble Member to decide.”

Hon'ble Mr. Sohan Lal :—“ I wish the resolution to be put to the Council as it stands.”

The Hon'ble Mr. Fagan :—“ Your Honour, I do not think that any remarks are needed from me after the very full discussion that we have had, but I feel that it is a matter for regret that a way has not been found in the manner suggested for arriving at a form of agreement on the question which has been debated, and it is all the more regrettable, I think, that when there is an actual agreement on the resolution for all practical purposes the only difference is as to the form in which it should be put. As Your Honour has pointed out the main desideratum is the somewhat clearer definition of the word ‘ ordinary.’ The rule proposed, as it stands, is calculated, as I have already stated in my remarks, to possibly unduly fetter the discretion of Government in dealing

[Mr. Pagan ; The President ; Mr. Lumsden ; Diwan Bahadur Diwan Daulat Rai.]

with certain tracts where the adoption of a 30-year term will be prejudicial to the State as the trustee of the general tax-payer.

"As regards other points I do not think it is necessary for me to make any lengthy remarks. The Hon'ble Lala Lal Chand drew a rather lurid picture of the inconveniences involved in settlements. I notice that the inconvenience on which he dwells is rather the inconvenience to the staff than to the people. I am sure that those who have experience of settlement work will quite sympathize with his description. I remember the distinct feeling of ennui I had after having inspected something like my thousandth village. He did not dwell very much on the inconvenience to the people. Those who have had settlement experience know that a certain amount of that is under existing conditions unavoidable, but I believe that all Settlement Officers do all in their power to minimise that inconvenience. The Hon'ble Member did not develop the suggestion that lay beneath this argument, inconvenience to the people, but so far as the settlement staff is concerned, this inconvenience as far as my experience goes did not constitute any element of attraction towards settlement work. The fact is that every settlement official wants to get away from such work as soon as he can.

"As regards the argument relating to improvements, it has been urged that the short term discourages improvements and a good deal of stress was laid on the fact that prior to a settlement certain lands are thrown out of cultivation. I suppose it is the experience of most of us that that sort of thing does occur, but it is very different from any general process of discouraging improvements during the term of settlement. One proof of this is that there are a very large number of cases in which when a new assessment has been announced, protective *pattas*, as they are called, have to be given, and the number of those cases is, I think, a very clear indication of the fact that during the expiring term of settlement there has been no practical discouragement of the peasant proprietor from sinking capital for the purpose of improving the produce of his lands. Your Honour, these are all the remarks I have to make except to repeat my regret that in this matter we have not been able to reach at a form of agreement as regards the resolution which the Hon'ble Member has moved."

His Honour the President :—"I now put the resolution to the Council—

'This Council recommends to His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor that he may be pleased to order that 30 years shall be the ordinary term for a land revenue settlement now in progress or hereafter to be commenced in any district of the Panjab.'

On being put to the vote, the Resolution was lost by 14 votes to 13."

BUDGET 1917-18.

The Hon'ble Mr. Lumsden.—"Your Honour, as explained in the memorandum prefixed to the statement showing by major heads the estimates of revenue and expenditure of the Panjab for the year 1917-18, which was circulated to the Hon'ble Members on the 12th of April, the figures of revised estimates have undergone no change. Consequently just as no separate meeting for the presentation of the budget is required, it is unnecessary for me at this stage to do more than formally present the budget."^{*}

The Hon'ble Diwan Bahadur Diwan Daulat Rai.—"Your Honour, the Hon'ble Mr. Lumsden in charge of our finance has presented a very satisfactory budget statement and deserves our sincere congratulations. The year 1916-17 closes with a higher balance than contemplated by the budget last year, thanks to improvement in the revenues, and watchful control over expenditure. On the side of Income, increase under the heads of Land Revenue and Irrigation is particularly welcome. And the growth of our income from excise

^{*}See Appendix E.

[*Diwan Ehadar Diwan Daulat Rai.*]

duty, though a matter of much concern, except in so far as it is accounted for by an increase in the rate of the duty, to the social reformer and temperance worker, must remain a source of joy to a finance minister. And, if we accept the Hon'ble Member's explanation that the increase is not due to any spread of liquor habit, but is due simply to the fact that the habitual consumers found themselves in unexpectedly larger funds to indulge in their special form of luxury, even a temperance reformer may have no cause to grieve at the swelling of the State coffers. It is pleasing to note that every effort is made to discourage the spread of the drinking evil, and effective measures are being taken to prevent the supply of illicit spirit.

"On the side of expenditure, as the Hon'ble Finance Secretary has rightly pointed out, decrease due to reduction in the number of punitive police posts is a matter for real thankfulness.

"I congratulate Your Honour on the short duration of the disturbed conditions prevailing in parts of the Province in the beginning of 1915 and the return to normal conditions secured by careful and vigorous administration on the one hand, and a change in economic conditions on the other

"Your Honour, a most striking feature of our budgets at the present time is the comparatively small influence made felt by the present world-war in which the Punjab is taking no mean share. The war has failed to make any real impression on our State income, and the Punjab, like other provinces of this vast Indian Empire, is pursuing its ordinary course of economic development as if the world were at absolute peace, and not being shaken as it is by the greatest shocks that history knows of.

"Your Honour, we all recognise that during times like these it is essential to conserve provincial revenues and exercise strict control over expenditure. The orders of the Government of India are clear that so long as war lasts, the financial history of the provinces must continue to be one of severe restriction of expenditure. But, Your Honour, the position of this country is peculiar, and the necessity of steady and uninterrupted educational and industrial development for us absolutely vital. In the keen rivalry of nations of the world, India is weak and but a poor competitor: and every day makes her task more difficult. In the circumstances, I beg that claims of educational and industrial advance should ever meet with generous response on the part of Government. I know that but for the war a still more generous treatment would have been accorded than has been found possible so far.

"The vigorous efforts that have been made recently to uproot all kinds of official corruption is a signal proof of the great concern Your Honour has always shown for the welfare of the governed and the purity of the administration. There is perhaps no greater enemy of society, and none more worthy of its condemnation than he who barter official favours for personal gain, and the vindication of this principle cannot but be a matter of sincere gratification. We also know that the problem of the criminal tribes is at present engaging the serious attention of the Government, and we feel but little doubt that under Your Honour's kindly and sympathetic direction these unfortunate people will soon be transformed into a body of law-abiding and respectable members of society.

"Your Honour, I wish to add but two words more. It is a source of great pride to us that the Province has furnished not only the best fighting strength of India during the present war, but this home of soldiers and small agriculturists has taken a leading place in subscribing to the Indian War Loan also. The war loan movement has indeed been a happy, though strange phenomenon here. Leaving Calcutta and Bombay aside, the Punjab proudly heads the list among all the other provinces of India so far. This coming from one of the poorest provinces speaks volumes for its zeal and loyalty.

[*Diwan Bahadur Diwan Dawlat Rai ; Nawab Sir Behram Khan ; Chaudhri Lal Chand.*]

" That the Resolution in support of an Executive Council was received by Your Honour with sympathy and passed by a majority of non-official members of this Council has been another source of satisfaction throughout the Province.

" I offer Your Honour hearty congratulations on the state of our finances."

The Hon'ble Nawab Sir Behram Khan spoke in Urdu, a translation of which is as follow :—

" Your Honour, this is the third budget which has been brought before this Council during this world-wide war. By the grace of God gratifying news of our successes is now arriving continuously, and we strongly hope that Britain will come out victorious in the struggle. There are very good omens. America has joined the Allies, and the combined attacks of British and French armies are sure to result in the enemies' ruin.

" Thank God, the Punjab has been giving proofs of its loyalty and will ever continue to do so. It is a cause of pride for the Punjab that at the Darbar held on the 16th instant His Excellency the Viceroy was pleased to express his satisfaction. It is all due to Your Honour's excellent administration that in spite of this world-wide war the Punjab has not suffered in prosperity or prestige. Your Honour's firm control of the frontier and internal administration is a matter of common knowledge. I do not think it is necessary for me to say more than to pray for the victory of the British arms.

" As your Honour has been gracious enough to give your special attention to the Dera Ghazi Khan District and the Biloch tribes, the former in general and the latter in particular are grateful to Your Honour. For some years Dera Ghazi Khan has not been well off on account of the failure of rains and the ravages caused by the river, but by the benevolence of Government and perseverance of the people a new city has been constructed. Although Your Honour is kind enough to give your special attention to our district, yet it would not be out of place to submit that the income of the District Boards is not enough to meet all the demands on account of roads and other necessary requirements without outside help, and for that reason even the improvements necessary in the new city have not been carried out. If Government were therefore kind enough to give assistance to Dera Ghazi Khan on this occasion of the budget, it will be appreciated.

The Hon'ble Chaudhri Lal Chand.—" Your Honour, this is the first time that I am going to speak on the budget, and I naturally feel considerable misgiving as to my ability to do justice to the skilful disposition of the various heads of the budget by the Hon'ble Finance Member. Considering the times of stress through which we are passing and the conflicting claims of the various departments, each striving for as high an allotment as possible, framing of a well-balanced budget is no easy task. The budget which we are discussing to-day does eminent credit to the financial ability of the Hon'ble Mr. Lumsden, and I heartily congratulate him for the success which he has attained in preparing a budget which generally speaking should satisfy every body.

" I have no inclination to enter into a detailed criticism of the budget. I would leave that to my more experienced and more competent colleagues in the Council. However, as I represent the agricultural and military classes of an important division of the Province, I should like to offer some observations concerning those heads of the budget which relate to the welfare of these classes.

[Chaudhri Lal Chand.]

"In this connection I will give the first place to the head 'Agriculture.' I am glad that agriculture receives increasing attention on the part of the Government, but much remains to be done. The introduction of scientific methods of husbandry and of better kinds of seeds to improve the quality of the produce are some of the subjects which require effective steps to be taken. The exhibition of improved types of tools at the various cattle fairs, the establishment of seed stores at the head-quarters of each district and the starting of experimental and demonstration farms at a large number of convenient centres should be undertaken as soon as possible to help to replace the old-world ways of our agriculturists by the more advanced modern ways. I am glad that the sum of Rs. 10,70,000 the share of our province in the profits of the wheat scheme, has been allotted to the head Agriculture, and I will earnestly request the Government to devote a fairly large portion of this sum to the object to which I have just alluded. Another means of encouraging more scientific methods of agriculture will be to create greater facilities for agricultural education and to make agricultural education more popular and attractive.

"Next in importance to agriculture comes the movement for Co-operation. I am not forgetful of the many earnest endeavours which the Government has so far made to secure the welfare of the agricultural classes and to save them from the consequences of their improvidence and ignorance. The Land Alienation Act is a standing reminder of the solicitude of the Government to protect the interests of these classes. But in spite of all these efforts the peasantry of the Punjab are not yet secure from the clutches of the wily money-lender, and a large portion of them are still seriously indebted. Their indebtedness prevents them from profiting by the high prices of agricultural produce which have ruled for the last several years. The most effective remedy for this is the general spread of the Co-operative Movement. A good deal has been done in recent years to make this movement popular, but the subject deserves much more attention than the Government has been able to show it so far. Two things require immediate attention in this behalf, namely, a considerable increase in the subordinate staff of the Registrar and the establishment of a Provincial Central Bank. I am glad to find that provision has been made in the budget for the strengthening of the staff, and I hope that the Government will consider the advisability of bringing into existence a Provincial Central Bank at an early date. As an officer of the District Central Bank of my own district I know the difficulties which we have in financing district banks and meeting the calls of the village societies on their financial resources. A Provincial Central Bank will go a very long way to relieve these difficulties, and I trust that Mr. Calvert whose ardent zeal for the co-operative movement is well known will be able to persuade the Government to the establishment of a Central Bank for the Province.

"Education is another thing which should be the subject of tender care on the part of the Government. I am most anxious to see the education head of the budget swell in every succeeding year. The revised budget for 1916-17, shows a decrease of over a lakh and a half as compared with the actual expenditure on education in 1915-16. However the budget for 1917-18 provides for an increase of nearly three lakhs and three quarters on education and that affords some consolation. But I am sorry to note that the sum allotted to grants-in-aid still falls short of the total allotted for this purpose in 1915-16 by Rs. 79,000. The provision which has been made for improving the pay and the training of teachers in the budget of 1917-18 should be welcome to every well-wisher of the ill-paid teacher.

"While speaking of education I think it my duty to press the claims of rural education on the attention of the Government. I am convinced that the

[Chaudhri I al Chand.]

prosperity of agricultural classes is bound up with the spread of education. So long as agricultural classes continue to be steeped in ignorance they can neither adopt improved methods of agriculture nor can they understand the immense value and importance of co-operation to their future welfare. Further, if our agricultural classes are to take their legitimate place in the onward march of our country's progress, they must adapt themselves to their rapidly changing environments. This can take place only if vigorous steps are taken to raise their general level of intelligence by placing education within the easy reach of all. For this reason I would urge that primary education and next to it secondary education should receive very much increased attention on the part of the Government, and there should be separate sub-heads for primary and secondary education under the main head of education in our budgets to facilitate comparison between the sums spent under each sub-head in any three consecutive years.

"I will now pass on to the heads, Excise, Sanitation, and Famine Relief. Under the former head on the income side there is a sinister increase both in 1916-17 and 1917-18, and though increase in excise income may indicate prosperity it equally implies a growing tendency in the habit of drink among our people. Of course there are also other explanations of this increase as pointed out by the Hon'ble Finance Member, but we cannot look on increased receipts from this source without some natural alarm. I am sure the Government is fully alive to the need of taking further effective steps to restrict the use of liquors as much as possible. As regards sanitation, though the sum budgeted for 1917-18 is Rs. 69,000 less than that of the revised in 1916-17, it is still better than the actual of 1915-16 by fully Rs. 42,000 and having regard to the exigencies of war times one need have no complaint on that score. But there is just one thing to which I should like to draw the attention of the Government. From the Memorandum of the Finance Member, though so admirable in many ways, it is not possible to find out what proportion of the expenditure has been incurred on account of rural sanitation. May I request that the future budget of our Province will contain a sub-head each for rural and urban sanitation? So far as my information goes most of the grants for sanitary purposes are made for the benefit of urban areas and rural areas are more or less neglected. I am fully conscious of the reasons for this disparity. Urban population is more vocal, better organized and more in touch with those who can press its claims, consequently it manages to get the lion's share. But though a crying child is proverbially qualified to get most food, a wise parent will not neglect a quiet child. The sanitation of villages is just as necessary as that of towns, and I hope the Government will be pleased to make a substantial annual grant to improve the sanitary condition of rural areas.

"The estimated expenditure under the head Famine Relief during 1916-17 was greatly exceeded. But I can say from personal knowledge that the excess was spent on a very laudable object, and must have resulted in a considerable gain indirectly both morally and financially. The scarcity of fodder last year was a serious menace to the agricultural community, and, but for fodder concessions, the live-stock of the cultivators would have suffered terribly. These concessions, coupled with the remissions of penal charges for using canal water in filling village tanks in an irregular manner, helped the poor peasants of the Hissar and Rohtak Districts to tide over their difficulties and filled their hearts with deep and genuine gratitude. The large increase in expenditure under the head was devoted to relieve the dark situation created by fodder scarcity and nobody will grudge such an expenditure. The new arrangement by which the expenditure under this head is debitable to the Imperial and Provincial revenues in the ratio of three to one is to be welcomed from the Provincial point of view. Notwithstanding the wonderfully rapid strides which the canal system is taking in our Province it will be long before the

[*Chaudhri Lal Chand.*]

Punjab can bid defiance to famine and scarcity, and we are clear gainers in the new arrangement which the Secretary of State has sanctioned with regard to the distribution of famine charges.

"Your Honour, I beg leave to refer to one more point before I resume my seat. A glance at the various heads of expenditure will show what a tremendously large sum we are spending every year on the various services of the Province. Another glance at the receipts side will show what a heavy proportion of these receipts must come from the pockets of agricultural classes. Over and above our contribution to the public exchequer the agricultural classes have always rendered, are rendering now, and will always continue to render, the most loyal, devoted, and praiseworthy services to the British Government. Their numerical strength is very great. Their historical and political importance is, perhaps, greater than that of any other class. Their military value has been acknowledged by the highest authorities. Your Honour has acknowledged it publicly on several occasions. His Excellency the Viceroy paid a generous tribute to the splendid services of these classes only the other day. But in the distribution of official loaves and fishes they have hitherto got a very inadequate share. The classes which prefer the pen to the sword and the office chair to the saddle are found to rule the day everywhere. This is particularly true of the Hindu agricultural classes. The figures supplied by the Government in answer to a question asked by me on the 13th March show that only 3 out of 88 Munsiffs, one out of 51 Sub-Judges, and one again out of 25 Revenue Assistants are from Hindu and Sikh agricultural tribes combined. The same is more or less true of other departments so far as the officer grade is concerned. I am quite prepared to admit that educational backwardness of these classes is in some measure responsible for this disproportion. But this is only a part of the explanation, and I firmly maintain that it is only a minor part of the explanation. The major part consists in the resolute opposition of the strong sinister influences at work in the offices, and unless a way can be found to counteract these influences, no substantial improvement can be effected in the immediate future. Cases are not rare where candidates from agricultural classes possessing much better educational qualifications have been passed over in favour of other candidates supported by relations and friends in the offices concerned. When I refer to this subject, I am not unconscious of the deep debt of gratitude under which Your Honour has placed the Jat community by the issue of a gracious circular in 1915. Nor am I ungrateful for the generally sympathetic attitude of the majority of heads of departments. Without quoting any particular instance of which there are several, I acknowledge gratefully the practical sympathy which Your Honour and several other high officers have shown to our claim, and can assure the Government in return that that sympathy is fully appreciated by the Jats and will bear good fruits. My object in alluding to this subject was to invite attention to the entirely inadequate representation of Hindu and Sikh zamindars in general in the public services of our Province and to indicate where action may be directed to break the opposition of vested interests.

"In conclusion I assure Your Honour of the continued steadfast loyalty and unmitigated support of the Jat community which has striven to do its duties so far and is determined to act loyally, faithfully, and whole-heartedly until humanity and civilization are rid of the monster of German despotism. The assurance is not an empty formula. The past record of the community to which I have the honour to belong and of the part of the Province from which I come will contradict such a suspicion. But if further proof were needed I would furnish it. The figures supplied by the records of the Divisional Recruiting Officer's office, to which I am attached as Honorary Assistant Recruiting Officer, tell me that we enlisted no less than 2,115

[*Rai Bahadur Pandit Sheo Narayan.*]

recruits in March alone. This beats the last record of 2,110 established in July 1916, and is a safe foundation on which we can build our future hopes."

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Pandit Sheo Narayan :—"Your Honour, I have little to say about the merits of the Budget which has been so ably explained by the Hon'ble Mr. Lumsden and other Hon'ble Members. I have only a few remarks however to offer; for instance, I am not prepared to accept unreservedly the remarks of the Hon'ble Mr. Maynard to the effect that 'there is no doubt that there is a very close connection between good agricultural results and an increase in excise revenue.'

"I believe that the habit of the use of intoxicants is on the decline in all classes throughout the Province: the zamindar too is decidedly more sober than he was formerly, because life is becoming more serious all round, being day by day burdened with duties hitherto unknown or ignored. The increase in excise revenue may be co-incident, but not necessarily due to better harvests, and may be attributable to other causes.

"A word now about the expenditure in the Judicial Department. If I read the figures correctly, we shall have a margin of something like 15 or 16 lakhs in the income expected from court fee, etc. Shall we not utilize it partly in increasing the hands in the subordinate judiciary, which, I believe, is undermanned and partly in reorganizing the Chief Court staff preparatory to its elevation to a High Court?

"Leaving the Budget, there are three other matters of general interest which I wish to touch upon. The first is the present war. It is a source of immense satisfaction to reflect that men of all phases of political thought have ungrudgingly, nay cheerfully, sounded a unisonant note by coming forward to speak, to act, and to contribute what they can towards the defence of the Empire in the titanic struggle that is going on in Europe. The tide is fortunately changing, and the enemy is being driven from his positions and shall have to look in the near future to defend his own country. The Punjab has proved itself foremost in helping the Empire, and deserves the recognition of its service recently made by His Excellency the Viceroy in his Darbar speech. I will briefly say without self-laudation that we have done our duty to the best of our resources and capabilities.

"The second subject is one in which I have always taken a keen interest that is to say, the education of our boys. In my humble opinion the entire system of school and college education needs overhauling. The medical examination of a large number of candidates for the University Double Company betrayed a woful state of the physique of our youths. The multiplicity of subjects, the habit of cramming to pass examination, the non-assimilation of ill-digested knowledge have contributed to deteriorate the minds and the physique of our boys. The physical training they have to take in a state of mental exhaustion does not counter-act the evil effects of the overtaxing of their brains. I venture to draw attention also to congestion of scholars in school and college classes where weak boys go to the wall and swell the list of failures. Education is thus reduced to a mere intellectual dyspepsia and physical degeneration. It has given me great pleasure to read in the newspapers the triumph Doctor Fisher achieved in the House of Commons. The bulk of increase in his estimates, it is said, is due to an increase in the teachers' salaries. The proposals include the development of agricultural education in village schools, liberal scholarships and maintenance grants for the poor in secondary schools and universities, a reduction of multiplicity of examinations, and national physical training. Ought we not take a leaf from his book and institute similar reforms in our educational system?

[*Rai Bahadur Pandit Sheo Narayan.*]

"The third matter I will touch upon is agriculture. I said at the last meeting of this Council that Punjab has advanced in all directions by leaps and bounds, so that we can put three Egypts bodily in it. Egypt, while it embraces 570 miles in length, does not contain more than 12,000 square miles of fertile land. The maps accessible convey a false impression, because they include the desert land without distinguishing it from the fertile parts. We may say, thanks to the interest the Government is taking in agriculture, that there is hardly any part of our Province which may be called a desert. The canal-irrigated area is about 8½ million acres which is equal to roughly 13,000 square miles, and when the Triple Canal Project is in full swing we may well expect another couple of million acres added to the area. The entire area of the Punjab, inclusive of Native States, but exclusive of North-West Frontier, is a lakh and 33 thousand square miles with over 30 thousand villages in it. Thus the Punjab—the land of five rivers—is unique in the world and is capable of enormous development in future. During his recent visit to our Province His Excellency the Viceroy was pleased to observe that 'the huge area brought under irrigation by the canals provide an ideal field for improved methods of agriculture. Your cultivators are enterprising and intelligent, but they are hampered by shortage of capital and the lack of scientific knowledge.' After referring to what the agricultural department is doing in introducing improvements, His Excellency was also pleased to observe 'the importance of demonstrating results so far obtained has recently been impressed on the Local Government and the grant of Rs. 10,70,000, which has been made to the Punjab from the profits realized by the Government of India from the exports of wheat, should enable material progress to be made in the important work of the demonstration.

"The question that naturally arises is by what means can the capital and scientific knowledge be brought to bear on agriculture. It is obvious that the matter is not free from difficulty. The Customary Law of the Province, rules of pre-emption and the Punjab Land Alienation Act are prohibitive of acquisition of land by non-agriculturists. The Punjab Land Alienation Act has created a peculiar caste system unlike the ancient caste systems with their corresponding advantages and disadvantages.

"Of course the Customary Law when codified will make the titles and the powers of transfer more definite than they are at present; but I fail to see how scientific methods and capital could be applied to improve agriculture without amendment in some respects of the pre-emption rules and the Land Alienation Act. I need not discuss here the results produced by the Punjab Land Alienation Act, but one thing is obvious that the members of agricultural community, in addition to the privileges they enjoy under the Act, are eager to enter trades and professions and are also pressing for admission into public services. Moreover, the capital owned by the urban population has not full scope for investment; towns are being congested in consequence, which can only be relieved by capitalists settling on their estates. Let me quote a passage from the old Carthaginian General from one of his 24 volumes on agriculture—'Who would buy an estate, let him sell his house that he may no longer be encumbered with his town house, but give himself up entirely to that on his land. He to whom an abode in the city lies close at hand has no need of a country estate.' While fully appreciating the useful work of the provincial agricultural department since its organisation in 1905, I would suggest the creation of some facilities for the acquisition of land by the urban population, so that the Province may receive its fullest development.

"There is yet one minor matter to which I shall briefly allude. The periodical chemical examination of the water supplied by water-works and a replacement of rusty pipes after a certain number of years are called for in the interests of hygiene of our towns. Your Honour and the Hon'ble Members will

[*Khan Bahadur Malik Muhammad Amin Khan.*]

excuse my remarks which have no inter-connection; they are like 'Alap,' to borrow a term from Indian music, not in a strict tune but in a loose kind of rhythm regulated by the tune at my disposal. Some of them have no connection with the Budget directly, but as it has become customary to speak of other matters in Budget speeches, I have ventured to make them."

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Malik Muhammad Amin Khan:—"Your Honour, hallowed custom and traditions have it that on the occasion of the annual Budget debate, Hon'ble Members give the fullest and freest rein to their imagination and roam over as extensive an area for the purposes of discussion as the imposed limit of time might permit. Availing myself of this privilege, I take the liberty of bringing to Your Honour's notice some of the most pressing and urgent questions of the day. I realize full well that at the present moment when the war clouds, which burst over Europe in the fateful summer of 1914, have not yet lifted up and the Empire is still in the throes of a great struggle with a militarism which stands an open menace to the future liberties of the civilized world, all controversial discussions should be eschewed, the bitterness of political strife and wrangle should be buried into oblivion, and we must all stand out united as one to resist successfully the nefarious march of the Prussian jackboot, but, Your Honour, the questions which I will be pressing do not hail from the regions of sharp controversy, and it is permissible therefore to draw attention to them even at the present moment. The first and foremost problem to engage the Government's immediate care and attention is that of disseminating the light of knowledge in every scattered Indian home through the agency of the system of free and compulsory primary education. Even those who five years ago were too ready believers in the voluntary principle have to-day recognised the weak foundations on which their belief rested and have gladly joined the forces of those who from the very commencement were for the enforcement of a principle which has found acceptance in all civilized countries. Your Honour, I do not mean that a fiat should go out immediately declaring primary education to be free and compulsory, but I do wish that a commencement on a fairly reasonable scale had been made in this direction in selected areas, and my friend, the Hon'ble Finance Member, had in his budget provision allotted a few extra lakhs for the promotion of mass enlightenment. I notice that a rather favoured treatment has been extended to the Police and a very liberal enhancement on the expenditure side under this head has been made. The Hon'ble the Finance Member justifies this increase in part on the ground of the necessity of the reclamation of criminal tribes. Your Honour, I might be very odd, but to me it appears that the best way of reclaiming these criminal tribes would be to make education in its elementary and secondary stages free and compulsory for them. Instead of therefore swelling the Police head it would have been better if a much larger increase had been allotted towards the extension of primary education, especially among criminal tribes. Your Honour, another matter to which I wish to draw attention is the rather alarming increase in the consumption of liquor. It is a satisfaction to find that through the efforts of the special preventive department supplies of illicit spirit have been curtailed, but it really affords food for serious and anxious consideration that, despite the stoppage of illicit distillation, the consumption of liquors on the whole should have risen by leaps and bounds. The explanation that this increase is confined to the habitual consumers who, in consequence of the good kharif and high prices obtained for produce of all kind, have been able to spend more on this form of luxury is unsatisfactory and unconvincing in the extreme. Is my friend, the Hon'ble Finance Member, in a position to offer tangible material and proof in support of the plea he has thus hazarded? Does the Excise Department maintain registers in which the names of consumers are entered, and do those registers bear out the explanation offered? If so, what is the criterion for determining habitual consumers and also what is the

[*Khan Bahadur Malik Mohammad Amin Khan ; Rai Bahadur Bakhshi Sohan Lal .*]

proportion that the number of new consumers, if any, bears to the number of habitual consumers? I hope, if in future this steady growth in the consumption of liquor continues, the Hon'ble Member will kindly throw light on the points I have suggested. I have deliberately made these remarks, because I strongly feel that if the information I have called for bears out my view of the case and shows that the drink habit is on the increase among classes that cannot fall under the category of habitual consumers, some Hon'ble Members might consider it worth their serious while to resort to legislation for the prevention of what is admittedly a most destructive menace to the mental, moral and physical stamina of the youth and manhood of this Province.

"Your Honour, I turn now to the brighter side of the shield. I have to thank Your Honour's Government for having accepted the resolutions relating to the grant of an Executive Council to the Province and the substitution of election for nomination in the selection of the Moslem representative on the Imperial Legislative Council. I must also congratulate Government on their constituting the Indian Defence Force, and trust that my countrymen of Punjab will come out in numbers to justify the trust and confidence that has been reposed in them by the Imperial Government. I must also refer with pride to the magnificent response that the Punjab has made to the Victory Loan, and I have no doubt that whenever and wherever the call for help will come, the answer of the Punjab will be worthy of its best traditions and the gallantry and prowess shown by its valiant sons on the battlefields of Europe, Asia and Africa."

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Bakhshi Sohan Lal :—"Your Honour, in congratulating the Hon'ble Finance Member on presenting a prosperity Budget for 1917-18, so far as income side is concerned, I congratulate also the people and the Government of the Punjab for maintaining, during the Great War crisis, the Provincial finances on such a good, sound and secure footing as to be able to begin the year with an opening balance of more than a crore and with fair prospects of receiving more than five crores from the different heads of the Provincial revenues, and thus placing a total amount approximating 6½ crores at our disposal for meeting the requirements of the Province. This prosperity of the Province indicates that under the ægis of the benign British Government we and our Provincial revenues have been quite safe from the effect of the Great War.

"Certainly as observed by the Hon'ble Finance Member this favourable budget is beyond all expectations of the forecast estimates prepared last year, when having regard to the poor monsoon, followed by an almost complete failure of the winter rains and delay in the commencement of the monsoon in 1916, the prospects of the Budget seemed most gloomy, but thanks to God that the monsoon of 1916, though not hopeful in the beginning, was so abundant and prolonged as to push forward the standing kharif crop above all expectations. Under the circumstances, it was quite natural that income was underestimated and at the same time the utmost economy was followed under almost all the expenditure heads; and the result is the unexpected prosperity which we find in the Budget for the current year. Thus we certainly have had good surplus on account of the better outturn in the last kharif harvest than our forecasted estimate, but I am afraid that there is reasonable apprehension of our losing to a certain extent in the outturn of the present rabi crops which are expected to fall short very much of the forecasted estimate. The crops on the barani lands have totally failed in some districts, necessitating full suspension or remission of the land revenue for this harvest, while where there is not total failure the untimely rains accompanied with strong wind and hailstorms during the current month have considerably spoiled or damaged the grain both on the irrigated as well as on the unirrigated lands, requiring a thorough enquiry as to the condition of the present rabi harvest

[*Rai Bahadur Bakhshi Sohan Lal.*]

and as to the extent to which the suspension or remission of revenue may be just and proper. Thus most probably we may not be able to save so much as a crore of rupees for our closing balance at the end of the year as budgetted by the Hon'ble Finance Member.

"We are very glad to find increases in almost all the heads of the income, and we heartily welcome such increase except the one under head V relating to excise which does not appear to me to be a matter for congratulations. We expected that during these hard days when we must try our best to save as much as possible to meet the requirements of the war, the luxurious and pernicious habit of drinking intoxicating liquors and eating intoxicating drugs should have been kept in check, but unfortunately our anticipations and expectations have not been realised, notwithstanding strenuous efforts of the Government as well as of certain Temperance and Reform Societies to stamp out this evil habit. While things are assuming such an aspect, I think it is a matter for the serious consideration of the Government whether the import of intoxicating liquors and drugs should not be so heavily taxed as to prevent as much as possible their consumption and use except for medicinal requirements of the country.

"It is most satisfactory to find that Punjab has maintained its traditions and credit of providing the greater majority of the recruits enlisted in the whole of British India during this world-wide conflict of the Great Powers, and that the gallant sons of the Punjab are engaged shoulder to shoulder with the sons of Great Britain and her noble Allies in almost all the theatres of war against their common enemy. It is also most gratifying to find that the Punjab, though not so rich, has not in any way lagged behind in its loyal and patriotic enthusiasm for contributing to the war burden in the form of pecuniary help as well as in investments in the War Loans. We are highly pleased to hear that notwithstanding Punjab's poverty its contribution to the War Loan has exceeded a crore of rupees which, together with its other contributions to the Punjab Aeroplane Fund, the Imperial Relief Fund, and many other funds connected with the war, as well as with its recruitments to the troops, mule-drivers, sarwans, labour corps, etc., all combined fully bear out Your Honour's observations in the War Loan meeting held in the Town Hall on 6th March 1917 that Punjab, though comparatively poor, has a heart. We are very proud of all this good service rendered by all communities of the Punjab in connection with the present war and of the most valuable services of Your Honour throughout the whole of your service career to the Punjab and to India, which have been so kindly and specifically noticed by His Excellency the Viceroy in his Darbar speech at Lahore on 16th April 1917.

"We are also most thankful to the kind and valuable suggestions made by His Excellency *re* the improvement (1) in the method of cultivation, (2) in the selection of better varieties of the staple crops, and (3) in the harvesting and marketing of pure grains, and we hope these good suggestions will be fully and promptly availed of by the Government as well as by the people who are so keenly interested in the welfare and prosperity of the agriculturist.

"His Excellency has also very kindly noticed that the Punjab is still somewhat backward in education, and this has encouraged me to plead again the cause of Kangra District which is the poorest and most backward in education of all the districts in the Punjab and therefore deserves more generous educational help than any other district. But while in the other districts we daily find increase in the number of Anglo-Vernacular Schools, the District Board in Kangra in July 1913 proposed to abolish teaching of English in both of its Anglo-Vernacular Middle Schools at Palampur and Nurpur against the

[*Rai Bahadur Bahkshi Sohan Lal.*]

people's earnest desire and strong protest. The Palampur school survived the hard struggle, but the Nurpur school after 50 years' continuous English teaching was snatched away the benefit of English education and its big library collected in more than half a century. All this was done at a time when the Anglo-Vernacular Middle School was in most flourishing condition and received no pecuniary help from the District Board and when all its expenditures were covered by Government grant of Rs. 1,760 and tuition fee of Rs. 2,348 ; total Rs. 4,108 (*vide* reply of the Hon'ble Mr. Godley, Director of Public Instruction, Punjab, to my question in the meeting of this Council held on 19th September 1913). The result of the decision of the District Board was that the scholars gradually vacated the class benches and being too poor to go to Dharmasala school, had to wander about at random ; and the people being too poor found themselves quite helpless and had no recourse but to start a private Anglo-Vernacular Middle School. The Education Department has very kindly recognized the school, but on account of the war is unable to recommend any aid for the Middle Department. I would be the last person to press for a new Government grant to a school during the time when money is primarily required for carrying on the war to its termination in the glorious victory of the British Arms, were it not an absolute necessity to remove a cause for grievance of the people of a district, and I hope that Your Honour will lay people of Kangra District in grateful obligation by ordering the grant of necessary aid to which the school may be entitled as an urgent and exceptional case.

"The other matter on which the future prospects of the Province depend, as observed by His Excellency in the Darbar speech, is industry, and the bold stand made by the Secretary of State for India and the Government of India against the unjustified cry raised by Lancashire against the enhanced duties on imported cotton manufactures has naturally given genuine satisfaction to Indians. It is hoped that the mill-owners of the Punjab will re-start their work of manufacturing cloth without fear of competition with the imported goods. I may also take this opportunity to state that the people of this Province have heartily appreciated as a great honour the action of Your Honour's Government in reviving the practice of the early British rule in the Punjab of granting jagirs to individuals in recognition of their good work. I am glad to find that four of the recipients of these jagirs belong to Jullundur Division which I have the honour to represent and three of the recipients are the members of this Council.

"In the end I take the opportunity of representing the necessity of sanctioning the scheme for the extension of the Simla Municipal Committee's limits in order to stop further congestion of population in a first class sanatorium.

"With these few remarks, I support the Budget, with a hope that Your Honour will be pleased to extend to my prayers the consideration which they may deserve."

ADJOURNMENT.

The Council adjourned to the 25th April 1917.

LAHORE :

S. W. GRACEY,

The 24th April 1917.

Secretary, Legislative Council.

APPENDIX A.

(SEE REPLY TO QUESTION No. 27 ASKED AT THE COUNCIL MEETING OF THE 13TH MARCH 1917.)

"(a) With reference to my reply to the question put by the Hon'ble Chaudhri Lal Chand at the meeting of the 13th March last in regard to the payment of diet money to witnesses, it appears from the replies of District Judges that with very few exceptions the general practice is to pay the diet money to witnesses at the time of serving the summons, but occasionally the witnesses refuse to take the money.

"(b) The amount of money which has neither been distributed to witnesses nor withdrawn by depositors during the last 2 years is Rs. 1,00,168-4-6. This sum includes a large amount deposited in cases still undecided, much of which will presumably eventually be paid to witnesses."

APPENDIX B.

(SEE ANSWER TO QUESTION No. 16.)

Addenda and Corrigenda No. 23, dated 12th March 1915.

RULES UNDER ACT VIII OF 1873 APPLICABLE TO THE LOWER CHENAB CANAL AND ITS BRANCHES.

Cancel Addenda and Corrigenda No. 9, dated 10th January, 1907, and substitute the following for rule 20 on pages 6 and 7:—

20. *Claims for remissions.*—In cases of remissions of occupiers' rates for failed crops—

Section 32 (b).

Notification
No. 557 R. I.,
dated 9th
May 1915.

I.—(1) In case of some estates or defined parts of estates for which the Deputy Commissioner and Executive Engineer agree that the water-supply is precarious and unsatisfactory, the Zilladar is required to grant remissions on the following scale:—

(a) No remission shall be given—

- (i) in respect of crops which have been cut or grazed prior to inspection;
- (ii) when a light rate is charged for crops grown on the *wadh* of a previous crop;
- (iii) when a special rate has been fixed on a kharif distributary for a first watering to start a rabi crop;
- (iv) when a crop is equal to or better than an 8-anna one.

(b) When a crop is equal to or better than a 4-anna one, but worse than an 8-anna one, half remission shall be granted.

(c) When a crop is worse than a 4-anna one, full remission shall be granted.

(d) In the case of mixed crops not specially classified the remission will be dealt with in accordance with rules 23 and 24.

(2) Any cultivator not satisfied with remission granted by the Zilladar may prefer an appeal within 10 days of the communication to him of the Zilladar's order. No appeal shall be allowed in respect of a crop which has been cut or grazed.

(3) Appeals against the decisions of the Zilladar may be presented to the Deputy Collector, Sub-Divisional Canal Officer or Divisional Canal Officer,

and should be promptly enquired into and decided. The decision given on appeal by the Divisional or Sub-Divisional Canal Officer or Deputy Collector, as the case may be, shall be final.

II.—In the case of estates not specified above, claims for remissions which may arise from failure or stoppage of supply or from other calamities of a special and isolated character shall be presented to the Divisional or Sub-Divisional Canal Officer or Deputy Collector before the crop is cut and within 10 days of the occurrence of the calamity. The unit of remission on such cases will be the field number. If the claim is admitted, the Divisional Canal Officer may remit to the limit of Rs. 100 in each individual case, provided that the aggregate remissions for any village do not exceed Rs. 1,000. If the Divisional Canal Officer considers that higher remissions should be granted than those above specified, the sanction of the Superintending Engineer shall be required. Pending the decision the collection shall be suspended.

Remissions are only admissible if there has been a complete failure or destruction of a crop due to causes beyond the control of the cultivator. If the failure is so nearly complete that the cultivator recovers nothing beyond the seed and the bare cost of cultivation, it shall be treated as complete.

III.—In the case of a widespread recognized calamity affecting large areas where the total remissions of occupiers' rates are not likely to amount to more than Rs. 25,000 in any Canal Division, no further sanction is required where the Deputy Commissioner and Executive Engineer concerned are in agreement; where remissions are likely to exceed that sum or where the Deputy Commissioner and the Executive Engineer are not in agreement, the case will be reported to Superintending Engineer who has power, in consultation with Commissioner, to sanction up to one lakh of rupees in any division. Proposals for remissions in excess of the sum agreed to by Superintending Engineer and Commissioner and cases in which these officers are not in agreement will be reported to Chief Engineer for decision by him in consultation with the Financial Commissioner.

If it is believed that over a considerable area an average crop in the particular season—

- (a) is more than a 4-anna but less than an 8-anna crop, half may be remitted ;
- (b) is less than a 4-anna crop, the whole may be remitted.

NOTE.—(a) Where there are two schedules of occupiers' rates on a canal, this implies that a normal or 16-anna crop in an estate subject to the lower schedule yields a smaller outturn than a normal crop in an estate subject to the higher schedule.

(b) A normal crop shall be regarded as one giving a yield equal to that adopted by the Settlement Officer for that crop in framing his half net assets estimate.

IV.—Claims for remissions of ordinary charges, other than occupiers' rates, payable for the use of the canal water shall be admitted only on proof of actual loss caused by the stoppage of supply; on proof of such loss the whole or any portion of the charges may be remitted as hereinbefore provided.

V.—If a claim for remission of ordinary charges other than occupiers' rates be rejected by the Divisional Canal Officer, the claimant may prefer an appeal to the Superintending Canal Officer.

Addenda and Corrigenda No. 14, dated 25th March 1915.

RULES UNDER ACT VIII OF 1873 APPLICABLE TO THE WESTERN JUNNA
CANAL AND ITS BRANCHES.

Substitute the following for rule 20 on pages 6 and 7 :—

20. *Claims for remissions.*—In cases of remissions of occupiers' rates
for failed crops—

Section 32 (b).

Notification
No. 592 R. I.
dated 6th May
1913 (F).

I.—Claims for remissions which may arise from failure or stoppage of supply or from other calamities of a special and isolated character shall be presented to the Divisional or Sub-Divisional Canal Officer or Deputy Collector before the crop is cut and within 10 days of the occurrence of the calamity. The unit of remission in such cases will be the field number. If the claim is admitted, the Divisional Canal Officer may remit to the limit of Rs. 100 in each individual case, provided that the aggregate remissions for any village do not exceed Rs. 1,000. If the Divisional Canal Officer considers that higher remissions should be granted than those above specified, the sanction of the Superintending Engineer shall be required. Pending the decision the collection should be suspended.

Remissions are only admissible if there has been a complete failure or destruction of a crop due to causes beyond the control of the cultivator. If the failure is so nearly complete that the cultivator recovers nothing beyond the seed and the bare cost of cultivation, it shall be treated as complete.

II.—In case of a widespread recognized calamity affecting large areas where the total remissions of occupiers' rates are not likely to amount to more than Rs. 25,000 in any Canal Division, no further sanction is required where the Deputy Commissioner and Executive Engineer concerned are in agreement; where remissions are likely to exceed that sum or where the Deputy Commissioner and the Executive Engineer are not in agreement, the case will be reported to Superintending Engineer who has power, in consultation with Commissioner, to sanction up to one lakh of rupees in any Division. Proposals for remissions in excess of the sum agreed to by Superintending Engineer and Commissioner and cases in which these officers are not in agreement will be reported to Chief Engineer for decision by him in consultation with the Financial Commissioner.

If it is believed that over a considerable area an average crop in the particular season—

(a) is more than a 4-anna but less than an 8-anna crop, half may be remitted;

(b) is less than a 4-anna crop, the whole may be remitted.

NOTES.—(a) Where there are two schedules of occupiers' rates on a canal, this implies that a normal or 16-anna crop in an estate subject to the lower schedule yields a smaller outturn than a normal crop in an estate subject to the higher schedule.

(b) A normal crop should be regarded as one giving yield equal to that adopted by the Settlement Officer for that crop in framing his half net assets estimate.

III.—Claims for remissions of ordinary charges other than occupiers' rates payable for the use of the canal water shall be admitted only on proof of actual loss caused by the stoppage of supply; on proof of such loss the whole or any portion of the charges may be remitted as hereinbefore provided.

IV.—If a claim for remission of ordinary charges other than occupiers' rates be rejected by the Divisional Canal Officer, the claimant may prefer an appeal to the Superintending Canal Officer.

[No. 14, dated 25th March 1915.]

APPENDIX C.

(SEE ANSWER TO QUESTION No. 19.)

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

ARMY DEPARTMENT.

COMMUNIQUE.

Delhi, the 27th March 1917.

1. The following information is published for the guidance of persons, other than European British subjects, desiring voluntarily to enrol themselves in the Indian Defence Force, under Section 12 of the recent Act. In this connection it must be remembered that this Force has been created as a war measure, and that voluntary enrolment therein is consequently limited by the capacity of the military authorities to provide the requisite instructional staff and equipment.

2. It is intended to form Indian territorial units all over India, with headquarters at convenient centres. At present, owing to the exigencies of the war, the number of these units will be limited to six, with headquarters at—

Calcutta (for Bengal, Bihar and Orissa and Assam).

Madras (for the Madras Presidency).

Poona (for the Bombay Presidency and Central Provinces).

Allahabad (for the United Provinces).

Lahore (for the Punjab and Frontier Province).

Rangoon (for Burma).

3. The territorial unit allotted to each area will be constituted as soon as 1,000 applications have been received for enrolment in that area.

4. A person desiring to enrol himself should obtain from the District Magistrate of his District (or in Presidency towns and Rangoon from the Commissioner of Police), a form known as Form II, which sets out the conditions of enrolment. He should fill in this form and return it to the officer by whom it was issued, and it will then be forwarded by the latter to the General Officer Commanding the Division.

5. The conditions to be fulfilled by candidates for enrolment are given in detail in the Rules issued under the Indian Defence Force Act, which have been published in the *Gazette of India*. Briefly these conditions prescribe that a candidate should be of a certain standard of height and physical fitness and between the ages of 18 and 30. These are the physical qualifications required. As regards his moral qualifications, the candidate must not belong to a criminal tribe or a menial class and he must bear a good character. Another condition is that he should not belong to any class from which the Indian Army is ordinarily recruited. The word "ordinarily" is purposely introduced, so as to give elasticity to this proviso. It is not intended to bar, merely because they belong to these particular classes, persons such as lawyers, men of property, men of business, professional men, students, etc., who do not ordinarily select the profession of arms as a career.

6. As soon as the requisite 1,000 applications have been received in any area and a unit constituted, those who have offered themselves for enrolment will be directed to attend at one of the centres above mentioned, or at other convenient centres, for medical examination, enrolment and attestation.

7. On the enrolment and attestation of 1,000 men in any area, training will commence in that area. A permanent training staff will be provided for the instruction of one company (250 men) at a time. Men will undergo 90

days' training as recruits. This training will be continuous. It will take up the recruits' whole time and will be carried out in camp or barracks so as to facilitate instruction and establish discipline. While under such training, soldiers of Indian units of the Defence Force will be subject to the Indian Army Act and to any rules and regulations issued under the Indian Defence Force Act which may be applicable to them. On the conclusion of this training, they will be replaced, in succession, by fresh batches of 250 recruits, those who have completed their instruction returning to their civil avocations until required for service. The numbers above mentioned are subject to revision. They represent the maximum that can be dealt with at present, having regard to war conditions.

8. The training companies referred to will be commanded by selected British officers, assisted by a suitable staff of Indian instructors of various ranks. Soldiers of the Indian Defence Force will, when qualified, be eligible for promotion. A non-commissioned officer showing special qualifications will be eligible for further advancement. While undergoing training, the pay of all ranks will be that prescribed for regulars of the Indian Army. Thus the pay of a private will be Rs. 11 a month, *plus* free rations and clothing. Every soldier will be allowed his proper travelling expenses to and from the place of medical examination or training centre and his place of residence. Each company will be allowed the establishment of followers admissible for a regular Indian unit of the same strength.

APPENDIX D.

See Answer to Question No. 25.

LIST OF FAIRS.

Serial No	District.	Name of fair.	Place where held.	Approximate dates of fairs.	Number of persons attending the fair.	REMARKS.		
AMBALA Division.								
1	Rohtak ...	Spring cattle ...	Jahazgarh ...	March ...	10,000	} No special reasons exist for closing the shop which Commissioner does not recommend		
2	Do. ...	Autumn cattle ...	Do. ... (Near Jhajjar.)	September ...	10,000			
1	Rohtak ...	Sita ...	Rohtak ...	} March, April, June and July.	}	} Closed.		
2	Do. ...	Tor ...	Do. ...					
3	Do. ...	Chhari ...	Do. ...					
4	Do. ...	Jafjagni ...	Do. ...					
5	Do. ...	Anant Chowdes ...	Do. ...					
6	Do. ...	Ram Lila ...	Do. ...					
7	Do. ...	Muharram ...	Do. ...					
8	Do. ...	Holi ...	Do. ...					
9	Do. ...	Tij ...	Jhajjar ...				13th to 19th August	...
10	Do. ...	Salono ...	Do. ...				} 24th to 30th August.	}
11	Do. ...	Guga ...	Do. ...					
12	Do. ...	Salono ...	Bahadargarh ...					
13	Do. ...	Muharram ...	Do. ...					
14	Do. ...	Tij ...	Kosli ...					
15	Do. ...	Guga ...	Do. ...					
16	Do. ...	Holi ...	Do. ...					
17	Do. ...	Devi ...	Beri ...					
3	Gurgaon ...	Masani ...	Gurgaon village ...	} Each Monday in Chait.	10,000	Closed.		
4	Do. ...	Basoda ...	Ditto ...					
5	Karnal ...	Pharal ...	Phalga ...	In Asouj ...	300,000	Closed.		
6	Do. ...	Pehowa ...	Pehowa ...	18th to 31st March	100,000	Do.		
7	Do. ...	Sun Eclipse ...	Thanesar ...	Whenever there is a Sun Eclipse.	300,000	Commissioner's opinion called for as to the closure of the shop.		
8	Do. ...	Ram Lila ...	Karnal ...	20th October ...	25,000	Closed.		
9	Ambala ...	Blaganti Fair ...	Kharar ...	...	...	Closure of the shop would lead to smuggling.
10	Do. ...	Naggal ...	Do. ...	...	...	Ditto.
11	Do. ...	Mansa Devi ...	Mani Masra ...	April ...	40,000	Ditto.		
12	Do. ...	Ladoli Fair ...	Kharar ...	...	...	
13	Do. ...	Kapal Mochan ...	Bilaspur ...	November ...	30,000	Closed.		

* Shows the fairs given in the Government Consolidated Circular. † Shows other big fairs reported by Deputy Commissioner.

APPENDIX D—CONTINUED.

Serial No.	District.	Name of fair.	Place where held.	Approximate dates of fairs.	Number of persons attending the fair	REMARKS.
<i>AMBALA DIVISION—concluded.</i>						
*14	Ambala	Shah Kumalsh	Sadhaura	April	50,000	Closure of the shop would lead to smuggling.
18	Do.	Panjoli Fair	Kharar	}	}	Ditto.
19	Do.	Mansuli	Do.			
20	Do.	Cyand	Rupar			
21	Do.	Jainti Devi	Kharar			
22	Do.	Suraj Kund	Jagadhri			
† 23	Do.	Jhampur	Kharar			
24	Do.	Khuda Ali Sher	Do.			
25	Do.	Rupel Heri	Do.			
26	Do.	Guga	Rupar			
27	Do.	Panjola	Do.			
28	Do.	Ralsanda	Do.	}	}	There are no proposals to close the shop.
*15	Hissar	Bichowana	Budhlada			
*16	Do.	Kalaua	Ditto			
<i>JOLLUNDUR DIVISION.</i>						
*1	Kangra	Naurata	Jawala Mukhi	16th to 25th October.	10,000	Further report as to the closure of the shops has been called for in detail.
2	Do.	Do.	Kangra	18th to 27th March	10,000	} Ditto.
3	Do.	Lidbar cattle	Lidbar	23rd to 26th March	15,000	
1	Do.	Dari	Dari	1 day	...	} Ditto.
2	Do.	Sidh Fair	Sidh Fair	1 day	...	
3	Do.	Chari Fair	Chari	1 day	...	
4	Do.	Bir Bahadur Fair	Bhown	1 day	...	
5	Do.	Belhar Fair	Narwarni	1 day	...	
6	Do.	Bhikhe	Bhawana	2 days	...	
7	Do.	Taurio Fair	Daital	1 day	...	
8	Do.	Baij Nath Fair	Paprola	5 days	...	
<i>KULU SIVA-DIVISION.</i>						
9	Kangra	Basant Pasohmi...	Akhara	1 day (January)...	...	} Ditto.
10	Do.	Pipal Jatra	Do.	1 day (April) ...	...
† 11	Do.	Banjar Jatri	Banjar	2 days (May) ...	...
12	Do.	Shabri Jatra	Chakki	3 days (May) ...	...
13	Do.	Duschna	Akhara	One week (October)	...	

* Shows the fairs given in the Government Consolidated Circular. † Shows other big fairs reported by Deputy Commissioner.

APPENDIX D—CONTINUED.

Serial No.	District.	Name of fair.	Place where held.	Approximate dates of fairs.	Number of persons attending the fair.	REMARKS.
KULU SUB-DIVISION—concluded.						
† 14	Kangra ...	Bhunter Jatra ...	Bhunter ...	2 days (June)	} Further report as to the closure of the shops has been called for in detail.
15	Do. ...	Shabri Jatra ...	Abo ...	3 days (May) ...	...
4	Hoshiarpur	Jhangri Mahi Shah	Muradpur ...	10th-13th June ...	13,000	} Closed.
5	Jullundur	Dusehra Cattle ...	Jullundur ...	October ...	10,000	
6	Ludhiana...	Chappar ...	Chappar ...	14th-15th September.	60,000	
† 16	Do. ...	Bhadla ...	Samrala	} Closure of these shops would lead to smuggling.
17	Do. ...	Baghaur ...	Do. ...	...	...
7	Ferozepore	Cattle and Camel	Abohar ...	End of February...	...	} Closed.
8	Do. ...	Muktar ...	Muktar ...	Early in January	...	
9	Do. ...	Horse and Cattle Fair.	Jalsalbad ...	Early in February	...	
LANOHRE DIVISION.						
1	Lahore ...	Bhader Kali ...	Ninz Beg ...	May ...	10,000	} Closed.
2	Do. ...	Mulapurwala ...	Mulapur ...	20th February ...	11,000	
3	Do. ...	Parna ...	Parna ...	14th January ...	12,000	
4	Do. ...	Tukri ...	Nankana Sahib ...	23th October ...	80,000	
5	Do. ...	Baisakhi ...	Ditto ...	May ...	12,000	
6	Do. ...	Namani ...	Ditto ...	April ...	12,000	
7	Do. ...	Ram Chand ki Pauran.	Kuthiala ...	March ...	...
8	Do. ...	Pattoki Cattle and Horse Fair.	Pattoki ...	...	...
1	Do. ...	Chiraghan ...	Baghbanpura ...	...	...
2	Do. ...	Theman ...	...	...	...
† 8	Do. ...	Parnawana ...	...	...	...
4	Do. ...	Chathianwala ...	...	...	...
5	Do. ...	Gharyala ...	...	...	...
9	Amritsar ..	Amawas ...	Tarn Taran ...	Last day of each month.	10,000	
10	Do. ...	Chait Chandas Amawas.	Ditto ...	March ...	75,000	
11	Do. ...	Bhadron Amawas	Ditto ...	August ...	75,000	
12	Do. ...	Jag Sri Gondwal	Gondwal ...	September ...	22,000	
18	Do. ...	Basant Panchmi...	Cheharta ...	January ...	30,000	
14	Do. ...	Mela Kota ...	Walla ...	February ...	30,000	

* Shows the fairs given in the Government Consolidated Circular. † Shows other big local fairs reported by Deputy Commissioner.

APPENDIX D—CONTINUED.

Serial No.	District.	Name of fair.	Place where held.	Approximate dates of fairs.	Number of persons attending the fair.	REMARKS.
LAWSON DIVISION—concluded.						
16	Amritsar ...	Baisakhi ...	Amritsar ...	April ...	50,000	} Closed.
10	Do. ...	Bhadar Kali ...	Ditto ...	May ...	25,000	
17	Do. ...	Dosehra ...	Ditto ...	October ...	40,000	} Report as to the closure of these shops has been called for.
18	Do. ...	Tukri ...	Ram Tirath ...	November ...	30,000	
19	Do. ...	Shah Lambazwala	Wairoke ...	February ...	20,000	
20	Do. ...	Dewali ...	Amritsar ...	November ...	60,000	} Closed.
21	Do. ...	Bela Ram Naumi	Ditto ...	...	20,000
22	Gurdaspur...	Horse and Cattle Show.	Gurdaspur ...	October ...	10,000	} Report as to the closure of these shops for the next year called for.
23	Do. ...	Pareri ...	Gurals ...	Ditto ...	15,000	
24	Do. ...	Sakhi Sarwar ...	Saltanpur ...	June ...	20,000	
25	Do. ...	Sair ...	Shahpur ...	Do.	} Shops closed for 2 days during the fair.
6	Do. ...	Chola Sahib ...	Dera Baba Nanak ...	...	...
7	Do. ...	Baisakhi ...	Kot Naini (?)	} Closed.
26	Sialkot ...	Baryar ...	Narowal ...	February ...	15,000	
27	Do. ...	Muharram ...	Sialkot City ...	February ...	60,000	} Further report for the closure of these shops has been called for.
28	Do. ...	Baisakhi ...	Ditto ...	April ...	10,000	
29	Do. ...	Buch ...	Bhuch ...	June ...	10,000	
30	Do. ...	Throh Cattle Fair	Turoh ...	August ...	50,000	} Further report for the closure of these shops has been called for.
31	Do. ...	Gulla Shah Cattle and Horse Fair.	Kereke ...	September ...	60,000	
32	Do. ...	Mari ...	Badiana ...	March ...	60,000	} Closed.
33	Gujranwala	Dhaunkal (Sakhi Sarwar).	Dhaunkal ...	14th June to 14th July.	10,000	
34	Do. ...	Urs Sain Gulab Shah	Ramnagar ...	June ...	50,000	} Closed.
35	Do. ...	Cattle Fair ...	Eminabad ...	April ...	125,000	
36	Do. ...	Horse Show and Cattle Fair.	Hafizabad ...	March ...	20,000	
8	Do. ...	Baisaki ...	Eminabad	} Drink would be smuggled in at the closure of these shops.
9	Do. ...	Do. ...	Kerial Wirkam ...	...	...
10	Do. ...	Sang ...	Badloke ...	...	...
11	Do. ...	Kadams ...	Pindi Bhattian ...	...	...
12	Do. ...	Do. ...	Rampar ...	...	...
13	Do. ...	Do. ...	Jalapur ...	...	...
14	Do. ...	Sang ...	Kasoke ...	...	...
15	Do. ...	Khersa Khazana ...	Ratti Tibbi ...	...	...
16	Do. ...	Sunanlihan ...	Ajnewala ...	...	...
17	Do. ...	Urs ...	Shahkot ...	...	...
18	Do. ...	Bhiki ...	Bhiki ...	...	...

* Shows the fairs given in the Government Consolidated Circular. † Shows other big local fairs reported by Deputy Commissioner.

APPENDIX-D—CONTINUED.

Social No.	District.	Name of fair.	Place where held.	Approximate dates of fairs.	Number of persons attending the fair.	REMARKS.
RAWALPINDI DIVISION.						
1	Jhelum ...	Baisakhi	Katas	12th April	20,000 to 30,000	Liquor shop closed during the fair.
†	1	Do. ...	Do. (?)	Chon Saidan Shah	...	Ditto.
	2	Attock ...	Do.	Hasan Abdal	...	Left to the discretion of the Deputy Commissioner.
	3	Do. ...	Do.	Kot Bhai Than Singh.	...	Ditto.
	4	Do. ...	Do.	Nara	} Closed.
	5	Do. ...	Do.	Attock	...	
	6	Do. ...	Do.	Jabbi Shah Dilawar	...	
MULTAN DIVISION.						
* 1	Lyalpur ...	Cattle and Horse Fair.	Lyalpur	March	60,000	} Closed.
†	1	Do. ...	Ditto	Gojra	...	
	2	Do. ...	Ditto	Jaranwala	...	
	3	Do. ...	Ditto	Tandlianwala	...	
	4	Do. ...	Ditto	Toha Tok Singh	...	
	5	Do. ...	Ditto	Chak Jhumra	...	
2	Jhang ...	Masau	Masau	October	10,000	} Report as to the closure of these shops called for.
3	Do. ...	Shah Jiwana	Shah Jiwana	May	10,000	
4	Do. ...	Atharan Hazari	Atharan Hazari	2nd April	10,000	
6	Jhang ...	Horse Show	Jhang Maghiana	...	12,000	
7	Do. ...	Hir Fair	Ditto	...	15,000	
8	Do. ...	Sang Sakhi Sarwar	Ditto	...	10,000	
9	Do. ...	Dussehra	Ditto	October	...	} The closure would lead to illicit distillation.
10	Do. ...	Do.	Chiniot	Do.	...	
11	Do. ...	Do.	Sherkot	Do.	...	
12	Do. ...	Do.	Ahmadpur	...	...
13	Do. ...	Baisakhi	Nekokar	April	...	
14	Do. ...	Dussehra	Jabbona	October	...	
15	Do. ...	Do.	Lallian	Do.	...	
16	Do. ...	Do.	Rajoo (?)	Do.	...	
5	Multan	Buddha Sant	Dograana	March	20,000	Report as to the closure of this shop called for.
6	Do. ...	Dussehra	Multan City	October	15,000	Time extension refused at festivals.
7	Do. ...	Baisakhi	Ram Chandra (Kairwala).	April	12,000	Report as to the closure of this shop called for.

*Shows the fairs given in the Government Consolidated Circular. †Shows other local fairs reported by Deputy Commissioner.

APPENDIX D - CONCLUDED.

Serial No.	District.	Name of fair.	Place where held.	Approximate dates of fairs.	Number of persons attending the fair.	REMARKS.
MULTAN DIVISION—concluded.						
17	Multan ...	Baisakhi ...	Multan ...	...	...	} Closel. (?)
18	Do. ...	Do. ...	Jalalpur Firwala ...	...	...
19	Do. ...	Do. ...	Tulamba ...	...	...
20	Do. ...	Do. ...	Kabirwala ...	...	...
8	Muzaffargarh	Lal Issa	Koror Leiah	29th September to 5th October.	30,000 to 60,000	
21	Do.	Do.	Kot Adu	...	...	} Sales suppressed during the fairs
22	Do.	Do.	Karor	...	...
23	Do.	Do.	Shahr Sultan	...	...
9	Montgomery	Baba Farid	Pakpattan	November	60,000	Further report called for.
10	Do.	Baba Lala Jas Rai	Dipalpur	February	20,000	Ditto.
11	Do.	Hafiz Dami Sahib..	Shergarh	March	20,000	Ditto.
24	Do.	Baisakhi	Dipalpur (Hujra)...	...	...	Ditto.
25	Do.	Kadirabad	Dipalpur (Jothpur)	...	...	Ditto.

*Shows the fairs given in the Government Consolidated Circular. †Shows other big local fairs reported by Deputy Commissioners.

APPENDIX E.

MEMORANDUM.

As the budget for 1917-18 (hereto annexed) makes no change in the figures of the Revised Financial Statement, presented to the Council on the 13th March 1917, and as no resolution recommending any such change was passed, a meeting of the Council will not be held for the presentation of the budget, and the general discussion of the budget in Council will take place at the meeting to be held on the 24th instant (*vide* rule 29 of the rules for the discussion of the Annual Financial Statement in the Legislative Council of the Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab as amended by Punjab Government notification No. 536, dated 8th March 1911).

LAHORE :

The 12th April 1917. }

O. F. LUMSDEN,

Financial Secretary to Government, Punjab.

STATEMENT SHOWING BY MAJOR HEADS OF ACCOUNT THE ESTIMATES

HEADS OF ACCOUNT.					Budget Estimate, 1917-18.
					Rs.
Opening balance	...	...	...	...	1,03,08,000
<i>Provincial Revenue and Receipts.</i>					
I—Land Revenue	...	...	...	...	1,40,31,000
IV—Stamps	...	...	...	...	30,50,000
V—Excise	...	...	...	...	38,07,600
VI—Provincial Rates	...	...	...	...	30,000
VIII—Income Tax	...	...	...	...	12,90,000
IX—Forest	...	...	...	...	15,74,000
X—Registration	...	...	...	...	3,58,000
XII—Interest	...	...	...	...	2,44,000
XVI-A—Law and Justice—Courts of Law	...	...	...	...	7,00,000
XVI-B—Law and Justice—Jails	...	...	...	...	4,38,000
XVII—Police	...	...	...	...	2,18,000
XIX—Education	...	...	...	...	5,24,000
XX-A—Medical	...	...	...	...	40,000
XX-B—Sanitation	...	...	...	...	81,000
XXI-A—Agriculture	...	...	...	...	2,41,000
XXI-B—Scientific and Miscellaneous Departments	...	...	...	...	30,000
XXII—Receipts in aid of Superannuation	...	...	...	...	80,000
XXIII—Stationery and Printing	...	...	...	...	1,14,000
XXV—Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	5,46,000
XXIX—Irrigation—Major Works.	{	Direct Receipts—	...	...
		Civil	...	...	1,000
		Public Works	...	...	1,35,50,000
XXX—Irrigation—Minor Works and Navigation.	{	Indirect Receipts—	...	...
		Portion of Land Revenue due to Irrigation.	...	...	61,00,000
XXXI—Civil Works	{	Civil	...	...	46,000
		Public Works	...	...	50,000
XXXI—Civil Works	{	Civil	...	...	1,75,000
		Public Works	...	...	2,10,000
Transfers between Imperial and Provincial (<i>vide</i> Appendix A).	...	...	...	...	43,52,000
Total Provincial Revenue and Receipts					5,19,40,000

OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE OF THE PUNJAB FOR THE YEAR 1917-18

HEADS OF ACCOUNT.					Budget Estimate, 1917-18.
<i>Provincial Expenditure.</i>					Rs.
1—Refunds and Drawbacks	...	...	...	...	92,000
2—Assignments and Compensations	...	...	...	...	39,000
3—Land Revenue	...	...	...	...	51,13,000
6—Stamps	...	...	...	...	89,000
7—Excise	...	...	...	...	1,29,000
10—Income Tax	...	...	...	...	14,000
11—Forest	...	...	...	...	11,34,000
12—Registration	...	...	...	...	1,30,000
13—Interest on Ordinary Debt	...	...	...	...	2,05,000
18—General Administration	..	...	...	...	12,06,000
19-A—Law and Justice—Courts of Law	...	...	...	..	46,74,000
19-B—Law and Justice—Jails	...	...	...	...	19,46,000
26—Police	...	...	...	...	70,14,000
22—Education	...	..	...	..	46,32,000
24-A—Medical	...	...	...	...	11,05,000
24-B—Sanitation	...	...	...	..	7,07,000
26-A—Agriculture	...	...	...	...	21,45,000
26-B—Scientific and Miscellaneous Departments	...	...	...	...	1,75,000
29—Superannuation Allowances and Pensions	...	...	...	...	26,08,000
30—Stationery and Printing	...	...	...	..	8,47,000
32—Miscellaneous	...	...	...	..	11,75,000
33—Famine Relief	...	...	...	...	1,85,000
36—Reduction or Avoidance of Debt	..	...	...	...	...
42—Irrigation—Major Works	{ Working Expenses— Civil Public Works .. Interest on Debt ... ..	...	...	...	50,48,000
		...	...	...	37,62,000
	
43—Minor Works and Navigation.	{ Civil Public Works ... ..	...	...	...	78,000
	
45—Civil Works	{ Civil Public Works ... ..	...	...	...	12,72,000
	
Total Expenditure					5,17,39,000
Closing balance...					1,05,00,000
GRAND TOTAL					0,22,48,000

APPENDIX F.

Details of transfers between Imperial and Provincial Revenues.

	Budget Estimate, 1917-18.	REMARKS.
	Rs.	
<i>Assignments from Imperial to Provincial—</i>		
RECURRING—		
(1) Fixed adjusting entry	4,65,000	
(2) Assignment for Education	4,25,000	
(3) Further assignment for Education	3,38,000	
(4) " " " " " " " "	75,000	
(5) Contribution for University	35,000	
(6) Assignment for the improvement of pay and training of teachers	1,75,000	
(7) Assignment for Sanitation	4,00,000	
(8) Assignment for the improvement of the Sanitary services	22,000	
(9) On account of the Imperial share of the sale-proceeds of sites for shops and residences in towns in the Punjab.	76,000	
(10) For relieving Municipalities of Police charges	5,22,000	
(11) For remission of certain recoveries from local bodies	3,04,000	
(12) Assignment in connection with the provincialization of the salaries of officers of the Civil Veterinary Department.	1,00,000	
(13) Provincialization of the charges of the Camel Specialist	31,000	
(14) Assignment in connection with remission of appropriations from cesses	2,08,000	
(15) Assignment to compensate Provincial revenues for the loss of income from the recovery in stamps of fees for the inspection of records.	10,000	
(16) Assignment to meet the expenditure for the grants of Rs. 100 per annum each to the holders of titles Mahamahopadhyaya and Shams-ul-Ulama.	1,000	
(17) Assignment for a grant to the Lawrence Military Asylum, Sanawar	40,000	
(18) Assignment for the Lawrence Memorial School, Murreo	12,000	
(19) In connection with the creation of the new Province of Delhi	13,000	
(20) Assignment in connection with the surrender by the Local Government of Rs. 1 crore out of the Provincial balances.	3,60,000	
(21) Assignment for the scheme for the import of Charas and Bhang in bond from the Punjab into Delhi.	13,000	
	86,36,000	
NON-RECURRING—		
(22) Assignments on account of profits from Wheat Scheme	10,70,000	
TOTAL ASSIGNMENTS FROM IMPERIAL TO PROVINCIAL	47,06,000	
<i>Assignments from Provincial to Imperial—</i>		
RECURRING—		
(23) On account of change in classification of the charges of P. W. Section of the Account Office.	23,000	
(24) On account of the Provincial share of the enhanced receipts from Excise	55,000	
(25) On account of the Provincial share of the enhanced receipts from Income-tax.	2,25,000	
(26) On account of cost of treasure guards (Police or Barkāndaz) employed in the Public Works Department.	51,000	
TOTAL ASSIGNMENTS FROM PROVINCIAL TO IMPERIAL	3,54,000	
NET ASSIGNMENTS TO PROVINCIAL	43,52,000	

Abstract of Proceedings of the Council of the Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab assembled for the purpose of making Laws and Regulations under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1915.

THE Council met at Government House, Lahore, at 10-30 A.M., on Wednesday, the 25th April 1917.

PRESENT :

His Honour Sir MICHAEL FRANCIS O'DWYER, K.C.S.I., I.C.S., Lieutenant-Governor, *Presiding*.

The Hon'ble Mr. JOHN PERRONET THOMPSON, I.C.S.

The Hon'ble Mr. JAMES ALEXANDER RICHEY.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Khawaja YUSAF SHAH.

The Hon'ble Mr. HERBERT JOHN MAYNARD, C.S.I., I.C.S.

The Hon'ble Mr. OSWALD FARQUHAR LUMSDEN, I.C.S.

The Hon'ble Nawab Sir BAHRAM KHAN, Mazari, K.O.I.E

The Hon'ble Sardar Bahadur Sardar GAJJAN SINGH.

The Hon'ble Chaudhri LAL CHAND.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Saiyid MEHDI SHAH.

The Hon'ble Pandit JAWAHAR LAL, Bhargava.

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur RAM SARAN DAS, C.I.E.

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Pandit SHEO NARAIN.

The Hon'ble Mr. DAVID WANN AIKMAN, C.I.E.

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Bakhshi SOHAN LAL.

The Hon'ble Raizada BHAGAT RAM.

The Hon'ble Sayad Makhdum RAJAN SHAH.

The Hon'ble Mr. CREWE ARMAND HAMILTON TOWNSEND, I.C.S.

The Hon'ble Mr. PATRICK JAMES FAGAN, I.C.S.

The Hon'ble Khan Sahib Mirza MUHAMMAD IKRAM ULLAH KHAN.

The Hon'ble Diwan Bahadur Diwan DAULAT RAI.

The Hon'ble Mr. EDWIN WOODALL PARKER.

The Hon'ble Mr. HENRY DUFFIELD CRAIK, I.C.S.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Malik MUHAMMAD AMIN KHAN.

The Hon'ble Colonel HAROLD HENDLEY, M.D., I.M.S.

The Hon'ble Mr. STEPHEN WILLIAM GRACEY, I.C.S.

The Hon'ble Sardar Bahadur Sardar Gajjan Singh :—Your Honour,—It is a matter of great gratification to me to associate myself with my Hon'ble colleagues in congratulating the Hon'ble Finance Member on the lucid financial statement presented by him before this Council. I am sure it shall be admitted that at a time when the Local Government is confronted with new and momentous problems which necessitate a wholesale revision of the annual budget the ingenuity and special depth of vision shown by the Finance Member in preparing the statement deserves a marked recognition at the hands of us all.

[Sardar Bahadur Sardar Gajjan Singh.]

"The financial statement shows that there is a marked increase in the excise revenue which the Hon'ble Mr. Maynard has attributed to the policy of combining minimum consumption with maximum revenue. I have no complaint to offer against the policy itself, but I beg to state that no excise policy can be deemed wholesome unless it ensures an appreciable diminution in the consumption of intoxicants. The increase in the revenue should not be an end in itself but should be a means towards an end, namely, the gradual and steady decrease in the quantity of liquor sold. The habit of drinking is a new acquisition on account of the various facilities that exist for procuring it. I would strongly urge the introduction of the rule of local option as regards the location of old shops.

"The Hon'ble Mr. Aikman has stated that the canal-irrigated area has been yearly increasing, but the general complaints of the people show that this extension of canal-irrigated area is considerably due to a reduction in the number of waterings and the area previously irrigated. My view is that the area irrigated by canals should not be unduly extended to the prejudice of those people who enjoyed an adequate water-supply before. It is a much sound policy to adequately irrigate a smaller area of land than to ineffectually irrigate a large area. It is better to feed one man rather than to try to feed two and starve both. The extension of the canal-irrigated area ought to be commensurate with the increase in the supply of water, and in case the latter is at a standstill the former should also be checked.

"The imposition of a 4 per cent. cotton duty on goods imported into India has been highly appreciated by the people in India. The measure has been supported by the Secretary of State and other responsible ministers of the Government on various grounds, but the people of India are unanimous in feeling that it means the removal of an acutely felt grievance and an act of justice which was long delayed. The imposition of countervailing duties in the interests of Lancashire Mill-owners has created a heart-burning and bitterness in the minds of the people, but this beneficial measure so vehemently championed by the Government of India has re-assured us that the British Government is always eager and anxious to do justice to India whenever practicable. Although the apprehensions of Lancashire traders, that their trade would be materially affected, are ill-founded, but there is no gainsaying the fact that the measure would go a long way in encouraging Indian industrial development. The prosperity and well-being of India depends to a great extent on the industrial development and the introduction of a benevolent policy in industrial problems cannot fail to stimulate the spirit of enterprise and initiative in this department. We are very grateful to the Government of India that, while discharging its obligations to the British Government by a munificent gift of 100 million pounds, it has availed itself of this opportunity to remove a grievance which was assuming an aggravated form every day. I am confident that in spite of the amendment made by the *ex-Prime* Minister Mr. Asquith the measure shall not lose its permanent character, and that at the time when the fiscal relations of India with the mother country are reconsidered after the war, no modification or alteration, so far as cotton duties are concerned, shall be introduced.

"The contribution of one hundred million pounds of the Government of India to the Imperial Government for purposes of the war has the hearty support of the people of India, and the people of the Punjab, although they are not financially so well off as the people of other provinces, have not hesitated to contribute to the War Loan with a liberality which cannot but be considered a demonstration of their deep-seated loyalty to the British Government. People strongly feel that by bearing the burden of the Empire at this juncture they would be substantially strengthening their claims to a larger participation in the administration of the country. It is a matter for satisfaction that the wave

[*Sardar Bahadur Sardar Gajjan Singh.*]

of loyalty set in motion by the present titanic war promises to bear ample fruit in future and the unstinted appreciation and recognition evoked in the mind of the Government would infuse more life in it and impart to it a greater stimulus. I assure Your Honour that if it would ever become essential to mobilize the resources of India for the purpose of the war on a more extensive scale, the people of the Punjab would come forward with a zeal and sacrifice unsurpassed by the people of other provinces. I entertain no doubt that the War Loan would steadily keep on increasing every day and that in the near future it shall reach a respectable figure. The people of the Punjab look forward to a speedy and triumphant termination of the war and any sacrifices required for that object would be willingly made. In fact it is rather incorrect to designate the contribution to the War Loan as sacrifice, it is simply the investment of our capital to the best advantage to ourselves and thereby to indirectly help the Government. Besides it is not difficult for the Government of India to sell this War Loan in other countries, but Indians by subscribing to the War Loan would be doing a service to their country because they would thereby be the recipients of the amount of interest which must go outside India if the War Loan is raised abroad.

"The measures adopted by the Indian Government under the Defence Force Act have won the approval of the people of India. The organization of a Volunteer Corps for the enlistment for military service of non-martial races has sent a thrill of enthusiasm throughout the country and I am sure that the response to this measure would be sufficiently large to satisfy the hopes entertained. The non-martial class of the Punjab rather keenly felt the incapacity to use arms and the inability to enrol themselves in the army. I heartily agree with the Government that these Volunteer Corps should be mainly recruited from non-martial classes, thereby giving them also an opportunity of demonstrating their loyalty and serving the Government in a more effective manner.

"Your Honour, it is a matter of genuine pride to me to make a brief reference to the services and assistance rendered by my community for the successful prosecution of the war. The devotion and loyalty and the spirit of self-sacrifice and valour displayed by the members of my community, I might be allowed to say, has no parallel in the history of the world.

"The exploits and valient deeds done by 14th Sikhs in the fields of Gallipoli shall ever remain emblazened in the annals of the history of the present War as monumental proofs of their undaunted bravery and unflinching devotion to duty. These heroic deeds have won for them the admiration and appreciation of the Khalsa community and we have good reasons to be proud of them. The other Sikh Regiments Nos. 15, 36, 4 and 7 have not been behind hand in the demonstration of bravery and loyalty. The detailed account of the recent victories in Mesopotamia has not yet been received, but I am sure that these accounts when available will throw further lustre on the already brilliant record of the Sikh Army. Such events cannot fail to bring prominently to the notice of the Government the steadfast devotion which from the very advent of the British Government had been the dominating and characteristic feature of this community. Although the Sikh population is about $\frac{1}{10}$ th of the whole population of the Punjab, but they have supplied 33 per cent. recruits to the Army. The Sikh soldiers have magnificently distinguished themselves in the battle-field, winning more than 100 Orders of Merit out of the total of 186 and 200 Indian Distinguished Medals out of the total of 370. We are very grateful to His Excellency the Viceroy and Your Honour for the fulsome recognition and acknowledgment of the services and assistance rendered by the Sikh community.

"It was a source of great gratification to the Sikh community to read in the papers that Your Honour has grasped the real situation in the Punjab

[*Sardar Bahadur Sardar Gajjan Singh.*]

with a penetrating vision and have not suffered your mind to be prejudiced in the slightest degree by the misdeeds of a few misguided nominal Sikhs who came back from abroad with their minds full of dark and nefarious schemes. Your Honour was pleased to say to a correspondent of the Associated Press of America 'that the misconduct of a few thousand of the community so far from affecting the traditional loyalty of the Sikhs have only stimulated the Sikh nation to a greater service.' Nothing could be more accurate than the picture drawn by Your Honour of the attitude of the Sikh community as a whole towards the miscreant immigrants. The leaders of the Sikh community and the villagers in general evinced an admirable decision of character and prompted in hunting down and disowning the dastardly spirits who came to darken this smiling province with their misdeeds. Creditable as it all is to the Sikhs I may be pardoned if I point out that the success achieved in these matters is considerably attributable to the pre-eminent qualities of head and heart with which the Almighty has endowed Your Honour and the confidence and trust placed by Your Honour in the Sikh community which I am proud to assert has been amply vindicated. I sincerely assure Your Honour that the Sikh community realises very keenly that its interests are vitally and indissolubly bound up with the British Government and that it stands or falls—God forbid—with it, and that the Sikhs inspired as they are by this conviction would not swerve from treading the path of duty and devotion to the British Government which is also the path of righteousness for them.

"It is a matter of rejoicing that the Allies have been victorious in several battles which have been fought on the Western Front during the last week. The Allies' offensive is inflicting severe losses on the enemy and the latter is gradually being repulsed and dislocated from several positions it had occupied. The number of prisoners, guns and the quantity of ammunitions that have been seized by our forces is considerably large. The colossal victory achieved by the British Indian forces at Bagdad is a standing testimony to the gallantry of our troops and the Indians have experienced an unspeakable pleasure over this magnificent triumph. There are unmistakable indications that the war would come to a speedy and successful termination. The food stuffs of Germany are not adequate to satisfy the requirements of the nation and the German people are smarting under the absolute autocracy of the German Emperor. The association of the United States with the Allies in the cause of righteousness and the emancipation of smaller States from the aggressive militarism of Prussia cannot but strengthen the hands of the Allies and accelerate the downfall of the German Empire. The speech of the President of the United States and the ultimate declaration of war has aroused deep interest in the prosecution of the war and confidence in the ultimate victory of the Allies has been placed on a firmer and stronger basis.

"It is clear from the Darbar Speech and the speech that His Excellency delivered on the occasion of reviewing the Military Officers that the demand for recruits still continues unabated. It is expected that the Punjab would, as usual, come forward and the sturdy sons of the peasantry would not hesitate to enrol themselves in the army. The concessions about the enhancement of pay and pension, etc., for the army and the favourable rates of batta can be counted upon as capable of stimulating recruitment to an appreciable extent. I might be permitted to suggest that a portion of the squares of lands reserved by the Government for granting to those Military Officers and soldiers who have distinguished themselves in the battle-field should be gifted to those wounded soldiers and the heirs of the soldiers who have laid down their lives and who may be considered as deserving of the grant at once, because it is bound to have a healthy and wholesome effect upon recruitment. It shall inspire the would-be recruits with confidence that their claims and services shall be recompensed in the near future and

[Sardar Bahadur Sardar Gaijan Singh; Pandit Jawahar Lal, Bhargava.]

would not be forgotten. The institution of bonus proved very useful in the recruitment of camel and mule drivers, and if it were introduced in the recruitment of soldiers for active service in the field, it is bound to be productive of satisfactory results. I am glad to remark that the Sikhs, in spite of the fact that they are very backward in higher education and have liberally responded to recruitment in other directions, have more than maintained their share in the Punjabee Double Company.

"Your Honour, I gladly associate myself with my Hon'ble friend Chaudhri Lal Chand in bringing to your kind notice the various disadvantages under which my community in common with his is suffering. I join with him in appealing to Your Honour for the removal of these grievances. I also consider it my duty to bring to your kind notice that the Land Alienation Act and other legislations of this nature are looked upon as a great boon not only by my community but by the Hindus, Musalmans and other zamindars of the Province.

"Your Honour, the supply of reports of the Legislative Councils of other Provinces to the Hon'ble Members of this Council has recently been discontinued on account of the rise in the price of paper. In my opinion the advantages of this supply are very great, and Your Honour will kindly see that the supply is continued as usual. The non-official Members, I believe, will be prepared even to pay for the price of the reports supplied."

The Hon'ble Pandit Jawahar Lal, Bhargava :—"Your Honour,— Before I proceed to offer a few remarks on the details of the Budget and matters of general interest, I must congratulate the Hon'ble Finance Member for his lucid and interesting financial statement and careful handling of the figures and the Government on its hopeful nature.

"Though the grim shadows of the war are still hanging overhead, it is a matter of deep significance that whereas the Budget of almost every belligerent country is suffering from the deadly effects of the destructive war, our Provincial Budgets remain almost uninfluenced. In fact no combatant country in the world has been affected so little in the internal administration as India during this critical period. On the contrary, the progress of the country in matters political and financial during these years furnishes eloquent testimony to the wise statesmanship of the British nation and the strength of the British Army and Navy.

"The present war, as every civilized nation has from the very beginning realized, is a struggle between the brute forces of insatiable aggrandizement, aggression and dominance on the one hand and the preservation of the integrity of small states, liberty and righteousness on the other. Eventually the cause of truth must inevitably triumph in accordance with the Divine Laws and as an earnest of the coming victory world upheaving episodes have taken place during the year. The principles for which the British nation has stood for centuries are in the course of realization and as a foretaste of the coming millennium may be mentioned the three principal events, *vis.*, the fall of autocracy of ages in Russia, the advent of the democratic United States of America into the war, and, so far as India is concerned, the representation of India in the Imperial War Council. The association of the three representatives of India in the Imperial Council and the equalization of the Indian political status with that of the self-governing colonies, and a fair and just imposition of cotton duties on foreign goods in defiance of the selfish agitation of Lancashire and Manchester afford verification of the high principles of justice and equality in relation to us.

"In this great struggle the British nation has made stupendous sacrifices and India, specially the Punjab, has done and is doing its part nobly and manfully in the cause of the Empire.

[*Pandit Jawahar Lal, Bhargava.*]

"The valiant sons of India have covered themselves with glory in the battlefields of Asia, Africa and Europe. What heart does not throb with joy at the achievements of the Punjabi troops in Mesopotamia and on the fall of Baghdad where our fellowmen, the soldiers from Hissar and Rohtak, parade the promenades of the traditional Garden of Eden and sing with exuberant joy the ancient ballads of their mother country !

"It is a matter of genuine pride that the Punjabis constituted one-half of the Indian forces and have supplied 65 per cent. of the recruits since the war. Besides, in the medical, railway, engineering and transport services, and the artizan, labour, and various other corps the bulk has been drawn from the Punjab.

"All classes of the community down to the convict in jail have unstintedly contributed in various ways their quota in this endeavour to serve the Empire. The loyal and unique offer of a fleet of aeroplanes by the Punjab stands unchallenged by the other Provinces. The magnificent contribution of Rs. 1,02,16,200 already paid up to date (excluding promises of large sums) to the War Loan by the Punjab ranks next to that of the commercial magnates of Bombay and Calcutta, the centres of sea-borne trade. While proud of its past achievements the Punjab may be trusted to make every possible sacrifice which occasion may demand or circumstances may call for.

"Last year when the Budget was discussed the Province was in the throes of a severe drought and the prospects were dismal and gloomy. The copious rains in August and September turned an imminent scarcity into bountiful plenitude and the excellent kharif brightened up the financial outlook. Owing to the failure of winter rains, however, the expectations of a bumper rabi were not realised, but thanks to the persistence of the late monsoon and the splendid irrigation system regarding which the central districts are more fortunate than the constituency in general which I have the honour to represent and specially the Hissar, Gurgaon and Rohtak Districts, the expected outturn of rabi affords no cause for anxiety. In this connection I take the liberty of pointing out that these districts in which the population is mainly agricultural are at the mercy of the capricious monsoon, and though the railway may stave off starvation by bringing relief, yet the blessings of continued prosperity and abundance are unlike other fortunate districts, and not their usual lot. May I express a hope that Your Honour will be pleased to secure some measure of equable treatment by extension of the canal irrigation to these districts, providing water either from the Sarda river as expressed by Sir Louis Danc in February 1913 on the occasion of his visit to Hissar or by connecting the Sutlej and the Jumna or by utilising some other source of water as the expert engineers of the Government may advise.

"But, Your Honour, however meritorious our services may be and however full of solicitude for the welfare of its subjects the Government may be, the unsophisticated simple fact remains that all true happiness and elevation must come from within as a result of the harmonious co-operation of the different departments and sections of the body politic. It must be patent to every acute observer that public spirit and public opinion in the Punjab are growing in force and volume and all public questions receive more attention than they did previously. But the full measure of usefulness and force of public opinion is restricted by sectarian and denominational overzeal in advancing particular interests, and occasions are not wanting when particular sects, creeds and religions sue the Government for preferential treatment. This sectarian and class selfishness cannot but act as an obstacle to our national progress and not unusually puts the Government in an awkward position giving just cause for complaint to less favoured communities.

[*Pandit Jawahar Lal, Bhargava.*]

" Even yesterday my friend Hon'ble Chaudhri Lal Chand laid great stress upon the special claims of the agricultural classes in many respects, specially public services, and using strong innectines against the much unjustifiably maligned money-lending class remarked that the Punjab Land Alienation Act was not sufficient to protect them from the ravages of that class. Though I do not hold any brief for that class, yet as I have to come into contact with them in my every day life and know their grievances, I shall be voicing their true feelings when I say that they are labouring under many disadvantages on account of the Punjab Land Alienation Act and experiencing good many difficulties in following their ordinary avocations and realising their just debts on account of the often much abused so-called basic principle of the Customary Law restricting the alienation of land in certain cases and the existing provisions of the Provincial Insolvency Act, which are frequently used by dishonest debtors to deprive the creditors of their just demands. They are thankful to Your Honour for the recommendations made for the amendment of that Act in material particulars and are eagerly waiting for the day when they will be placed on the anvil of the Imperial Legislative Council. Personally, however, I think that with the Government policy of strict impartiality and 'equal opportunities for all' the most significant phrase used by His Excellency the Viceroy, this clamour for special rights and privileges will be considerably discouraged, and the true solution of all difficulties, and the panacea for all the ills to which the flesh is subject must be sought in education. It is true, Your Honour, that the necessities of the Punjab are varied and many, yet I wish to submit with all the emphasis at my command that no head is so important as head No. XXII, for if this head is sound, it reflects well upon the others, and fructifies in many ways for the benefit of the rest. Education is the crying need of the country. The Punjab is thankful to the Indian Government for the recurring grant of 1½ lakhs for the improvement of the pay and training of teachers. The expenditure under this head amounted in 1915-16 to Rs. 44,10,000, and excluding the Imperial grant from the budgetted expenditure for the year 1917-18, there is only an increase of Rs. 47,000, which is not even commensurate with the ordinary growth of expenditure of other departments.

" Your Honour, it is thus apparent that the allotment for education from Provincial revenues is not adequate. I am fully conscious that war is the prime necessity of the moment, and I, therefore, do not say all this in a complaining spirit, but I fervently hope that in time to come the claims for education in the Punjab will receive more generous recognition. Even at this juncture the Government of the United Kingdom is providing for £52,20,000 above the last year's budget to remove the deficiencies in education (as would appear from the London telegrams of 19th and 20th instant) and thus in a country where education is the undoubted heritage of one and all. Here every year it is a sad spectacle to see the portals of colleges and schools closed to students banking after knowledge for want of accommodation. A new Training College, a new Government College, more normal schools, and secondary and primary schools, and liberal scholarships for research and female students are the pressing educational needs of the Province.

" It needs no arguments to prove that in view of the high rate of mortality and very insanitary surroundings, improvement of sanitation and public health calls for special efforts. A comparison of the actuals in 1915-16 regarding head No. 24 with the Budget for 1917-18 in which it appears as XXIV (a) and XXIV (b) would establish that Rs. 94,000 less than the actuals of 1915-16 have been provided for the year 1917-18, and this does not appear to be satisfactory. In this connection I would suggest that, in view of the deficient supply of medicines from foreign countries and costly nature of the allopathic treatment, the indigenous Ayurvedic and the Unani systems should be encouraged as the habits and temperaments of the people have special affinity to them.

[*Pandit Jawahar Lal, Bhargava.*]

The diffusion of hygienic knowledge and increase in the number of itinerant dispensaries are matters to which I would also invite the attention of the Government.

“Agriculture is the chief source of income of the Provincial revenues and on it depends the welfare of the great bulk of the community. In order to ensure the future welfare of the increasing population and to secure larger and better returns for the labour on the soil, agricultural improvement is essential. The well-earned grant of Rs. 10,70,000, which the Indian Government has been pleased to place at the disposal of the Punjab Government, has placed us in a happy position in this respect, and I hope this money will be utilized for establishing demonstration farms, seed stores and provision of improved implements of agriculture for hire and loan to peasants. I trust that diffusion of scientific agricultural knowledge also will be provided for in the scheme.

“Before taking up the next subject I must say a few words about the Lahore Veterinary College which the Hon'ble Mr. Townsend was kind enough to show to the non-official Members this morning. The Members are thankful to him and the Principal and his staff for the trouble they took in showing everything important connected with it; the Members were simply delighted to see the magnificent building, the splendid library, laboratory, operation and other rooms. It is an institution which the Province may well be proud of. If funds permit any money that may be spent on its further improvement and the betterment of the condition of the Veterinary Assistants will be an expenditure in the right direction, as such tends to spread accurate constitution and scientific knowledge about the diseases and treatment of animals, some of which are necessary for agricultural purposes also.

“The prosperity of every country largely depends upon the state of its industries and trades. The Punjab is extremely backward so far as manufactures are concerned. The cottage industries and town handicrafts and trades are also in the process of decay. The people expect the Government to do the pioneer work of starting new industries and reviving of old ones. The war conditions have afforded opportunities for capturing some industries which were previously monopolised by foreign countries. The Dye Industry should be specially encouraged as the raw material for it can be found in abundance in the Province.

“The cotton-weaving industries which were attached to every town and village in even the first decade of the present century are fast disappearing, and every effort should be made to retrieve them. The Wazirabad Outlery, the Gujrat and Ludhiana cloth, the Multan rug and enamel, the Amritsar shawl, the brass wares of Panipat and Rewari and many more industries deserve encouragement at the hands of the Government.

“There is one point more which I would urge upon Your Honour's special attention. The increase under the head of Excise cannot but be viewed with great concern and anxiety. Ordinarily when the troops have gone out, this head should have showed a decrease in income. The increase under this head (license and distillery fees and duties for sale) by full seven lakhs cannot be satisfactorily explained on the score of the check of illicit distillation. It is undeniable that the drinking habit is on the increase.

“If prosperity and increase in drinking are to go hand in hand, the temperance movement and the various measures adopted by the Government with a view to check this evil, it must be admitted, have proved ineffectual to cope with the evil, and it is, I respectfully submit, the bounden duty of the head of the department to take more vigorous and drastic steps to check this pernicious and growing habit. When the very prosperous and rich countries

[*Pandit Jawahar Lal, Bhargava ; Raizada Bhagat Ram.*]

like England, United States of America, France, Russia, etc., are reducing the consumption of liquor it is high time that India, a comparatively much poorer country to whose nativity this liquor habit is foreign, should take effective steps to crush this insidious demon of drink. I would suggest that the sale of liquor at the fairs should be forthwith discontinued, consumption on the licensed premises prohibited, and heavy import duties be imposed.

“ The recent changes in the allotment of grants to District Boards which dispense with the earmarking of the purposes of the grant and secure to District Boards full powers to spend the same in the way they deem proper, are much appreciated and the District Boards must feel grateful to the Government for the changes, and I hope that the Government will be pleased to extend the same principle to the grants to Municipal Committees.

“ Among the many commendable features of the administration of the Punjab during the year, not the least important, is the campaign instituted by the Government against bribery and corruption in the public services. The noble words of Your Honour's proclamation inviting co-operation of the public in the matter carry conviction of the prospective purging of the public services from this evil.

“ The Province is grateful to Your Honour for the salutary action taken by the Government in the matter of enrolment and settlement of the criminal tribes and establishment of schools and industrial homes for them.

“ Before I resume my seat I pray to Almighty Father that He in His Divine dispensation may be pleased to soon terminate this terrible war and restore peace and grant comfort to bleeding and oppressed humanity and victory and glory to the British and Indian Arms.”

The Hon'ble Raizada Bhagat Ram :—“ Your Honour,—I have no special remarks to offer with respect to the Budget. Last year in my speech I referred at some length to the circumstances of peculiar difficulty under which the Hon'ble the Finance Member had to frame the Budget Estimates. We all acknowledged the skill and labour with which he adjusted the finances to make the two ends meet. Your Honour, this year the task of the Hon'ble Mr. Lumsden has been still more difficult. How well he has performed it we all know and fully appreciate. I have no doubt that all the Hon'ble Members will agree with me that the Hon'ble the Finance Member is entitled to the best thanks of the Council for the admirable manner in which he has prepared the Budget this year.

“ Your Honour, while on the subject of the Provincial Budget, I should like to refer to the recent Imperial Budget. The Hon'ble Sardar Gajjan Singh has referred this subject briefly. Though with the whole of the Budget we are not concerned here, but one of the items in it concerns us intimately. I refer to the enhanced duty on imported cotton fabrics. Punjab is expected to play no inconsiderable part in the supply of cotton goods, and the increase in the duty is naturally of great interest to us. The raising of the duty on imported cotton goods from 3½ per cent. to 7½ per cent., though it has raised a feeling of dissatisfaction in Lancashire, has been one of the most popular items of the recent Imperial Budget. It is an almost impossible task for any of the items on the revenue side of a budget to please even a single class of men in any country. But to Sir William Meyer belongs the unique distinction of having introduced an item which is popular, not only with a class or two of the country, but with all the classes. The mercantile community which deals with imported goods are pleased that all the imported goods are not treated alike and that no unnecessary partial treatment is accorded to cotton goods. Though the excise remains, the Indian cotton mill industry is pleased that the biddings of Lancashire are no more to be the laws to the Government of this country,

[*Raizāda Bhagat Ram.*]

and it has given them hope that as soon as the financial strain caused by the war is eased the question of excise on cotton will be reconsidered. The educated class all over India are pleased that in introducing this item into the Budget the Government of India have taken the first step towards the realization of the ideal of fiscal autonomy for India.

"Your Honour, the next subject on which I may be permitted to say something is the continued success of the British Arms in Mesopotamia and the Western Front. It is a cause of great rejoicing to us all and I hope the end is not far distant. We are still as determined as ever to see the war through to a victorious conclusion, and we honestly feel that no cost can be too great for realizing this.

"Your Honour, in connection with the war I would like to make a few remarks about the War Loan. We are all pleased that the success in raising the loan has been not at all unsatisfactory. But I feel that more subscriptions would be forthcoming if the advantages of the loan could be advertised more widely and in a more popular manner. The two things that a man looks for when investing his money are the rate of interest and the credit of the borrower. The War Loan provides for both these requirements in an admirable manner. Thus apart from all other considerations of duty to the country, and the obligation towards the Government, the War Loan is a very good business investment. I am confident that the adoption of judicious and effective means of bringing it to the notice of the public would materially increase the amount raised, and we all promise our whole-hearted help in raising a larger sum.

"I may add that the idea of Government raising loans is not yet quite familiar to the oriental mind, and that is a reason why the people at large do not realize as fully as they should that it is a good sound investment. Of course the benefits of the loan should be fully explained to the people in order to popularize its remunerative conditions. But in doing so it is absolutely necessary to avoid excessive zeal in canvassing, more especially on the part of the subordinate officials, which is likely to give rise to misunderstanding and thereby prejudicially to affect the prestige of the Government.

"Akin to this is the subject of the Defence of India Force. Your Honour, I wish to record my deep sense of gratitude to the Government for instituting this force. That Indians of all communities should be allowed to serve in the Army for the defence of their mother land was a long and cherished desire with them, and the opening offered by the Defence of India Force should go a long way towards satisfying their aspirations. I hope I am not too optimistic in thinking that the privilege of serving in the Defence of India Force would in the near future be extended into one of admission into the higher ranks of the regular Army and into one of free admission into the Volunteer Corps.

"Next, Your Honour, I may be allowed to touch briefly the subject which I discussed at some length last year, *i.e.*, the Administration of Criminal Justice. I then pointed out some of the defects in the trials of cases. I regret that these defects have not been removed to an appreciable extent during the year. But in duty bound I must express the sincere thanks and gratitude of the whole Province to Your Honour for the determined steps Your Honour has taken in checking bribery and corruption in public service and the wholesome effects these measures are having on the administration of justice in the Punjab.

"On the subject of Education I do not wish to say much. This is a subject the importance of which cannot be sufficiently exaggerated, but the subject has been discussed by my Hon'ble colleagues in the Council at length. I am also aware that the exigencies of the war do not at present permit Government to increase the expenditure on Education to any substantial

[*Raizada Bhagat Ram ; Rai Bahadur Ram Saran Das.*]

extent. But I wish to say one word. After the close of the war the question of the establishment of Government colleges is sure to engage the attention of the Government, the present college accommodation being quite insufficient for the expanding needs. When that question is under the consideration of the Government I hope that the suitability of the Bist Doaba for a new college will be borne in mind. There are about a dozen high schools in the Bist Doaba, and a college located at Jullundur is sure to prove exceedingly useful and popular.

"In conclusion, I may refer to another matter for which our thanks are due to Your Honour. Last year a suggestion was made in the Council that the Finance Committee be raised to its maximum strength. Your Honour was pleased to accept the suggestion and the Committee has been enlarged. The Hon'ble the Finance Member thought that an enlarged Committee might not conduce to efficiency, but I hope that he has found that his fears were groundless."

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Ram Saran Das :—" Your Honour,—During the last eight years our annual Provincial revenues have increased from Rs. 3,52,15,000 to Rs. 5,07,43,000. Even during the times of the greatest war the world has ever seen our general revenues have year after year been growing. This prosperous state of affairs is mainly due to peace and to our grand irrigation system, for out of the total increase of Rs. 1,55,38,000 during this period, the Irrigation Department alone is responsible for an increase in revenues for Rs. 60,41,000. This increase in our revenue is therefore chiefly due to the Government policy of irrigation expansion. The best thanks of the entire public are consequently due to the Punjab Government for inaugurating and carrying out this policy. At the same time the Irrigation Department is to be congratulated for the tact and ability with which they have been for the last two or three years administering the business side of the department. In 1915-16 the expenses of the department absorbed almost 43 per cent. of the total revenues. Now the matters have much improved, and in the Budget the expenses are proposed to be a little more than 38 per cent. of the total revenues. For this economy in their department, I offer my congratulations to the Irrigation Department. But, Your Honour, working the department from a purely business point of view should not be the chief aim of the Government. Commercial consideration should not wholly occupy our attention in the administration of the departments worked by State. Complaints are very often received that as scope for irrigation expands the amount of water distributed on older lands becomes less. This process of diminishing water-supply to older cultivators goes on uninterruptedly and consequently crops on these lands have to suffer. Your Honour, this policy increases no doubt the revenues of the department, but, at the same time, it is not conducive to the well-being and contentment of the cultivators, promotion of which is undoubtedly one of the chief aims of the Government. I am sure a sympathetic ruler like Your Honour will take early steps to remove such complaints wherever they exist.

"While on the subject of irrigation, Your Honour, may I by your permission make one more suggestion? The Sidhnaï Canal, though counted among major works of irrigation, is generally running only for a part of a year. If this canal could be made perennial, the tract irrigated by it can be greatly developed. Now since Lower Bari Doab Canal has been completed, it would be very easy, as it has already been proposed, at a small cost of about 5 lakhs to cut a channel from here and throw it into the Sidhnaï Canal. By this means all complaints about a scarcity of water and consequent failure of valuable crops in the colony served by this canal would be removed. If timely steps be not taken to make this canal a perennial one, I fear large number of cultivators on this canal will desert in favour of Lower Bari Doab Canal owing to uncertainty of water-supply.

[*Rai Bahadur Ram Saran Das.*]

"Coming to economical working of the Land Revenue Department, Your Honour, I beg to submit that the way in which the amounts of land revenue due to irrigation are transferred to head Irrigation leads one to think that these sums are earned by the Irrigation Department and are consequently not to be credited to land revenue. This procedure is naturally misleading to the general public, for it leads them to infer that these sums are not to be taken as land revenue. As regards the expenditure side, I beg to submit that my figures related to the sub-head 'Charges for district administration' under head '3—Land Revenue.' These charges actually increase by over 12 per cent. in 1915-16 as compared with 1909-10, and have increased to 15·7 per cent. in the proposed Budget. This tendency, I again urge, should be checked.

"While on the subject of land revenue, I desire to convey the best thanks of the people to Your Honour for the way in which your Government has tried to solve the intricate questions that had arisen in connection with the Kangra settlement. We are very grateful to Your Honour for the assurance your Government has given that Lyall's settlement with respect to trees and waste lands will not be disturbed, and I hope these assurances, in order to allay public feelings, will be practically given effect to as early as possible.

"Allied to this question of land revenue is the question of improving methods of agriculture, our premier industry. Under Your Honour's Government this department has developed very much, for when Your Honour assumed the high office of the Head of the Government of this Province agricultural expenditure stood at Rs. 2,73,000. In the first year of Your Honour's administration the expenses rose to Rs. 3,72,000, and in the next year Rs. 5,18,000. This expenditure is still rising and the new Budget has provided for an expenditure under this head amounting to Rs. 6,59,000. Over and above this the profits of the Government of India wheat scheme, amounting to Rs. 1,07,000, are also proposed to be spent for the improvement of agriculture. All these measures are bound to increase greatly the methods of agriculture in this Province. For bringing about such results the best thanks of the people are due to Your Honour and to the Hon'ble Mr. Townsend. But in devising means for improving these methods I need hardly point out to a ruler like Your Honour that the circumstances and special conditions of this country should always be kept in mind. Yesterday in answer to my question as regards the expenditure of Rs. 10,70,000 profits from wheat scheme, it was stated that a portion of this sum will be spent in 'the provision of machinery for reclamation work on a large scale, by steam cultivation and other methods, of arrears of land in the Lower Bari Doab Colony, which are at present unculturable.' Your Honour, there can be no objection to money being spent on small experiments; and machinery for reclamation of land on a small scale is already in the possession of Agricultural Department, which to some extent was used on the Narwala Farm experiments. But the proposal, if I rightly understand it, to purchase new machinery for the reclamation of two lakhs acres of land and other allied expenditure costing over 5 lakhs of rupees should be treated as a measure of productive work. The cost of this scheme, I submit, should not be provided for from the wheat profits, but should be met either from the general Provincial revenues or by borrowed funds. While on this subject, I also desire to convey thanks to the Government for what they have done in introducing the cultivation of American cotton and other improved staples in this Province. The experiment that I started for the cultivation of this crop some years ago have now succeeded fully, and I am glad to acknowledge that this success is entirely due to the encouragement I and others who followed me received in this matter from the Government.

"Your Honour, though agriculture is our premier industry, yet it is admitted on all hands that no country in the world can prosper by agriculture alone. Provision of diversity in occupation, and making one's country self-

[*Rai Bahadur Ram Saran Das.*]

sufficient in supplying, as far as possible, all the needs of the people, should be aimed at by all good governments. I am glad the British Government in India, now recognising the soundness of this policy, have for this purpose appointed a special commission to report in what manner the industry of India could be improved. Your Honour, in these days of scientific methods co-operation is one of the means by which large industries could be successfully established. In the case of agriculture the Government have recognised this fact, and have encouraged the establishment of a large number of co-operative societies for the benefit of agriculturists. In case of other industries no serious efforts have so far been made. Your Honour, the establishment of industries in this country on a sound footing is the most important problem to be solved. I am sure Your Honour's Government will take early steps to take into hand the task of establishing co-operative societies for industrial classes.

" Allied to this question of encouraging co-operation among industrial classes is the question of imparting technical knowledge required in different industries. Your Honour, increase in the number of industrial schools is the crying need of the moment. Pure literary education which is now being imparted to the masses does no longer provide bread to all of them. Scores and hundreds of those who possess only literary education are suffering for want of employment. In order to ensure the solution of this question of unemployment and to maintain contentment in this country, I am sure Your Honour would agree with me that early steps should be taken. The only way to solve this problem satisfactorily is, as has been said times out of number by His Excellency the Viceroy, by means of providing a diversity in occupation for the people. Divert people from the already congested profession of agriculture, draw out people from the over-crowded literary professions of law, medicine, and Government civil services under various departments and create new openings for them in industries, commerce, and military service. In order to do this no facilities at present exist for obtaining requisite technical knowledge. Your Honour, the one way by means of which happiness and contentment among the people can be established is to at once take into hand the task of opening a large number of technical, industrial, and commercial schools. I am sure a ruler like Your Honour realizes the importance of this question, and I am confident before Your Honour's term of office expires something will have been done to commence the work of giving industrial and commercial education to the masses. In this connection I would also urge upon the necessity and desirability of giving special encouragements to industrial concerns. Railway freights should be fixed in such a way as to afford encouragement to industries, and octroi tariffs should be so modified as to promote and develop industries.

" While on this subject of providing a diversity in occupation to the people, I desire to congratulate the Government for passing the Defence of India Force Act. This Act, I am sure, will open up new careers to the people of India, and the more people take to military career the less would become the congestion in the already over-crowded professions. I am confident the people of the Punjab will enlist in large numbers in the new Defence Force, and I hope the Government will make the conditions of enlistment easy and attractive, so that large number of people may offer themselves in the service of their King and country. I am sure commissions would also be granted to the deserving.

" Coming now to the special disabilities of our Province, I desire to congratulate Your Honour for the kind and sympathetic attitude you took in the last meeting of the Council in connection with the resolution moved by my Hon'ble colleague Rai Bahadur Bakhshi Sohan Lal. It was due entirely to the favourable attitude taken by Government that the non-official Members were able to pass a resolution for the establishment of an Executive Council in this Province. On this occasion by remaining neutral Your Honour's Government,

[*Rai Bahadur Ram Saran Das.*]

set an excellent precedent. Similarly, I am glad to observe that the Government, in deference to public opinion, has decided not to be in a hurry to give effect to the recommendations of the Royal Commission on Public Services, and, before moving in this matter, has given an opportunity to the people to make any representation they like against these recommendations. This is as it should have been, and for this the best thanks of the people are due to the Government.

“ Your Honour, there is another grievance from which the Punjab is especially suffering. In all bigger Provinces like Bengal, Madras, Bombay and United Provinces the local Councils have two representatives in the Imperial Council. In the Punjab this invidious distinction is greatly felt by the Punjabis. In the first place, it dubs the land of the five rivers with a certain amount of inferiority. In the second place, this arrangement has in a peculiar manner caused injustice to one great community, the Hindus. Since the Legislative Councils were enlarged, the non-official Members of the Punjab Council have five times being called upon to exercise their right of election to the Imperial Council. As mentioned in the last meeting of this Council by the Hon'ble Mr. Thompson, three times they have elected a Sikh and twice they have returned a Muhammadan. A Hindu has never been so far elected by the non-officials to represent them in the Imperial Council. Your Honour, this is a grievance the Hindus strongly feel. They do not grudge the election of a Muhammadan to the higher Council, but what they respectfully urge is the provision of an opportunity for themselves also to participate in this privilege. Your Honour, this can be assured if the non-official Members of this Council be allowed to return two representatives instead of one to the Imperial Council. In that case all the three great communities will by turns be able to have their representatives in the Viceroy's Council. Under the present regulations the Punjab returns three representatives to that Council,—one for the Muhammadan, one for the landowners, and one for the non-official Members of the local Council. Your Honour, if the nominated seat for Muhammadans, with which arrangement that community is admittedly not satisfied, be abolished and the representatives for the local Council, as suggested already, be increased from one to two, the difficulty would be solved. The Muhammadans by this arrangement can always secure for them an elected representative in place of a nominated one and Hindus also can have the chance to return a Hindu to the Imperial Council. The Muhammadan representative from Bombay in that Council is returned by the Muhammadan Members of the local Council. By the arrangements I have suggested the same can in a way be secured for Punjab Muhammadans, while it would at the same time remove a disability from which the Hindus of this Province are at present suffering. I am sure this can easily be done, and I am confident this arrangement should satisfy all parties.

“ Your Honour, there is another badge of inferiority which attaches to this Province. In all other Provinces Munsifs are members of the Provincial Service. It is only in this Province that they form a subordinate service in the judiciary. This is a great grievance for the members of this hard-work service. Already the most important portions of the civil work passes through their hands, and yet only a few of the ablest members of the service rise beyond Rs. 250 a month. Consequently such meagre future prospects in this service prevents the ablest men from entering into this line. Your Honour, in recognition of the hard work that usually falls to the lot of Munsifs, as well as in order to make this service sufficiently attractive for able men to enter, something should be done to improve the prospects of these officers. Your Honour, it would not be too much to ask if in future a much larger proportion of vacancies among Sub-Judges be recruited from among the Munsifs. If this were done, the future prospects of Munsifs would to some extent be improved, for then larger number of these officers would be able to enter Provincial Judicial Service.

[*Rai Bahadur Ram Saran Das ; Khan Sahib Mirza Muhammad Ikram Ullah Khan.*]

"In the end, though this is uppermost in the minds of us all, I beg to assure Your Honour that the Punjabis are always most eager to do all that lies in their power, in the service of their King and country. This eagerness has in the past been practically demonstrated in many ways, and in these days I am sure it is being illustrated in large recruitments for service abroad, and in the matter of raising a loan of victory for carrying on the great war in which our Empire is at present engaged. Though the land of five rivers is a poor Province, yet barring the Presidency towns of Bombay and Calcutta, it has beaten in this matter of raising loan all Provinces of India.

"Your Honour, during these times of stress and strain I also beg to congratulate your Government for the effective measures they have taken in the suppression of crime and in taking into hand the task of reclaiming criminal tribes. Your Honour's Government is also to be congratulated for the peace and prosperity that has been maintained during these troublous times in the Province, in spite of disturbances among the border tribes.

"Your Honour, I also beg to invite your attention to the fact that the recent decision of the Government to stop supplying copies of the proceedings of other Legislative Councils in India to the Members of this Council has been felt greatly. If cost stands in the way of supplying these reports to the Members of this Council. Your Honour, I desire to point out that the Hon'ble Members of this Council are quite willing to pay for those reports if need be.

"In the end, Your Honour, I beg to convey the grateful thanks of the public for the paternal and sympathetic attitude of the Government towards the Indian Cotton Industry in dealing recently with the matter of Import Cotton Duties."

The Hon'ble Khan Sahib Mirza Muhammad Ikram Ullah Khan :—

"Your Honour,—Since our meeting of the 13th March 1917 was auspiciously opened with the happy intelligence of the capture of Baghdad, the news of victories of the British Arms and of those of our Allies have been pouring in from all sides, and the end of the war does not now seem very far. The latest news from France, which can properly be called the seat of the war, are most reassuring, and the pressing advances of the British and French forces gaining ground after ground and capturing situation after situation and taking prisoners in tens of thousands, together with considerably large amount of munition, brings the decisive and final victory nearer. The brilliant successes that our Indian armies have recently achieved in Mesopotamia have not only secured an everlasting safeguard for our country against any outside danger but have also proved to the world what stuff and calibre the Indian warriors are made of and how they are ever ready to sacrifice their lives in the cause of their King and country.

"Your Honour, it is no use to repeat over and over again what part the Punjab has taken in this war. Suffice it to say that the word 'Indian Armies' had better be replaced with the word 'The Punjab Armies,' as the Indian armies are mostly made up of the Punjabis: 61 per cent. of the whole is not an inconsiderable proportion. Besides that, 63 per cent. of the total number of recruits enlisted in India, having been sent from the Punjab, is not a small contribution to be lost sight of. This Province has also made signal successes in the matter of labour corps, sarwans, mule-drivers and others, and in providing aeroplanes and contributing towards the Imperial Relief Fund. The wonderful successes that the Punjab has recently made in the War Loan has brought praise for herself from all sides. With the exception of Bombay and Bengal this Province continues to be foremost of all other Provinces in India. Your Honour, it is a source of gratification for all concerned. After all this, will any body ever say in future that the Punjab is a

[*Khan Sahib Mirza Muhammad Ikrām Ullah Khan.*]

backward Province? The removal of this stigma from the name of the Punjab is all due to the tactfulness and geniality of Your Honour, and it is not only a matter of congratulation but also of deep gratefulness, to Your Honour. For this and for other works that Your Honour has done for the amelioration of the condition of the people I can only repeat His Excellency Lord Chelmsford's words that history will record Your Honour as one of India's great Lieutenant-Governors.

"The Viceroy, in his Darbar speech, however, said that the Punjab was still somewhat backward in education, but the progress made in recent years was re-assuring. The progress is due mostly to increased private liberality in the promotion of schools and colleges and the increased enthusiasm in their management. But, notwithstanding all this progress, the masses in the Punjab are quite illiterate and the Province cannot be more forward in this respect until the primary education is made free first and then compulsory in due course. In my opinion, Your Honour, it is the clear duty of the Government to take more liberal step in this matter and help the private and local bodies in spreading free primary education in the country. It is at present the greatest need of the people, and I humbly represent it before Your Honour at this opportunity, taking advice of the Viceroy; who said only the other day at the garden party that it was most emphatically our duty to bring the needs of the people to the notice of Government. Your Honour has already endeared yourself to the people and your name is sure to go down to posterity if the system of free primary education is introduced in the Punjab during Your Honour's régime.

"It is a matter of satisfaction that the Government is anxiously considering the prospects of reviving the Indian industries and a commission is already investigating into the needs and the probabilities of manufacture of different articles in the country. The necessity for this has arisen since the commencement of the war, when the people found to their disadvantage that the import of their every day requirements, even to the needles and matches, was stopped. The country was quite helpless, when Japan promptly came to her relief. She has taken the opportunity by the forelock and has enriched herself at the neglect of this country in matters industrial. There is nothing in the shape of raw material which cannot be produced in the land of the five rivers, and the intelligence of the people to grasp mechanical knowledge and their fitness for practical work is already admitted. Then why, as said by His Excellency, should the Punjab not give lead to the rest of India in industries also as she has done in other matters? I can safely say that with the help of Government the Punjab can do everything that can possibly be done on the face of the earth. Shall we then have to wait for the report of the commission, proceedings of which have been suspended for some more important work, before we can take any action in the matter? Will it not then be very late, and perhaps too late?

"Your Honour, the majority Report of the Royal Commission is no doubt disappointing, and the whole country with one voice has raised a protest against it. The recommendations of the Commission, if carried out, will set the hands of the administrative clock several decades back. These are surely retrogressive and have caused a great heart-burning and irritation. Your Honour's Government has, however, done well in inviting public criticism on the proposals contained in the report and will doubtless consider them with a liberal mind. The people desire that the Government would take a forward step, and a liberal step, in the matter of reforms which are urgently needed in the country. Much water has flown down the Indian rivers since the Royal Commission sat for enquiry, and the reforms must proceed along with the change of time.

[*Khan Sahib Mirza Ikram Ullah Khan ; Khan Bahadur Sayad Mehdi Shah ; Mr. Maynard.*]

"One word more and I have done. His Excellency the Viceroy, in conclusion of his Darbar speech, reminded us of Your Honour's career approaching to an end, but I think it is too soon to think of that. There is still one full year, and, although there is a unanimous desire in the Punjab for an extension of Your Honour's term of office, the people hope that before laying down the reins of the Punjab Government Your Honour will accomplish as many reforms and grant as many boons to the Province as Your Honour may consider necessary in the welfare of the people, who will indeed be sorry to part with Your Honour when time comes, which, however, God forbid."

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Sayad Mehdi Shah :—"Your Honour, I had no mind to make any observations on the Budget, but as my friend the Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Ram Saran Das has referred to the question of another representative of this Council to the Imperial Council, I wish to clear one or two points. In the first place, if two representatives are granted to this Council, I would welcome it but the arrangement suggested by the Hon'ble Member is hardly called for.

"Your Honour, if up to this time no Hindu has been elected by this Council, it is the fault of the Hindus. All my Hon'ble friends are aware that last year Sardar Bahadur Sundar Singh promised to withdraw if the Hindus wished to elect a Hindu Jat, in whom all the Muhammadans and Sikhs agreed. But the Hindu Members would not accept an agriculturist as their representative on account of the Alienation of Land Act. The Hindus are hopelessly divided, and if my friend wants to have the grievance redressed, he should ask for a representative of the money-lending classes and not of Hindus generally."

The Hon'ble Mr. Maynard :—"Your Honour, I belong to a Department which has been the subject of many criticisms, but I am one who welcomes such criticisms. I feel, however, that when Government and the critics are entirely at cross purposes, the criticisms are not so fruitful and valuable as otherwise they might be, and I should seek to so explain, in so far as it is possible to make an explanation within a short space, the position of Government that it might be possible for our critic to approach the subject in some measure from the same standpoint as we approach it ourselves. Now as it appears to be, the critics of the excise administration start with this assumption that when one believes that another man is doing something that is not good for him, it is right to step in and prevent him. Now supposing that this principle were to be applied somewhat outside the region of liquor duty, supposing that I should know a man who happened to have a habit of eating *pan*, and I were to tell the man who was in the habit of *pan*-eating—"This is an ugly habit. It makes your lips red and it is an undesirable astringent and you ought to give it up," would not that *pan*-eater be quite justified in replying me by saying—"We understand it is your habit that at a certain hour you smoke a cigar. The cigar has equally unpleasant results as *pan*, and it is equally bad, and you must give that up." Or, again, I might have a friend who is in the habit at a certain hour of the day of toning up his system by taking a small opium pill ; I might say to him—"I understand that you take opium. Opium-eating is a very bad thing, and you must give up that practice," but he would perhaps reply to me—"We hear that after lunch you are in the habit of taking a cup of coffee which is a narcotic. So you ought to give up that practice." Is it not a fact that we both of us in both these cases are to a large extent in the wrong, and that where we would be wrong would be just when we are assuming that, because we personally hold a particular view about a particular practice ; that practice is necessarily on that account to be altogether condemned. Is there not after all something in the principle of liberty allowing a man to select for himself that which he will do and that which he will not do, and so long as he does not exceed in a manner which brings

[*Mr. Maynard.*]

annoyance to his fellow-men, are we justified in interfering with him? I like many men of my race have been brought up in an atmosphere in which from the early youth we have been told that we must not tell our brother to take out the mote in his own eye until we have plucked out the beam in our own. We have been warned also from our youth onwards that we must not compound for the sins one is inclined to by damning those one has no mind to.

" Here, then, is the first point of difference between the critics of Government and the Government itself. The critics assume that one must necessarily determine what is good for others and that one must necessarily endeavour to force that decision upon them. Government, on the other hand, takes a different view. It is not disposed to condemn one habit more than another, and it desires to leave to the people within certain limits the right of determining the habits to which they adhere. But the difference between the critics of Government and Government causes some disappointment to those critics of Government who assume that there is one method always efficacious to prevent that to which you wish to put an end. They assume that legal prohibition is inevitably efficacious in stopping that against which it is directed. Now those who are administrators know that legal prohibition is by no means necessarily efficacious in stopping a particular practice. They know that an attempt at legal prohibition may even be attended by very serious disadvantages and by oppression and harassment to the people against whom it is directed. In this particular instance, the question of prohibition lies at the bottom of all criticisms, because it seems to be assumed by most that it is only necessary to close shops and prohibit liquor in order to have liquor drinking stopped. In this criticism there is a difficulty which is ignored by most of the critics of Government. The difficulty lies in this that raw materials from which liquor is made lies scattered from one end of the Province to another, and it is the simplest thing in the world for a man to make his liquor for himself if he is unable to purchase it in a shop. For this reason it is not a feasible practice, even if Government considered it desirable to stop liquor drinking entirely, because materials for illicit distillation are everywhere at hand. It is true that many classes in this country are not always particularly well off, but there are times, harvest times and so on, when they find that they have money in their pockets. Now those of us who have the good fortune to have opportunities of refining our tastes and have occupations and amusements of a different type are not tempted when we have money in our pockets to indulge in practices which may possibly lead us to undesirable excesses. That is our good fortune, but those who have not had those same advantages are extremely likely to spend their money on liquor, and this is the reason of that very close inter-connection between good harvests and drinking which more than one Member, who have spoken before this Council on the subject, has believed to be non-existent. There is no doubt at all that after good harvests those who do not know in what other manner their money is to be spent are extremely apt to find an outlet in indulgence in drink. In these circumstances, it is quite obvious that the right policy to follow is the policy of making it difficult for these people with money in their pockets to get as much liquor as they might otherwise get. Accordingly the policy of Government of raising the prices to the highest possible pitch is the policy which does offer the best chance of reducing liquor drinking. I have, it is true, heard this criticism also on the subject of raising the prices that it is hard that a poor man should pay so much for his indulgence, and this very criticism I heard from the lips of one who had just been deprecating the drink habit. I do not think it is necessary to dispose of arguments such as these. Granted that it is desirable to diminish drinking, and this is the accepted policy of Government that it is desirable to keep an individual from excess and the total consumption so low as possible, the best way of achieving that result is to raise the prices, and the prices should be raised by increasing the taxation. For these reasons quite

[*Mr. Maynard ; Mr. Fagan.*]

recently the still-head duty on liquor has been raised from Rs. 5 to Rs. 6-4-0 per gallon, with the result that in the year which followed that rise the consumption of country spirit fell by something like 13 per cent. That diminution, however, was not continued in the following year, and it is for that reason that we have an increase again in consumption which has been the subject of a good deal of criticism by Members of this Council. Side by side with these measures for increasing prices, there are others: it will take too long to attempt to give details, and I shall only draw attention to one particular measure which it seems to me the Hon'ble Members have not realised is actually in practice, and which, I think, offers very great hopes of a real and efficient agent for achieving that result which they have at heart; that is to say, in certain districts, beginning with the great drinking district of Ferozepore, including also part of Ludhiana and including also now part of Gurdaspur, a system has been introduced of selling liquor in sealed and closed bottles for consumption off the premises only. That measure in my opinion does offer a hope of achieving this result. Under those conditions there will be only that amount of drinking which a man contemplates when he enters a shop, and there will not be those added incitements given by lingering and loitering in the shop which may make a man take more than he originally intended to take. It would be reasonable to ask why, if there is this admirable system available, is it that it is not more widely extended; well, the answer to this is, Government acts steadily and cautiously, it watches the results of its experiments before it extends them too widely, and it has regard to certain practical conditions and certain practical difficulties which only close study of a subject enable it to ascertain. In this particular case the system is a new one. It has been in force for the last two or three years, and it has been steadily and gradually extended. At the present time it is possible it may be extended further, but owing to war conditions it is uncertain to what extent. A sufficient supply of glass bottles may or may not be available, and if we were to start an experiment of this kind and then could not supply bottles in which liquor could be sealed, the situation would be a very difficult one.

" I have covered more ground than I intended to cover. I am entirely at one with my critics, and I do hope most sincerely that the result of this and other measures may be to prevent new drinkers from taking to this habit. This is my own personal opinion. Because I think drink is not a very good thing and because I do not myself drink, I am not prepared to say that other people should not be allowed to decide the question for themselves. In fact I feel inclined in this matter to put to the critics a question which Shakespeare puts in the mouth of a man of the world in addressing a certain Puritan—

' Dost thou think because thou art virtuous, there shall be no more cakes and ale. ' "

The Hon'ble Mr. Fagan :— " Your Honour, there are only two points which I need notice in the remarks that have been made by Hon'ble Members.

" Rai Bahadur Ram Sarn Das introduces the point, perhaps that arises out of the question which he asked yesterday; he just remarked that the transfer of a certain amount of land revenue to head Irrigation is misleading. The matter is perhaps one with which the Hon'ble the Finance Member is more competent to deal than I am, but as it is concerned with land revenue I hope he won't mind my referring to it. The practice has been in force for great many years. I do not think there has been any complaint before. Its object is to show or place in a more clear light the financial results of our big irrigation canals. The process consists in transferring to the head Irrigation that amount of land revenue which is calculated roughly to be due to the construction and working of our irrigation canals. It is made up

[*Mr. Fagan ; Mr. Richey.*]

mostly of those cases in which canals serve the tracts where but for canal irrigation there would have been practically no cultivation and therefore no land revenue. It is therefore obvious that but for this arrangement we should not be in a position exactly to estimate the financial results of canals.

“ One other point to which the Hon'ble Member referred was what he characterised the somewhat undesirable increase in the cost of district administration which he says has increased by 12 per cent. since the year 1909-10. Well, in this connection, it seems to me sufficient to point to the fact that various administrative developments are frequently urged upon Government, such as increase in education, in agricultural developments and in various other directions. These must necessarily increase the pressure on what is after all the fundamental unit of administration in this country, *i.e.*, the district staff by which the district is run. If you increase the pressure on your foundation, surely it is necessary to add something to the material on which that pressure is to work. Then besides that we have large increases in cultivated areas due to irrigation canals to which I have referred. So great has been the expansion and is likely to be in the near future that it has become necessary to carve out new districts. In these circumstances surely some increase in the cost of district administration is not only inevitable but indispensable.

“ I do not think, Your Honour, there are any other points in the remarks which have been made by the Hon'ble Members to which I need refer or which fall in my Department.”

The Hon'ble Mr. Richey :—“ Your Honour, the Hon'ble Members will, I am sure, forgive me for the brevity of my remarks hardly commensurate with the importance of the subject I am dealing with and the interest which has been taken by the Hon'ble Members this morning. They are all aware that I have only recently come to the Province and I do not feel that on many questions which they have raised to-day I can speak with any authority.

“ In the first place, as regards the financial question, several speakers have criticised the amount provided in the budget. I must say that on looking through the budget,—and I have been studying it,—I was not disappointed. At the present time we can hardly expect a very large budget. I do not think funds under any head have been stinted, and with the recent grant from the Government of India for the training of teachers and the raising of salaries of private school teachers I think we should be able to do a good deal. The Hon'ble Members are no doubt aware that there is to be an Educational Conference during the next two or three days, and several of the questions which have been raised by them will be dealt with at this Conference. I should have been in a better position in the next meeting to answer some of the points.

“ In the first place, as to primary education on which two or three members have dwelt. They have pressed the claims of primary education. Primary education is managed by local bodies and Government provides them with a large part of the funds with which schools are started. There have been criticisms as to the method in which the money is distributed, and that is one of the questions which will be discussed on Saturday, and possibly some modification may be introduced. The Hon'ble Chaudhri Lal Chand suggested that it would be a good thing if we were to show separately in the budget what money was spent on primary education and what on secondary education. As a matter of fact 18 months ago the heading of grants to local bodies for education was sub-divided in the way suggested, but I am sorry to find that in practice it has not been possible actually to carry out the sub-division. As he is probably aware large primary departments are attached to middle schools, and it would only lead to wrong impression if money were to be separately

[Mr. Richey ; Mr. Craik.]

shown under primary schools and middle schools. As a matter of fact the money spent in middle schools is largely spent on primary education.

"The Hon'ble Pandit Sheo Narain has criticised the present system of secondary education very largely. In the first place he has criticised the physique of our boys. Eighteen months ago the system of medical inspection in secondary schools was introduced in this Province. It is yet too early to say what the result will be, but I have no doubt it will lead to good results. He has also criticised the multiplicity of subjects in the curriculum. That is another subject that will be discussed at the Educational Conference.

"The Hon'ble Raizada Bhagat Ram and the Hon'ble Lala Ram Saran Das have talked about technical education. I hope they will excuse me if I say nothing on the subject, as within the short time I have been here I do not think I can say anything worth hearing.

"The Hon'ble Bakhshi Sohan Lal mentioned the case of education in the Kangra valley. I will not forget it, but I cannot say more than that at present."

The Hon'ble Mr. Craik :—"Your Honour, it is I think a somewhat noticeable feature of this debate that in the very wide range of subjects that have been dealt with there has not, so far as I have heard, been a single word of criticism against the various departments which I have the honour to represent in this Council, that is, Judicial, Jails, Forests and Police. I think Government is fairly entitled to take the credit for the absence of criticism, and in regard to the Police, it is not an unfair inference to draw that Hon'ble Members of this Council feel that they can endorse the very high praise which His Excellency the Viceroy bestowed upon the Police in the Darbar held the other day in Lahore, in which he spoke highly not only of the physique and discipline of the force, but also of the greater measure of public confidence which they command as shown by a steady diminution of the more serious forms of crime—a diminution which is largely due to the co-operation between the police and the public. I hope Hon'ble Members will agree with me that that is a tribute which is thoroughly well earned, and that they will endorse His Excellency's words.

"There are only one or two points raised during the debate which I wish to refer to. One remark was made by the Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Ram Saran Das and the Hon'ble Member from Ludhiana, the Hon'ble Sardar Gajjan Singh, to the effect, as I understand it, that extensions of irrigation necessarily connote a reduced supply on the older irrigated lands. I think that is the correct interpretation of the Hon'ble Member's remarks. I am not qualified to speak as an expert on irrigation, but the complaint is one commonly made in certain parts of the Province, and it happens to be most common in the districts watered by the Upper Bari Doab Canal. As a Settlement Officer I was continually hearing statements to this effect, and I spent a great deal of time going into the question to try and find out if there was anything in the allegation that the supply of the older irrigated lands had been reduced on the Upper Bari Doab Canal where large extensions of irrigation had taken place in the last 15 or 20 years. I never found any definite evidence. On a few distributaries I found that the amount of rice was less than it used to be, not that the amount of crops was less, but other crops such as maize had been substituted for rice, which is notoriously a crop demanding a large amount of water, and is also notoriously not a healthy crop. Apart from that I never could find any evidence that the outturn of the old irrigated fields had been decreased or that there was any other effect from the alleged curtailment of the supply of water. On the contrary, what evidence there was, was that in the districts of Gurdaspur and Amritsar the outturn of crops has substantially improved in the last 20 or 30 years. I do not say this is conclusive evidence, but such as it is, it has been my almost invariable experience that the outturns, as assumed in the older settlements

[Mr. Craik ; Mr. Thompson.]

20 or 30 years ago, are a great deal lower than actual experiments have shown to be the genuine outturn. In connection with this subject, I should like Hon'ble Members who represent the agricultural community to remember that, so far as our experience goes—and I think that other officers who have had similar experience will support me—the Punjab zamindar takes for his crop as much water, as he can get, and he never or very seldom pauses to reflect whether the 5th or 6th watering, as the case may be, will increase his outturn or not. He takes the water, and in a great many cases there is no doubt that he does his crop actual harm by doing so. Experiments have proved that the more economical use of water would tend to produce a larger outturn and would increase the productivity of the soil. That is a point to which very little public attention has been directed, but a series of experiments in the economical use of water is now in progress in the Punjab and other parts of India, and I hope the results will soon be published in a form which will be easily intelligible to the public at large. And without wishing to be pessimistic in tone, I trust Hon'ble Members will realise that, so far as one can foretell, the time is not far distant when the Punjabi zamindar must definitely realise that he can get just as good results, and that he must attempt to get just as good results, with a considerably smaller supply of water than he has at present, and given careful cultivation and the intelligent and proper use of water, his crops are bound to be as good as they are now, if not better. That was a subject which was discussed at the conference we held lately regarding the Upper Bari Doab Canal. It was generally held that there is no doubt that the use of water on that canal was, as a whole, extremely wasteful. At the same time the process of teaching the zamindar to make more economical use of water must be gradual, and the zamindar cannot be hurried in that any more than in other matters.

“There was one other point dealt with by the Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Ram Saran Das. He mentioned that in answer to a question he asked yesterday, he was told that a part of the profits of the wheat scheme was to be spent on the reclamation of bad land on the Lower Bari Doab Canal. I am afraid the Hon'ble Member did not read the answer or listen to the answer very attentively. The Director of Agriculture, who replied, was careful to say that possibly a certain portion of these profits might be spent on this reclamation scheme. The decision has not been definitely arrived at and it is not, so far as Government are aware, certain whether the scheme will be a commercial success, but if it is, I entirely fail to see what possible objection the Hon'ble Member can have to spending part of the wheat profits on that scheme. What better object could he suggest than the reclamation of a quarter of a million acres of land at present unculturable, not, I would ask him to note, for the benefit of any particular district or any particular class but land which will be allotted to all classes? I should have thought that of all the schemes under consideration by Government, this was the one that was best calculated to benefit the Province as a whole.”

The Hon'ble Mr. Thompson :—“Your Honour, there are few points in the speeches that have been made in the course of this debate that call for any remarks from me.

“The Hon'ble Sardar Bahadur Gajjan Singh has animadverted on the discontinuance of the supply of the proceedings of Councils of other provinces to non-official members of this Council. He has rightly surmised that this is due to the present scarcity of paper, but if it had been felt that the effect of these orders would be to deprive Hon'ble Members of all means of knowing what was going on in the Sister Councils of India, I can assure the Hon'ble Member that the order would never have been passed. As a matter of fact it was felt that all important questions and answers, all important debates and important speeches are reported in the daily Press, and that any member who wishes to

[Mr. Thompson.]

study the proceedings in greater detail can always obtain a copy in the Council Library. At the same time if the majority of non-official members feel that the sacrifice which they have been asked to make temporarily during the continuance of the present scarcity of paper is greater than they should be asked to make, having regard to the public interests, the orders will be reconsidered.

"I must congratulate the Hon'ble Sardar Bahadur Gajjan Singh and the Hon'ble Chaudhri Lal Chand on the persistence with which they have pressed the claims of the agricultural classes for employment in the Civil Departments of Government. At the same time the attitude that has been taken up by the Hon'ble Chaudhri is one which perhaps will not appeal so much to the generality of Members of the Council as the broader issue about the employment of agricultural classes as a whole. The Hon'ble Chaudhri has pressed the claims of the Jats, but I venture to think that what the Council will desire to consider is not so much the claims to employment of a single class of agriculturists in the Province, as the way in which increasing recognition is being given to their growing fitness for civil employment. On this subject I should like to refer to the answer which was given at the last meeting of this Council—

"The Lieutenant-Governor believes that there is no Province in India which can compare with the Punjab in the extent to which zamindars are employed in Government service from the rank of patwari and constable upwards."

"The figures given in my answer to a question asked by the Hon'ble Chaudhri Lal Chand will show that more than 20 per cent. of the Sub-Judges, 28 per cent. of the Munsifs and 50 per cent. of the Revenue Assistants are members of the agricultural classes, while nearly 40 per cent. of the whole Provincial Civil Service are agriculturists.

"It would be easy—as I said on that occasion—to multiply these figures. But I sometimes feel that information which is given in statistical form in answer to questions in this Council very often fails to produce any very clearly defined impression. The fact of the matter is that statistical information is really intended for the study and not for the Council Chamber and that statistics yield their meaning only to careful study. A tabular statement was given by the Hon'ble Mr. Fagan in reply to the question put by the Hon'ble Safdar Bahadur Partab Singh at the last meeting. That statement showed, as it was necessary to show if the terms of the question were to be complied with, the exact number of patwaris, kanungos and so on, now employed in the Province who belonged to agricultural tribes. Let me try to put these figures in terms of simple ratios. The statement given by the Hon'ble Mr. Fagan shows that of the patwaris, field and office kanungos, Tahsildars, Extra Assistant Commissioners and Zilladars at present employed in the Province no less than two-fifths or 40 per cent. are members of agricultural tribes, while among Naib Tahsildars the proportion is above 50 per cent. These, gentlemen, are the figures which, I think, will appeal to Hon'ble Members who are, as I have said, interested in the broader issue of the employment of agriculturists rather than in the narrower question which naturally appeals in a special sense to the Hon'ble Chaudhri Lal Chand.

"There is only one other point, Sir, to which I wish to allude. The Hon'ble Mirza Ikram Ullah Khan has congratulated Government on taking the public into their confidence in the matter of the Public Services Commission's Report. Government is going a step further than the Hon'ble gentleman is aware of. The Lieutenant-Governor has decided that as the Provincial Civil Service is very closely affected by the proposals of the Commission, the members of that service should be asked to nominate representatives, one for the Judicial and one for the Executive branch, who will advise Government on the proposals of the Commission which affect the service to which they belong.

[Mr. Lumsden.]

The Hon'ble Mr. Lumsden :—“ Your Honour, the interesting discussion we have had yesterday and to-day has covered a lot of ground, but there have been few direct attacks on the Budget, and I am obliged with what I must consider to be the forbearance of the non-official Members.

The Hon'ble Mr. Maynard has already dealt at some length with the question of Excise, but as the Hon'ble Malik Muhammad Amin has directly challenged the statement I made in the Financial Memorandum regarding the increase in revenue derived therefrom, I feel I must say a few words in self-defence. I feel some diffidence in doing this before an assemblage which consists so largely of minds trained in the niceties of argument, but I have at least the partial support of one of the legal members of this Council. I might perhaps put the position as I think it is in a syllogism if the Hon'ble Chaudhri Lal Chand will permit me to use his name in such a connection. I can assure him a syllogism is a most respectable thing. We might say for instance that the population of the Punjab is divided into urban and rural ; the statistics in connection with drunkenness show that there is no increase of drinking among the urban population, while the Hon'ble Chaudhri Lal Chand has assured us that there is no increase in the numbers of persons consuming liquor among the rural population ; therefore there is no increase in the number of people consuming liquor in the Punjab. I admit that the syllogism is not a perfect one because it is open to the Hon'ble Malik Muhammad Amin to declare that he does not accept the Hon'ble Chaudhri Lal Chand as a final authority. It is also open for him to say that statistics can be used to prove anything. He might even go as far as to say that the increase in drunkenness is due to the large increase in the number of consumers, which prevents any single man getting too much. But in case he is not prepared to accept this position, I might now briefly indicate the reasons which led to the statement I made. The statement runs as follows :—

“ There appear to be no grounds for supposing that, in spite of the efforts of temperance societies and reformers, and the various restrictions placed by Government on the sale at fairs, the liquor habit is spreading. The increased consumption appears to be due to the fact that habitual consumers, in consequence of the high prices of the kharif harvest, have been able to spend more money on this luxury.’

“ In the first place I must point out it is not a statement of fact. The statement is very carefully worded, it merely gives the results of all the calculations made on the subject. As regards the first part, that there appeared to be no grounds for supposing that the liquor habit had been spreading, the words were based upon the absence of any increased demand for the opening of shops in new areas, or even of increased demand for extra shops in the area already supplied. I have seen the reports of various temperance societies. There is nothing in any of the reports to indicate that the temperance reformers, who are presumably working in close connection with the subject, saw any reason to believe that the drinking habit was spreading. Then as regards the view that the increased consumption was due simply to the habitual consumers having extra money in their pockets, that result was based on a number of different factors. In the first place the figures of the previous year with which the comparison is made were exceptional figures. It is a well known fact that when there are poor harvests and money is not plentiful, experience has shown that the man who habitually or ordinarily consumes spirits is able, unlike the opium-eater, to reduce his consumption accordingly. In the second place there have been extra efforts made during the past year or so to reduce illicit distillation. There is no doubt that these efforts have the effect of driving a certain number of consumers of illicit liquor to take to liquor upon which

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duty has been paid, and consequently the revenue derived therefrom is increased. Further, as I have already mentioned, there has been a steady decrease in the number of convictions for drunkenness from which I think we may assume, to some extent at least, that there is no great spread of the drinking habit. There is another factor which also deserves mention, and that is, that owing to freightage and other difficulties connected with the war, the supplies of imported spirit have both been scarce and expensive, and it is probable that a certain number of persons who had been using the imported article have, for these reasons, been forced to consume the Indian made article instead. If all these factors be taken into consideration and a calculation be made as regards the whole number of consumers in the Province and a suitable reduction made for increased duties, I think it will be found that the actual increase is more apparent than real.

“ On the subject of education the Hon'ble Chaudhri Lal Chand took exception to the decrease in the number of grants-in-aid given to educational bodies. I think the Hon'ble Member was not a member of the last Council. Had he been, he would have understood the explanation. Just as in the case of the sanitary grants, regarding which I spoke yesterday, the Province received a certain sum of money from the Government of India as special education grants. At the end of 1915-16 only Rs. 9,000 of those grants had been left, and consequently the grants-in-aid for buildings are now entirely dependent on Provincial resources. The Hon'ble Members will easily understand that a loss of two or three lakhs per annum formerly available for this head must involve a certain reduction in expenditure.

“ One Hon'ble Member, I think the Hon'ble Pandit Jowahir Lal, had some similar remarks as regards the head Medical. He animadverted on the reduction under that head. Reduction however occurs only under the head Hospitals and Dispensaries, and is due to the fact that in the figure upon which the Hon'ble Member has relied there is an exceptional debit of Rs. 2,73,000 towards the King Edward Memorial Fund. That was a debit of quite an exceptional character, and if allowance be made for this exceptional item, it will be seen that the Budget for next year is rather higher than that to which the Pandit referred.

“ I do not think there are any other points of detail to which I need refer. The general position is on the whole satisfactory. We have been able to budget this year on a fairly generous scale, and we have a considerable provincial balance on which to fall back should any unforeseen troubles arise. At the same time it would be quite erroneous for the Hon'ble Members to go away with the idea that there is any amount of money to spare. The fact must not be overlooked that in our present income is included a very considerable portion of capital. There are large returns at present from the sale of waste lands and sites, and various things of that kind which are finite in character, and when that source of income is exhausted, it will be necessary to reduce expenditure or find some other methods of supplying the money. The non-official members will perhaps excuse me for saying that their attitude in the matter of finance seems to be somewhat inconsistent. On the one hand they urge extra expenditure under various heads, specially Education, Sanitation and the like, and on the other they desire to abolish the useful income under Excise, and also to curtail materially the head Land Revenue. I must say that in listening to yesterday's debate, it seemed to me that very few Hon'ble Members had really considered the financial aspect of the question at all. We are very largely dependent in this Province at the present time at least on the proceeds from the land, and if we were to sacrifice in any way our rights under that head, it would certainly involve very considerable curtailment of what the Hon'ble Members rightly regard as progressive expenditure. The heads that would have to suffer

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would certainly be those heads which are capable of large expansion. Incidentally I might mention, for the information of the Hon'ble Members who represent district boards, that had the Resolution yesterday been passed and carried into effect it would have had a very serious effect on district board finances, because, as Hon'ble Members are no doubt aware, the income of district boards is largely dependent upon the local rate which in turn is a fixed ratio on the land revenue. The Hon'ble Mr. Bhagat Ram had a few words to say about the War Loan. I can assure the Hon'ble Member that Government is extremely anxious to do all it can to secure subscriptions without the use of any sort of pressure, and that if the Hon'ble Member can oblige us with any suggestions, he can feel confident that they will be most carefully considered.

"No reference was made in the course of the discussion to the system under which the Financial Memorandum is prepared on the figures of the second edition instead of, as formerly, on the final edition. I presume therefore that members are satisfied with the change. It has, of course, the great advantage that it is possible to place the Memo. in the hands of members some days before the date of the first meeting, connected with the budget when the Financial Statement is presented, so that members may be able to gain information as to its contents. On the other hand, it has two disadvantages. In the first place it involves a certain amount of extra pressure on the Finance Department at a time when they are already working to the full extent of their powers, and in the second place if there is any change in the third edition, as occasionally happens, and as happened this year, the figures of the Financial Memo. do not correspond with the final revised statement. However, on the whole, judging by the absence of any comment on the question, I presume that members prefer that this new system should continue.

"In conclusion, I have only to express my thanks to the non-official Members who have been so kind as to offer me congratulations on the results of my labours. Even in normal times the position of the Finance Secretary during the cold weather is by no means a happy one, and during the last season when a lot of extra work was thrown upon him his lot was far from enviable. But I must remind Hon'ble Members that the Finance Secretary is very largely dependent on the assistance afforded him by his Under-Secretary and his office generally. As regards the Under-Secretary, Mr. Barry, who is new to his work and who consequently possibly had to do more research than a man with more experience would have had to do, I can only assure Hon'ble Members that if Mr. Barry had been a coolie in any of the mills in India the authorities controlling his employment would certainly have got into serious trouble. However, I feel that the way in which the Budget has been received will be some reward to him for all his hours of extra work, and I shall be careful to pass on to him his fair share of the kind remarks you have made."

His Honour the President :—

" I. — FINANCIAL SITUATION."

"GENTLEMEN,—I can join Hon'ble Members in contemplating the favourable financial results of the past year with the more satisfaction, because I am able to say to the Committee and particularly to the Financial Secretary 'I told you so.'

"The Committee may remember that last year when discussing the estimates I said if the Financial Secretary erred at all, he erred on the side of caution, and that as a Scotsman and a financier he had a double dose of that quality. I also told you that, though an optimist myself, especially where the Punjab is concerned, belonging to a nationality which has never shown much financial aptitude, I reluctantly deferred to his more sober views, but time

[*The President.*]

would show which of us was right. Well, time has shown that I was right. Our income has been 38 lakhs above and our expenditure 10 lakhs below what was anticipated, and we finished the year with the tidy surplus of 103 lakhs instead of the 55 lakhs estimated. Mr. Lumsden at the last meeting offered many good explanations for the large variations which no doubt have convinced many, perhaps most, of us that our good fortune is the result of a series of happy accidents.

2. "We may accept that, but we should also accept the proverb that 'Fortune favours the brave.' Anyhow for the coming year we have taken our courage in both hands and boldly budgetted for an income of 513 lakhs—4 lakhs above that of the year just closed and 24 lakhs above that of the preceding year. At the same time we have budgetted for an expenditure of 510 lakhs—40 lakhs above that of last year and 32 lakhs above that of 1915-16, which will leave us with a closing balance of 106 lakhs. That balance may appear large, but I am glad to say no Member has criticised it adversely, and in these days of War and sudden emergencies it is wise to have in reserve a big balance to exercise a steadying influence on the money market and enable Government to meet without serious embarrassment any unexpected calls, such as fodder freight concessions, compensation for dearness of grain, or large suspensions of land revenue.

"The budget proposals this year have been subjected to a very searching scrutiny by the Finance Sub-Committee which now contains 5 non-official Members, and I take this opportunity of acknowledging the value of their work, especially in the disposal of what is known as unallotted expenditure.

3. "Hon'ble Members have admitted that in our proposed expenditure of 503 lakhs we are making liberal provisions—considering the restrictions of War finance—for all the essentials of progressive administration. The chief gainer is the Public Works Department, Buildings and Roads Branch. The pre-war budget of that useful but much criticised Department—which as you know is now being tested in the fiery crucible of a special Commission—was 84 lakhs; last year it was cut down to 40 lakhs, and this year we have raised it to 54.

4. "Our growing solicitude for agriculture is evidenced by an increase from 12½ to 24½ lakhs, but as has been explained no less than Rs. 10,70,000 of this is a non-recurring assignment which we owe to the generosity of the Imperial Government in giving us half of the profits on the Wheat Export Scheme. That grant is a recognition of the part the Province has played in providing from the surplus some of the food supply of the Empire when at war: it is also a refutation of the cry that the Punjab has been denuded for the benefit of the United Kingdom, for as you are aware the export has been carefully limited and controlled, so that the Indian consumer should not suffer from an undue inflation of prices. The result of that wise policy is that while every country at war and nearly all neutrals are suffering serious hardship from the enormous increase in food prices due to reduced production and freight difficulties, our prices, in spite of two poor spring harvests in succession, are little above the normal. But to return to the subject of agriculture, which has been commented on by most speakers, I may explain that the expenditure of the special grant will be spread over two or three years and will be utilized on schemes of agricultural development for which the Province offers such scope, on the extension of agricultural education in the widest sense of the word, and the reclamation of waste lands which as the Hon'ble Mr. Craik has explained, will be of lasting benefit to the Province. After all, though we are looking forward to an era of industrial expansion in the near future when the Royal Commission on Industries has formulated its proposals, Arms and Agriculture must for many years continue to be our main industries. In the sphere of Arms His Excellency the Viceroy's public utterance in last week's

[The President.]

Darbar showed that we are easily '*primus in Indes*.' Our rural classes have an equal aptitude in agriculture, and our agricultural programme aims at giving effect to His Excellency's wise counsel and adopting the various steps for agricultural improvement. These are :—

- (1) The research of the Scientist, which is being carried out at the Lyallpur College and the various Experimental Farms.
- (2) Demonstration of the research results by the Agricultural Department through its demonstration farms by the issue of selected seed, by instruction in improved methods, and in the use of improved appliances.
- (3) The intelligent activity of the cultivator in bringing the seed sown by Science to fruition in the ground.

"The presence of the Director of Agriculture in this Council is only one of many indications of the earnest desire of Government to foster and organize our capital industry, and I am as anxious as he is that Hon'ble Members, many of whom are keen and practical agriculturists, should see for themselves what is being achieved at our College and Farms at Lyallpur, Hissar and Gurdaspur, and, when convinced by personal inspection of the soundness of our theory and practice, should preach the gospel of agricultural reform in their constituencies. I am sure it is gratifying to the Director to hear the testimony which has been paid to the admirable work that is being done in the Veterinary College which was visited by Members this morning.

5. "Education and Agriculture are often contrasted as if they were mutually hostile and inconsistent. Popular opinion, I should perhaps say popular prejudice, in certain parts of the Punjab still holds that a little learning is a dangerous thing for the man behind the plough, as it tends to make him despise manual labour or to unfit him for it. That is not the language of any Member of this Council, but it is often heard outside. I have never held with these views myself, though I admit some colour has been given to them in the past by the system of education in all stages from the Primary School to the University being too literary and too much divorced from the facts and practice of every-day life. To this defect are due the many and lamentable failures of our educational system who find themselves after years of study in the position of the unjust Steward in the Bible—'To dig I am unable, to beg I am ashamed.' The Council will be glad to hear that we contemplate a determined effort to reconcile education and agriculture. We propose to tackle the problem at the top and at the bottom,—at the bottom by making our primary schools more practical and more suited to agricultural needs and convenience—a matter which will come up for discussion at the Educational Conference to be held this week; at the top by affiliating the Lyallpur College, which is now doing such splendid work, to the Punjab University and by establishing a Faculty of Agriculture. The University has accepted the principle of the scheme and the details are now being worked out. A year hence, I hope to be in a position to say that the Faculty is established, the affiliation complete, and that agriculture has been raised to its proper status in the sphere of education to the great benefit of the University, which 'it will bring into closer touch with rural life and agricultural conditions, and to the great advantage of the educated classes who now seek and often seek in vain for a practical outlet for their abilities. Here I may explain in reply to a remark by an Hon'ble Member as to the difficulties placed in the way of acquisition of land by urban inhabitants owing to the Land Alienation Act and Pre-emption Act, that public auctions of Government land are periodically held at Montgomery, and that applications for purchase at market rates by private treaty can be made to the Financial Commissioner. I need say no more about education, except that apart from the liberal grants for buildings in the Public Works budget

[*The President.*]

it too benefits by our brighter financial outlook to the extent of some 4 lakhs, of which Rs. 1,70,000 represents the recurring Imperial grant for the improvement of the pay and training of teachers, and the proposed expenditure of 46½ lakhs far surpasses that of any previous year.

"I was also interested in hearing the remarks about free and compulsory primary education which fell from certain Members representing agricultural interests. I may point out, however, that in practice primary education in the Punjab is almost free at present and is certainly free for agriculturists. It is calculated that only between 10 and 15 per cent. of those attending primary schools pay fees, and the total amount paid in fees in primary schools falls short of a lakh of rupees per annum. Education is, therefore, at present almost practically free, and as regards making it compulsory, the position was examined some years ago. At that time local bodies—for primary education is in the hands of Local Bodies, though Government bears nearly two-thirds of the cost—were on the whole unfavourably disposed to the proposal. But Government will have no objection to having the matter ventilated again, and if certain Local Bodies think their local areas are suited for free and compulsory education and they are ready to undertake the responsibility of introducing it, Government will be willing to consider the question of giving effect to their wishes, but it would have to be satisfied that there was a strong majority of public opinion behind the proposal, and that the machinery for working it was adequate.

6. "Our Police budget for the year just closed showed a net addition of some 2½ lakhs for increasing the pay of the rank and file. That measure which met with the cordial support of Hon'ble Members has amply justified itself by giving us a more contented and efficient force whose services to the State and the public were the subject of a special and generous reference in His Excellency the Viceroy's Darbar speech. The success which attended that measure has encouraged us to go on with the ambitious scheme for the reformation and settlement of the criminal tribes. I referred at some length to that scheme at the September meeting, and need not go over the ground again. Since then the Government of India have sanctioned our proceeding with the scheme. We have provided Rs. 2,30,000 in this year's budget and a good beginning has already been made. The nomad criminal tribes have been registered and restricted for the present to the areas in which they were found on 5th January. Some 500 families have already been established under Government supervision at the Dhariwal Mills, where the Company is providing them with remunerative labour, and some hundreds of the most refractory have been moved into the reformatory settlement at Amritsar, where they are to be taught some honest means of livelihood.

"I may also explain, with reference to the suggestion of an Hon'ble Member that money should be spent on the education of members of these tribes, that the whole scheme of reform of criminal tribes is one of education for both young and old. However, I may point out that our scheme includes a very large school in the Ludhiana District, where some 500 of the younger members of criminal tribes will be specially taught apart from their parents. The initial difficulties are great. To adopt the Bible quotation I have already cited, the motto of a number of these tribes is 'To work I am unwilling, to steal I am not ashamed.' But as they find that crime does not pay they are taking, though reluctantly, to work. We propose to multiply those industrial settlements as our resources allow and philanthropic agencies come forward to undertake their supervision, for we wish to eliminate police control.

"As a final and crowning reward for those who have proved their desire and ability to reform themselves we have reserved 10,000 acres of land

[*The President.*]

for agricultural settlements on the Lower Bari-Doab Canal. Before the year is over I hope that Pandit Hari Kishen Kaul, the zealous and capable officer in charge of the scheme, will be in a position to invite Hon'ble Members to see for themselves what progress has been made.

7. "The head that bulks largest on the revenue and expenditure side of our accounts is Irrigation. Our Provincial share of both is one-half, and that is estimated to yield us a revenue of 197 lakhs (including land revenue due to irrigation), with an expenditure of 88 lakhs, or a net income of 109 lakhs. This year, as last year, the failure of the winter rains has thrown a tremendous strain on our canal supplies: this year, as last, the unprecedentedly low rivers aggravated the difficulties of the Irrigation Officers in meeting the intensely keen demand for water. I may say that the increase is not due to spreading out the supply of old existing canals, but rather to the extension of new canals. But our officers' growing capacity to extract the highest duty from the scanty supplies has enabled them to surmount those difficulties, and in the late kharif and present rabi harvest our canals have irrigated over 93 lakhs of acres against an average of 83 lakhs in the preceding four years. In the present rabi the area irrigated is 58½ lakhs of acres against 57 lakhs last year, and though the crop will naturally fall short of what it would have been had the canal irrigation been assisted by winter rains, we may count on a fair all-round outturn; and it is not too much to say that this year, as last, the canals have stood between the Province and famine. It is therefore our duty to neglect no means of utilizing the natural advantages with which Providence has endowed this Province and we are carefully investigating schemes for further canal extension, *viz.*, (1) the storage dam for increasing the cold weather supplies of the Jhelum and Sirhind Canals—that is particularly necessary in order to extend irrigation in the South-East Punjab, where as pointed out by the Hon'ble Pandit Jawahir Lal the harvests are now so often precarious; (2) the Havelian scheme for further utilizing the combined water of the Jhelum and Chenab below their junction which would meet the difficulty regarding the Sidhnai supply referred to by the Hon'ble Mr. Ram Saran Das; and (3) the great project for irrigating the Sind Sagar Doab by a canal taken out from the Indus at Kalabagh. Mr. Fagan, Financial Commissioner, and I have recently made separate tours over that tract and we both have arrived at the conclusion that the prospects of the scheme are more favourable than anticipated.

"Even if as I hope and believe all these schemes are found feasible, it will take time to elaborate them and still more time to finance and construct them. But we have the satisfaction of knowing that vast potentialities of canal extension still exist, and that the present generation may see an expansion of canal irrigation almost as great as that which under our eyes has transformed the *Jangal* into *Mangal*, to use the homely language of the Jat.

8. "I need only add one remark more about the budget. We hope to raise in the Province a total of 922 lakhs, of which the Government of India takes 409 lakhs for Imperial purposes, leaving us 513 lakhs. Of this we expect to spend 510 lakhs and to finish the year with a balance of 106 lakhs.

" II.—ECONOMIC SITUATION.

9. "Now a few words about the economic situation. An unusually favourable monsoon eased the strain which we were experiencing this time last year, and gave us abundant fodder, good crops of sugarcane, rice and cotton, but disappointing yields of the other food crops. It also gave us an excellent start for the rabi and 11 millions acres of wheat alone were sown—a million more than in the previous year.

"Unfortunately, as Hon'ble Members have remarked, the promise of a bumper harvest was again marred by the failure of the winter rains. On

[*The President.*]

unirrigated land we cannot count on a yield of more than 4 to 8 annas, while on the 8 millions acres irrigated by wells and canals we hope for a yield little short of the normal. Nearly all other Provinces have, however, been favoured with a good rabi harvest. This has had a steadying effect on prices and will also reduce the demand on our stocks of food grains and fodder. Government is carefully watching the situation and, as in the past, may be trusted to see that the demands on the Province for export shall not exceed the surplus which may reasonably be disposed of, and that the interests of the consumer are considered no less than those of the producer. We here in India as so many members have stated are perhaps suffering less from high prices and increased taxation than any other country at war, and I am confident that the burden, such as it is, will be cheerfully borne. Fortunately wages are high and the demand for labour considerable, and I believe that the home remittances from the Punjabis serving over-seas in the Army or auxiliary forces—whose number is at least 100,000—amount to several lakhs of rupees monthly. There is therefore no such cause for anxiety as there was a year ago, but should the occasion demand it Government will be ready to relieve distress by granting concession rates for fodder to localities where supplies are scarce, and by liberal suspensions of land revenue where the harvests are much below the average.

“This year again we can congratulate ourselves on the almost complete absence of plague. In 1916 the mortality from plague was only 4,141 as compared with 242,000 in 1915. The total deaths in the first quarter of the year were only 1,129 as against 1,870 in the same quarter of last year and nearly 100,000 in the first quarter of 1915. There is much ground for thankfulness in these figures. The War is no doubt taking heavy toll of our manhood. At a rough estimate the death casualties for the Province now amount to about 19,000, but that sacrifice in the cause of the Empire is one which the Punjab does not grudge, and as His Excellency the Viceroy assured us in his Durbar speech last week no efforts are being spared to alleviate by grants of pension on a scale which has been largely increased of late and assistance from the relief funds the sad lot of those who have lost their bread winners.

III.—INDUSTRIAL SITUATION.

10. “At the March meeting the Director of Industries gave a brief summary of what is being done by Government to assist industrial development, and many references have been made to the same subject in this debate. I need not repeat what he said, but would merely invite the attention of those who may be disappointed at the rate of progress to two facts :—

(1) “Our policy within the Province must depend largely on the advice and recommendations of the Royal Commission on Industries which will, we hope, examine conditions in this Province next cold weather.

(2) “It must also depend on the result of the deliberations of the Committee representing all parts of the British Empire, including India, which is to meet in London at an early date to examine the broader aspects of Imperial fiscal policy. When the general lines of policy have been determined we shall know in what direction we can advance with confidence, and, as His Excellency the Viceroy told us last week, there is no reason why in the industrial revival which, we hope, is before us the Punjab should not—in some directions at least—give the lead to the rest of India.

IV.—POLITICAL SITUATION.

11. “At the budget meetings of the last 2 years I had a good deal to say about the political situation. This year fortunately I need not say much. His Excellency in his Durbar speech last week was able to congratulate the people and the administration on the fact that their mutual good under-

[*The President.*]

standing and spirit of co-operation had enabled the Province to weather successfully the storms of the last 3 years, and that at the present moment the tranquillity of the Province is far greater than it has been since the war broke out or at any recent period before the war commenced. The Council may be interested to hear some figures bearing on this point.

12. "The first thing that struck me when I returned to the Province 4 years ago was the alarming increase in violent and serious crime, and believing that the first essential of good Government is that people should be able to go safely about their business by day and sleep securely in their houses by night, I have steadily endeavoured to make the people and officers of Government realize that it was all important to secure those objects. I am glad to be in a position to say that though there is still much serious crime its volume is being steadily reduced.

Take the case of murders—

1912	1913	1914	1915	1916
670	627	646	612	582

The improvement has not been great, about 10 per cent., but it has been steady.

The surest index of public tranquillity is the number of dacoities. The figures are—

1912	1913	1914	1915	Average	1916
128	142	140	287	174	110

"The improvement has been progressive, and last year in the first quarter the figures were 62 : this year they have dropped to 26. The enterprising burglar is perhaps the most serious menace to property and domestic security. Between 1912 and 1915 the number of burglaries ranged between 17,000 and 18,500 and averaged 17,714. In 1916 the figure has fallen to 14,873—about 3,000 cases—a drop of one-sixth. The total number of offences reported to the police in the same 4 years 1912—1915 varied between 44,000 and 46,000 and averaged 45,000. In 1916 there were only 39,000—a decrease of 6,000 cases or about 14 per cent. I may say that the improvement has so far been steadily maintained in the present year.

"Considering the unsettled conditions we have been passing through I think those results are eminently satisfactory, and we are justified in saying that the active co-operation of the people with the police and the criminal administration generally has enabled us to roll back the steadily rising tide of crime which a few years ago was a menace to the security of the Province and a blot on its good name.

13. "Turning to political crime we can congratulate ourselves on the fact that there has been no new outbreak of any kind. It is true that two or three more conspiracy cases have come before the Special Tribunals, but these had to deal with a small number of accused persons composed of absconders in the earlier trials or of men whose complicity in the outbreak of 1914-15 was established at a later date. The thorough investigations into those cases and the admirable judgments of the Tribunals have, I think, made it clear to the public that the conspiracy was even more ambitious and far-reaching than we had at first believed, that certain phases of it received active encouragement and financial support from Germany, that originating from Berlin the net-work extended in one direction through the United States and Canada, the Philippines and the Far Eastern Ports to Siam and Burma, and on the other side through Constantinople to Persia and Afghanistan. Our enemies had laid their plots skilfully, and many of their agents were dangerous and desperate

[*The President.*]

men ready for any evil enterprise, but in this as in so many other cases their judgment was blind. To meet with any success it was essential that a considerable portion of the people here should join in their nefarious designs : to their disappointment they found the overwhelming majority of the people of the Punjab actively loyal to the Government and eager to support the cause of law and order. (Cheers). Hence when the conspiracy passed from the stage of plotting to that of action it was promptly suppressed and the movement speedily collapsed.

" I summarise here for your information the final results of the four conspiracy trials before Special Tribunals. 165 persons were dealt with, 136 were convicted, in nearly all cases of offences punishable with death. In 20 cases the death sentence has been inflicted, 58 persons have been transported life, 58 to transportation for a shorter term or to imprisonment. In 115 cases for forfeiture of property was ordered, but in 61 of those cases the order was remitted by Government generally on the recommendation of the Tribunals.

14. " Now that practically all the most dangerous members of the revolutionary movement have been brought to justice, it has been possible for Government to proceed with the policy of dealing leniently with their dupes and with those who were only slightly involved. Last year I told the Council that of the 2:2 returned emigrants who had been interned in jail under the Ingress Act only 134 were then under detention. It was found necessary during the year ending 31st March to intern 20 more in jail, making a total of 154. On the other hand, we have released conditionally or unconditionally 103 men who showed signs of having returned to sane ideas, and only 51 are now under detention. These 51 men have a thoroughly bad record, and we are not yet satisfied that they have abandoned their anarchist and revolutionary designs. When we are so satisfied we shall have no hesitation in restoring them to liberty, but meantime it is not in the interests of public order to set them free. Altogether some 8,000 emigrants have returned to the Punjab from the United States, Canada and the Far East since the war began. It is notorious that determined efforts were made by the revolutionary organisation to bring all those men when outside India into the Ghadr Conspiracy. In the great majority of cases the pernicious teaching produced no effect, and in about 6,000 cases no special action was required or at least no special action was taken by Government. In some 1,500 cases as a precautionary measure it was found desirable on the advice of the local Sikh committees to restrict the returned men to their villages, and in some cases security was also taken. Our leniency was sometimes abused as a score or more defied the restriction orders and took an active part in the revolutionary movement of two years ago. Those men have been brought to justice. The great majority however settled down peaceably, and acting on the advice of the local officers and the recommendations of the Sikh committee, which have been such a help to us in this matter, as the restriction orders are being steadily cancelled.

" Here too the Council may like to have exact figures. The total number under restriction in villages was 1,534. During the year 91 more were restricted, bringing the total to 1,625. We have already released unconditionally from all restrictions 700, and 925 are still under restriction. I hope in the course of the present year it will be possible for us to dispense with all restrictive measures in the great majority of these cases. To complete the tale of our preventive action I may add that there are also 98 persons restricted under the Defence of India Act generally to their own villages.

" Except for the misdeeds of a few dacoit gangs in Ferozepore, which include a few of the most desperate of the returned emigrants, the Central Punjab which 2 years ago was a storm centre is now absolutely tranquil, and there is every reason to hope that it will remain so.

[*The President.*]

15. " In the 3 districts of the South-West Punjab which were in such a lawless state 2 years ago owing the belief of a large portion of the ignorant Muhammadan peasantry that the power of Government was broken and that they might set up their own form of Home Rule, peace and harmony now reign, the punitive police were removed six months ago, the local notables who were temporarily removed from the districts for misbehaviour have been allowed to return, accounts have been settled by local arbitration boards between the Muhammadan peasantry and the Hindu creditors, and the relations between the two are now quite normal. I wish again to congratulate the leaders of both communities on their co-operation with the administration to produce these good results.

16. " Of so-called political movements another which I may refer to, of which little has been said and little has appeared in the press, was an attempt made within the last year by certain agencies outside the Province to arouse a hostile and anti-British feeling among the Muhammadan community. Those agencies like the leaders of the Ghadr movement were in touch on one side with the King Emperor's enemies in the West and on the other with the fanatical elements in the trans-frontier tribes and the Hindustani Colony beyond the North-West Frontier. They had also some sympathisers in British India, but as far as I know few only, very few indeed, in this Province. The Muhammadan community as a whole has proved itself as staunchly loyal in opposing these machinations as the Sikhs and Hindus of the Province showed themselves to the Ghadr movement of 2 years ago.

" This latest conspiracy was nipped in the bud before any overt acts in pursuance of it were committed in this Province. Some 13 of the local agents and sympathisers were arrested and temporarily interned under the Defence of India and Ingress Acts, but all of these have since been released on furnishing security, five being restricted to certain areas, and so far there has been no necessity of adopting sterner measures.

17. " I have perhaps said enough to prove that while Government has every reason to rely on the tried loyalty and practical common sense of the people of the Province it is imperative to remain on the watch and carefully to investigate any movement or agitation which might endanger that public tranquillity which we have hitherto succeeded in preserving.

" That brings me to the question of the Home Rule propaganda.

Honourable members will remember that some 2 months ago my Government passed orders forbidding two gentlemen who were prominently identified with that propaganda from entering the Province. I took that action not because I desire to stifle or repress any reasonable political discussion, but because I was and am convinced that an agitation for Home Rule in this Province on the lines advocated by the leaders of the movement and as it would be interpreted by those to whom it would be addressed would stir up the dying members of the revolutionary fires which we have almost succeeded in extinguishing, and set parts of the Province in a blaze once more. I desire to make the attitude of Government in this matter quite clear. Government while opposed to any sudden or catastrophic constitutional change recognises that among a large section of the community there is a growing desire and a natural desire for an increased measure of self-government.

" His Excellency the Viceroy in the Imperial Council on 7th February formally stated that the ' expediency of broadening the basis of Government and the demand of Indians to play a greater part in the conduct of affairs in this country are not matters which have escaped our attention.' He added that proposals had been submitted to the Home Government and asked the Council to remember that the consideration of certain constitutional questions

[*The President.*]

affecting a portion of the Empire might have to yield place for a time to the more urgent task of so prosecuting the war as to ensure the preservation of the Empire.

18. "But, gentlemen, the increasing measure of self-government by steady and orderly change for which this country will fit itself as education spreads, as causes of disunion diminish and as large numbers of the vast population gain political experience, is something very far from the sudden upheaval, and the startling transfer of political authority into ignorant and inexperienced hands, which the protagonists of Home Rule contemplated in their extravagant demands. Such changes would be as revolutionary in their character and I believe as subversive of the existing constitution as those which the Ghadr emissaries endeavoured to bring about. Indeed it is not without significance to find that the watch-word of the thousands who participated in the dacoities of the South-West Punjab two years ago and of many of the men who fomented the Ghadr Conspiracy on the Pacific Coast was *Swaraj* or Home Rule, and that the hundreds of emigrants who returned to the Punjab to pread rebellion in the Province by fire and sword claimed that their object was to establish Home Rule. It may be urged that this was the crude interpretation of a legitimate and constitutional ideal by ignorant men. That may be so; but what we have to consider is not the ideal in the mind of the political philosopher in his arm chair or the journalist at his desk, but the ideal conveyed to the average man, and we have had positive proof based on judicial findings of several experienced Tribunals that of the thousands of Punjabis to whom the *Swaraj* or Home Rule doctrine was preached in America some hundreds at least set themselves as early as possible to realize that ideal by the sword, the pistol and the bomb. Take even a more convincing case.

"The so-called "Dr." Mathra Singh who recently suffered the extreme penalty of the law was one of the most active and dangerous of the revolutionary leaders. He was the expert bomb-maker, he was also a man widely travelled and of superior education, very different from the ignorant dupes whom he enmeshed in the conspiracy. Yet this man though his hands were steeped in crime asserted to the last that he was merely acting as an advocate of Home Rule. We have to judge men not by their words but by their acts: we have to judge movements not by the ideals that perhaps inspire their leaders, but by the results they have produced or are likely to produce on the community. Applying those tests can any reasonable man say that the Home Rule propaganda is one which could be preached in the Punjab to-day without serious danger to the public peace and to the stability of the Government?

19. "One more remark before I leave this subject.

The case of Home Rule for Ireland is often cited as an argument in their favour by those who advocate Home Rule for India. At the risk of entering into the thorny field of Irish politics I may say there is no analogy between the two cases.

"The Home Rule movement in Ireland aimed at the restoration of the status—a separate legislature and a separate executive, though with limited powers—which Ireland had enjoyed for centuries down to the Union of 1800. The great majority of the Irish people supported the movement, and many of those who wished well to Ireland, even if they did not count on any material advantages from Home Rule, were inclined to favour the scheme on sentimental and historical grounds, and looked forward to the time when the softening of racial and religious asperities would enable all classes to combine for the restoration and the successful working of the system of self-government which in one form or another Ireland had for centuries enjoyed. That was a lofty and a generous ideal. Unfortunately, the nearer it came to realisation, the greater became the practical difficulties; the old feuds and factions were revived with

[*The President.*]

increasing bitterness and threatened Civil War. A year ago one section of the supporters of Irish *Swaraj* (the Sinn Fein or Swadeshists) following in the footsteps of our Punjabi Swarajists allied themselves with the King's enemies and brought about an abortive rebellion. That was speedily suppressed, but it has left a fatal legacy of distrust and ill-feeling which all good Irishmen whatever their creed or politics deplore, for it has prevented Ireland from bearing the full share in the defence of the Empire. Well, gentlemen, the conclusion I would ask you to draw is this. If the Home Rule movement after a hundred years of agitation has so far produced no better results among a people fairly enlightened and homogeneous, in a country no larger or more populous than a single division in the Punjab, what result can we expect from it in this vast continent, with its infinite variety of races, creeds and traditions, and its appalling inequalities in social and political development? What results would we expect from it even in our own Province? In the matter of Home Rule I fear the case of Ireland in so far as it is analogous at all conveys to us a lesson and a warning. Anyhow I may venture to say that practical politicians—and practical common sense is rightly classed as a Punjab virtue—will for many years to come find ample occupation with such problems as the extension of local self-government, the reform of the public services, the improvement of agriculture and industries, the adaptation of our system of education to the needs of the people, the reforms of the criminal and the uplifting of the depressed classes of the community. Government desires and invites the co-operation of all classes in handling those problems, and their solution, I need hardly say, will be a more genuine advance in the direction of self-government than the pursuit of the chimera of Home Rule, a pursuit which is likely to prejudice rather than to benefit the cause of political development in India.

V.—INTERNAL ADMINISTRATION.

20. "I will say a few words more on the subject of internal administration some points of which I have already touched on. As the Council is aware enquiries have been made as to the expediency of introducing the system of election in 30 municipal committees where the members are still nominated. The enquiry showed that many of these were small outlying towns, some of them decaying, in which there was either no local demand for the elective system or reason to fear that it might arouse local feuds and factions. In 11 cases, however, *viz.*, Bhiwani, Beri, Thanesar, Khushab, Sargodha, Mianwali, Bhakkar, Hazro, Leiah, Alipur, and Dera Ghazi Khan, there appeared to Government to be *prima facie* grounds for introducing elections. The local officers were informed accordingly, and an opportunity for objection was kept open to the end of February. In deference to the strong objections raised by the Tumandars and leading Hindus and Muhammadans of Dera Ghazi Khan—where the elective system has never obtained—Government has decided not to press the matter there. The remaining cases have not yet been dealt with, but unless strong local objections are raised the system will be introduced.

"In regard to district boards the question of introducing the elective system in the districts of the Multan and Rawalpindi Divisions where it is not yet in force is being examined.

"At the same time action is being taken on the suggestion of an Honourable Member, Sardar Bahadur Gajjan Singh, to re-examine for the whole Province the present constitution of the district boards, the electoral areas, number of nominated and elected members, adequacy of the representation with reference to area, population, and revenue. The object is to revise the constitution of the boards where necessary so as to make them more truly representative of the classes they stand for, and thereby create more interest in their working.

[*The President.*]

"The first step towards this is to improve the stability of their finances. With this view, as the Council has already been informed, a system of consolidated grants-in-aid has been already worked out for the boards of the Rawalpindi and Ambala Divisions, and will soon be applied to the remaining divisions. These grants are liberal in themselves and can be further supplemented by special grants from funds placed at the disposal of the Commissioner. When the question of grants has been settled the question of removing as far as possible the account and audit restrictions which in some cases needlessly hamper the boards' financial authority will be taken up on broad lines.

"To provide a simple machinery for the administration of small towns whether notified areas or not a Bill has been drafted and circulated for opinions. These will, it is hoped, be received in time to enable the Bill to be introduced at our next Session.

"Here I may remark that the only legislation undertaken during the last year was the Bill to enable district boards to levy a cess for local railway extensions—a measure which was abandoned in deference to the objections of the district board representatives to special taxation of one section of the community. The Council will perhaps agree that it is less important to frame new laws than to improve the administration of existing laws.

"Last year I ventured to state that in internal administration the two most pressing and essential objects are the better protection of life and property and the purging of the public services from corruption.

"As I have already explained, I think we have achieved considerable success as regards the former and we are steadily pursuing the latter. At our last meeting Government announced the action taken by Government to bring home to the various departments, to its officials of all grades, and to the public that it would spare no efforts to stamp out bribery, extortion and the taking of unauthorized fees or presents by Government servants. Many remarks which have been made by Hon'ble Members on this subject are most encouraging, and there are hopeful signs that the public conscience is being awakened to the magnitude of this evil (which more than any other brings discredit on the administration) and to the knowledge that Government desires and requires the co-operation of the public to repress it, and you will have seen that in the last year many offenders have been brought to justice.

"The task is no light one; it is the cleansing of an Augean stable which even the mighty Hercules found no easy matter. But the first step to success is that Government and the public should not shut their eyes to it, but should face it boldly and thus make a united and determined attempt to tackle it. The attitude of Government is clear, but success cannot be obtained without the genuine and vigorous co-operation both of the officials who have an interest in the good name of their various services and of the public whose interest it is to root out from the body politic this poisonous cancer.

21. "Now, gentlemen, a word in regard to—

VI.—THE WAR.

"Gentlemen, we have to remember that we are still at war. Indeed in this Province we need no reminder of that fact. His Excellency the Viceroy in his speech at last week's Darbar bore eloquent and generous testimony to the splendid services of the Princes, Sardars and people of the Punjab since the war began, and it would be presumptuous on my part to go over the same ground.

"His Excellency told us that since the war began the Punjab had provided 63% of the recruits raised in India. We must endeavour to maintain that proportion, and you may like to hear the detailed figures. The total num-

[*The President.*]

ber of Punjab recruits to the regular army is in round numbers 1,24,000 and the distribution is roughly as follows :—

Muhammadans of North and South Punjab	...	57,000
Sikhs	... ..	38,000
Hindu Jats	... ..	10,000
Hindu Dogras	... ..	10,000
Hindu Ahirs	... ..	3,500
Hindu Gujars	... ..	1,500
Brahmins	... ..	750
Christians and others	... ..	1,250
Total	... ..	<u>1,24,000</u>

In addition we have supplied some 40,000 to 50,000 men to the auxiliary services, and the Punjabi soldier or follower is now as familiar a figure and I believe as much at home in the highlands of German East Africa, the banks of the Nile and the Tigris, the deserts of Syria, the valleys of Macedonia, and in the battlefields of France as he is in the hills of Rawalpindi and Kangra, the Darbar Sahib at Amritsar, the green fields of the Central Punjab, or the sandy wastes of the south-east.

“The response, though magnificent from the Province as a whole, has however been unequal. In the Ambala Division Ambala and Karnal, in Jullundur, Ferozepore, in Lahore, Lahore and Gujrauwala, in Rawalpindi, Shalpur and Mianwali are still backward, while the Multan Division is only now beginning slowly to move. I would again impress upon you as His Excellency the Viceroy said, more men are wanted, not so much to replace casualties in the field, but to meet the wastage due to invaliding, to fill up the new battalions that are being raised, and to enable existing battalions to increase their strength, and the Government looks primarily to our Province to supply them. I am proud to testify to the great services that many Members of this Council are rendering to the cause of recruiting. One Hon’ble Member has given his two sons; another his nephew; a third is doing honorary work in the South Punjab. Those have set a fine example of patriotic duty.

“I would appeal to all Hon’ble Members and through them to the Press and the public that, though the end of the war is at last coming in sight, we should redouble rather than relax our efforts, and prove our Province worthy of the Viceroy’s generous description ‘a Province of men, the sword-arm of the Indian Empire.’ I would also invite attention to another remark of His Excellency,—that there can be no better claim to the sympathy and generosity of Government than that which is based on loyal and gallant service in the field.

22. “Apart from the ordinary recruiting, special measures have, as you know, been taken to enlist the services of the educated classes in the defence of the country. The reply to a question asked by an Hon’ble Member has explained how matters stand as regards the University Double Company. I confess to a little disappointment that the response has been so limited especially from the Lahore Colleges, and that the Zamindar class which already fills the ranks of the regular Army has been so largely drawn on, to the extent of half I think, as we had hoped to enlist more men of the urban and professional classes. However in these matters as in politics we must not look for sudden and catastrophic changes: the foundation has been laid on sure ground and progress if not rapid will, I hope, be steady. The young men who have come forward are to be trained in the arduous and responsible duties of a

[*The President.*]

Signalling Corps, and I am confident that if and when sent to the Front, they will prove themselves worthy sons of the Punjab.

"The reply to a question of the Hon'ble Mr. Fazl-i-Hussain shows the position as regards the Indian Defence Force which it is proposed to raise for internal defence during the war. This is also primarily to be confined to classes not hitherto recruited, and I hope that the Province will provide the 1,000 men required to complete one unit and thereby prove that patriotism and martial spirit are no monopoly of the Zamindar class. It is alleged in some quarters though it has not been stated here, that the provisions of the Arms Act have brought about the decay of martial spirit in this country.

"I do not hold with that argument. Of the hundreds of thousands of Punjabis who form the backbone of the Indian Army I doubt if one in a hundred prior to enlistment had any knowledge of fire-arms, and of the 4½ million new recruits to the British Army probably not one in fifty had ever handled a rifle before the war. But patriotic spirit and military training have made those men into heroes.

23. "There is one other matter connected with the war in which the Province can combine honour with profit *pun nale phallian*. I refer to the War Loan. It is most gratifying, as so many Hon'ble Members have remarked, to find that excluding Bengal and Bombay—which in wealth and capital are in a class apart—the Punjab comes above all others in its investments in the Loan. Here, too, we must strive hard to maintain our pride of place. Our subscriptions have already exceeded a crore. I have just received a telegram from Sir William Meyer congratulating the Province on the fact. He ends with the words 'well done Punjab.' I replied to him 'we have done well, but hope to do even better,' and I shall be disappointed if the Punjab tax-subscriptions fall short of 2 crores. The loan will remain open up to 15th June, and all interested in the success of the loan in this Province should bestir themselves to ensure that the opportunity for profitable investment is not overlooked by those whom they are in a position to advise or to influence.

24. "Gentlemen, I fear I have detained you over long by this lengthy survey of the past year. It is, I think, one which we can look back on with satisfaction as a period of healthy progress marked by a steady improvement in the intercommunal relations which a few years ago were so strained and by the close and growing co-operation of the people and their leaders and representatives, whether within or without this Council, with the administration. It is hardly necessary to assure the Council and the public that the Government is always willing to consider and, if possible, to give effect to any reasonable and practical proposals for the improvement of the administration, whether made in the Council or elsewhere.

"A notable instance of this during the past year is the decision to raise the Chief Court to the status of a High Court after the war as soon as financial conditions permit—a decision which is in accordance with official and non-official opinion throughout the Province.

"The position of Government in regard to the creation of an Executive Council in the Province, which is a more debatable question, was explained by me at the March meeting and need not be re-stated. It will take its place among the many matters which will come up for consideration after the war.

"Finally, the discussion on to-day's resolution about the period of long term settlements has, I hope, made it clear to Hon'ble Members that, provided the interests of the public purse and of the general tax-paying community are safeguarded, Government is anxious that its right to a share of the produce of the land should be enforced with the fullest possible consideration to the agricultural community. Knowing something of the pitch of the land

[*The President.*]

revenue in many Native States and in other Provinces, I have no hesitation in saying that, excluding the tracts under permanent settlements, the Punjab is by far the most lightly assessed part of India, and I rejoice that it should be so, for the policy of lenient assessment finds ample justification in the fact that the Punjab is primarily a land of stalwart peasant proprietors who form the backbone of the Indian Army.

“ But I think Hon'ble Members, who pressed yesterday's resolution requiring Government to fix 30 years as the ordinary term of settlement, would have shown more political acumen, had they slightly modified the terms of the resolution so as to insure its acceptance by the Government and thereby saved it from being consigned to the limbo of lost causes. The position of Government is as follows:—While recognising that the 30 years' term is desirable, where agricultural conditions are well developed and fairly stable, and while steadily giving effect to that principle, Government must, in the interests of the community as a whole, reserve to itself full discretion to decide what areas are still so backward in development or so liable to considerable agricultural changes as to be unsuitable for a long term of settlement. I believe the Hon'ble mover of the resolution and some of his supporters accepted that position, though they did not see their way free to embody it in the wording of the resolution in a definite form. Anyhow it appears to me a position which no reasonable man who gives the matter impartial consideration can refuse to accept, and it is certainly a position from which Government cannot and will not recede.

“ There is only one more matter I wish to touch upon—the restoration of the grants of *jagirs* to individuals as a recognition of their services to Government and the community in the various spheres of public activity. We can take some legitimate pride in the fact that our Province has given the lead in this matter, and it is particularly gratifying to find that among the 15 Jagirdars created this year no less than three are Hon'ble Members of this Council who have rendered distinguished service to the State outside this Council.

“ Gentlemen, while we look back to the past years with satisfaction, we can look forward to the coming year with confidence. I trust and pray that when we meet for the budget debate a year hence we shall be able to send a message to the King Emperor to congratulate him on the final triumph of the great cause for which the Empire is fighting (*cheers*), with the feeling that the part played by the Punjab in the long and arduous struggle has been no mean one. (*Applause.*) ”

ADJOURNMENT.

The Council adjourned *sine die*.

LAHORE:
The 25th April 1917.

} S. W. GRACEY.
Secretary, Legislative Council, Punjab.

PUNJAB GOVERNMENT.

LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT.

Abstract of Proceedings of the Council of the Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab assembled for the purpose of making Laws and Regulations under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1915.

The Council met at Government House, Lahore, at 10 30 A.M. on Tuesday, the 6th November 1917.

PRESENT:

His Honour Sir MICHAEL FRANCIS O'DWYER, G.C.I.E., K.C.S.I., I.C.S.,
Lieutenant-Governor, *Presiding.*

The Hon'ble Mr. JOHN PERRONET THOMPSON, I.C.S.

The Hon'ble Mr. JAMES ALEXANDER RICHEY.

The Hon'ble Mr. HERBERT JOHN MAYNARD, O.S.I., I.O.S.

The Hon'ble Mr. OSWALD FARQUHAR LUMSDEN, I.C.S.

The Hon'ble Sardar Bahadur Sardar GAJJAN SINGH.

The Hon'ble Chaudhri LAL CHAND.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Sayid MEHDI SHAH.

The Hon'ble Pandit JAWAHAR LAL, BHARGAVA.

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur RAM SARAN DAS, C.I.E.

The Hon'ble Mr. DAVID WANN AIKMAN, C.I.E.

The Hon'ble Mr. JAMES CURRIE.

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Bakhshi SOHAN LAL.

The Hon'ble Itazada BHAGAT RAM.

The Hon'ble Sayid MAKHDUM RAJAN SHAH.

The Hon'ble Mr. CREWE ARMAND HAMILTON TOWNSEND, I.C.S.

The Hon'ble Mr. PATRICK JAMES FAGAN, I.C.S.

The Hon'ble Khan Sahib Mirza MUHAMMAD IKRAM ULLAH KHAN.

[Khan Sahib Mirza Muhammad Ikram Ullah Khan ; Mr. Aikman.]

The Hon'ble Mr. EDWIN WOODALL PARKER.

The Hon'ble Mr. HENRY DUFFIELD CRAIK, I.C.S.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Malik MUHAMMAD AMIN KHAN.

The Hon'ble Colonel HAROLD HENDLEY, M.D., I.M.S.

The Hon'ble Mr. STEPHEN WILLIAM GRACEY, I.C.S.

The Hon'ble Sardar Bahadur Risaldars PARTAP SINGH.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Mian FAZAL-I HUSSAIN.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

The Hon'ble Khan Sahib Mirza Muhammad Ikram Ullah Khan asked :—

Flooding of
village of
Gondal.

1. "(a) Is the Government aware that the Irrigation Department has erected a bund for protection of the Merala Head Works and thereby closed the outlet of the Dhamki Nullah into the Chenab, resulting in the flooding of the houses and lanes of village Gondal in the tahsil of Sialkot?

"(b) If it is a fact, what steps does the Government intend to take for the protection of that village?"

The Hon'ble Mr. Aikman replied :—

"(a) The bund referred to was built as much for the protection of village Gondal as for the protection of the Canal Head Works. The bund protects this village by preventing river floods from sweeping past the village. If the bund had not been in existence it is probable that the river flood of the 24th September 1917, which attained to a level near the village about seven feet above the natural ground surface level of the village, would have damaged the village far more than actually occurred. Nevertheless, it appears that the bund does obstruct the surface flow-off of rainfall from the surroundings of the village.

"(b) The Government intends to remedy this state of affairs by digging a drain from the village to a suitable outfall towards the river Chenab."

The Hon'ble Khan Sahib Mirza Muhammad Ikram Ullah Khan asked :—

Flow of Aik
Nullah.

2. "(a) Is the Government aware that by the construction of the Kot Jafar Rajbaha and other Canal Works the natural flow of the Aik Nullah has been impeded, resulting in the overflowing of a large area of crops in the Daska Tahsil of the Sialkot District and the Wazirabad Tahsil of the Gujranwala District?

"(b) Is the Government also aware that the floods thus diverted from their natural course have demolished a large number of dwelling houses in many villages of the above tahsils?

"(c) Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement of the estimated loss to the crops and houses in each village due to the above-mentioned floods in the last rainy season?

[Khan Sahib Mirza Muhammad Ikram Ullah Khan ; Mr. Aikman.]

"(d) Will the Government be pleased to state what steps they intend to take to prevent the recurrence of such floods into the area where the natural flow of water did not go before the canals were constructed, and to protect the property of zamindars.

"(e) Will the Government also be pleased to state how they intend to compensate zamindars and villagers for their recent losses?"

The Hon'ble Mr. Aikman replied:—

"(a) The Government finds that the Kot Jafar Distributary, at one or more points, tends to obstruct spills that occur from the Aik Nullah in years of extraordinarily heavy rainfall.

"(b) The Government is not aware that this obstruction has had the effect stated in the question under reply.

"It is informed that a large number of dwelling houses have been destroyed by the floods and heavy rainfall of September 1917 both in villages affected by the obstruction set up by the Kot Jafar Distributary.

"(c) The Land Acquisition Officer has assessed the damage to nine villages affected by the obstruction offered to floods by the Distributary at Rs. 1,278 for crops, fodder, and houses.

"(d) The administrative and engineering questions involved in this problem are being carefully considered by the Government, and it is believed that a satisfactory solution will be arrived at.

"(e) For the damage caused by the August floods Government is liable in so far as the damage was aggravated by Canal Works. It is, however, impossible to define accurately the extent, and, therefore, full compensation will be proposed for damaged crops, wells, and houses below the flood-level. It is true that the damage caused by the August floods would, in any case, have been caused by the September floods independently of the action of the Canal Works, but Government is prepared to deal with the question on broad lines."

The Hon'ble Khan Sahib Mirza Muhammad Ikram Ullah Khan asked:—

3. "(a) Is it a fact that the present scale of pay of kanungos was fixed in or about 1857, when the prices of foodstuffs were three times lower than at present? Pay of Kanungos.

"(b) Is it also a fact that the kanungos are required to keep a horse for which they are generally allowed a fixed allowance of Rs. 5 per mensem, which is ridiculously too small?

"(c) Will the Government be pleased to state at what ratio of the revenue the kanungos' pay was then fixed and what is the ratio of their pay to the present revenue?

"(d) How many kanungos were promoted during the last 10 years to Naib-Tahsildars, Excise Sub-Inspectors, Revenue Readers, Zilladars, &c., and what is their proportion to the total appointments in these grades in the same period?

"(e) Will the Government be pleased to revise the pay and horse allowance of the kanungos in conformity with the present revenue and prevalent rates of foodstuffs?"

[Khan Sahib Mirza Muhammad Ikram Ullah Khan ; Mr. Fagan ;
Mr. Thompson ; Mr. Lumsden.]

The Hon'ble Mr. Fagan replied :—

“(a) The present scale of pay of field kanungos was fixed in 1885. In 1905 the pay of office kanungos was raised from Rs. 25 or Rs. 30 to Rs. 40 per mensem and that of sadr kanungos from Rs. 60 to Rs. 60—4—80 per mensem.

“(b) The duties of a field kanungo require him to keep a horse. Field allowances of Rs. 10 are paid to $\frac{1}{2}$ of the total number of field kanungos and of Rs. 5 to the remainder. Half the former allowance and the whole of the latter are contributions towards the upkeep of a horse and may be withheld if not so applied. In 1895 only half the number of kanungos were given field allowances. Since 1905 all field kanungos have been given allowances at the above rates.

“(c) It is presumed that the reference to revenue in part (c) of the question is to land revenue. The pay of kanungos bears no relation to land revenue, and no proportion between the two has ever been suggested or adopted. The proportion which subsists at the present time is approximately 7 per cent.

“(d) There has not been sufficient time to collect the necessary figures ; but it is hoped that a statement giving the required information will be laid on the table at the next meeting of the Council.

“(e) Government does not propose at present to revise the pay and allowances of kanungos.”

The Hon'ble Khan Sahib Mirza Muhammad Ikram Ullah Khan asked :—

Record of
Railway Re-
ceipts.

4. “Is the Government aware that the records of Railway Receipts for goods delivered at stations are destroyed by the Railway Authorities after 3 years and as the limit of litigation arising therefrom under the Limitation Act in force in the Punjab is of 6 years, will the Government be pleased to consider the advisability of recommending to the North-Western Railway Authorities to preserve the above-mentioned records for at least 6 years to bring it in conformity with the law?”

The Hon'ble Mr. Thompson replied :—

“The suggestion made by the Hon'ble Member has been communicated to the Agent, North-Western Railway.”

The Hon'ble Khan Sahib Mirza Muhammad Ikram Ullah Khan asked :—

Resolutions of
District
Boards.

5. “Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing—

- (a) the number of resolutions passed at the instance of Deputy Commissioners by each District Board and Municipal Committee during the year ending 31st March 1917 ;
- (b) the number of resolutions passed by each Municipal Committee for erection and re-erection of buildings under section 193 of the Municipal Act ; and
- (c) the total number of resolutions passed by each such Board and Committee during the year?”

The Hon'ble Mr. Lumsden replied :—

“Government has no information on the subject and does not at present consider that the results to be attained would justify the detailed enquiry that

Khan Sahib Mirza Muhammad Ikram Ullah Khan ; Mr. Lumsden ; Mr. Thompson.

would be necessary. If the Hon'ble Member will personally explain what purposes the information would serve, Government will be in a better position to decide whether the enquiry should be undertaken."

The Hon'ble Khan Sahib Mirza Muhammad Ikram Ullah Khan asked :—

6. "(a) At the conclusion of reply to my question No. 19 in the Legislative Council of 2nd September 1916 regarding the insanitary condition of the land near the Dak Bungalow and Post Office at Wazirabad the Government kindly stated that the proposals were then under consideration which it was hoped would put an end to the trouble. Is the Government aware that the condition of that land is still as insanitary as ever ?

Insanitary condition of land near Dak Bungalow and Post Office at Wazirabad.

"(b) Is it a fact that a memorial was submitted by certain residents of Wazirabad to the Deputy Commissioner, Gujranwala, on the above subject fully a year after the above reply was vouchsafed, and, if so, what action the Government has since taken and what further action they intend to take in removing the trouble ?"

The Hon'ble Mr. Lumsden replied :—

"(a) It is understood that shops are being erected along the edge of the plot of land referred to, and that their erection will by preventing access put an end to the nuisance. The excessive rain has, however, not only delayed progress but has also affected the condition of the land adversely.

"(b) Government has no knowledge of the memorial mentioned. The matter is one primarily for the local municipal committee."

The Hon'ble Khan Sahib Mirza Muhammad Ikram Ullah Khan asked :—

7. "(a) Is it a fact that the Deputy Commissioners of Shahpur, Mianwali, and Attock Districts are allowed to stay away at Sakesar Hill in summer for one and a half months and allowed their travelling allowance whereas other officers, such as District Superintendents of Police, are not allowed to stay there for more than a week and then even no travelling allowance is allowed to them ?"

Periods spent at hill station of Sakesar.

"(b) Will the Government be pleased to consider the advisability of removing this differentiation ?"

7 The Hon'ble Mr. Thompson replied :—

"Deputy Commissioners and Superintendents of Police were at one time subject to the same rules in regard to travelling allowance for journeys to hill stations situated in their districts, but it was represented that these rules did not work fairly in the case of Superintendents of Police. Prior to the introduction of these rules, officers drew no travelling allowance for journeys to such hill stations except on duty. This entailed a good deal of correspondence and the rules adopted were in the nature of a compromise. They allowed officers to draw travelling allowance for one journey up and one journey down, irrespective of whether the journeys were for inspection purposes or not.

"This told hardly on police officers in districts where the hill station contained a police station, as they were bound by the rules of their service to inspect every police station once a quarter. It was decided accordingly in the interests of the police officers themselves that the special rules should no longer apply to them.

"The result of this decision was that police officers reverted to the old system, under which they draw travelling allowance for any journey to a hill station that is made on duty. Government has not received any representations from officers concerned that the present system causes hardship.

[Mr. Thompson ; Khan Sahib Mirza Muhammad Ikram Ullah Khan ;
Mr. Maynard ; Mr. Emsden ; Mr. Fagan.]

"The Hon'ble Member's information as to the periods which may be spent at Sakesar is incorrect. Deputy Commissioners are allowed to spend not more than two-and-a-half months there, and not more than one-and-a-half months of this at a stretch. Superintendents of Police are allowed two periods of 15 days each."

The Hon'ble Khan Sahib Mirza Muhammad Ikram Ullah Khan asked :—

Prosecutions
in respect of
returns under
the Income-
tax Act, 1917.

8. "(a) Will the Government be pleased to state in how many cases and in which districts prosecutions have been launched this year under section 177 of the Indian Penal Code for rendering incorrect account of income in reply to notice under section 14 (a) of the Income Tax Act, No. 7 of 1917, and for non-submission of accounts under section 34 of the said Income-tax Act ?"

The Hon'ble Mr. Maynard replied :—

"Particulars have been received from 17 districts only. In these there has been one prosecution this year. This was in the Lyallpur District."

The Hon'ble Khan Sahib Mirza Muhammad Ikram Ullah Khan asked :—

Drawing of
civil pensions
from Post
Offices.

9. "Is it a fact that pensioners from the Army and other Military Departments obtain their pensions from the Shahpur Post Office in the Kangra District and those from the Civil Departments have to go all the way from their homes to attend the Kangra Treasury and in view of the considerable inconvenience and trouble to the old and decrepit pensioners, will the Government be pleased to make arrangements for all pensioners to obtain their pensions from the nearest Post Office ?"

The Hon'ble Mr. Lumsden replied :—

"Under the rules at present in force military pensioners in the Punjab can obtain their pensions from post offices, while other pensioners have to attend at the district treasury. The question of allowing the latter to draw their pensions from post offices was considered by the Government of India in 1893, but the concession was not sanctioned. I would draw the Hon'ble Member's attention to Articles 915 and 916 of the Civil Service Regulations which enable the local authorities to dispense with the personal attendance of pensioners of the description given in the question."

The Hon'ble Khan Sahib Mirza Muhammad Ikram Ullah Khan asked :—

Extension
of forest
limits in
Kangra.

10. "(a) Is it a fact that in Kangra District the forest limits have recently been extended to the very doors of the dwelling houses in certain villages and that zamindars are suffering a great hardship in keeping their cattle out of forest limits for fear of prosecution under the Forest Act ?"

"(b) Will the Government be pleased to consider the advisability of allowing sufficient and reasonable space round each village for the cattle to graze about ?"

The Hon'ble Mr. Fagan replied :—

"As explained by His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor in his speech at the Darbar held at Kangra in October 1916, certain areas of protected forest are being selected and demarcated with a view to their future rotational closure with the object of securing in the interests of future generations regeneration of arboreal growth. It is surmised that this is the extension of forest limits to which reference is made in the first part of the question. The selection and demarcation are being done, subject to the ultimate sanction of higher authority, by a Civil Officer and a Forest Officer who have been placed on special

[*Khan Sahib Mirza Muhammad Ikram Ullah Khan ; Mr. Townsend ; Mr. Lumsden ; Mr. Maynard.*]

duty for the purpose. All objections presented are being investigated and the reasonable requirements of right-holders are being fully provided for. Appeals from the decisions of the Civil Officer and the Forest Officers are being heard by the Settlement Officer. No complaints of the kind indicated in the question have reached either Government or the Financial Commissioner."

The Hon'ble Khan Sahib Mirza Muhammad Ikram Ullah Khan asked:—

11. "(a) Is the Government aware that to regulate the supply of coal to various industries in the Punjab the powers are deputed to the Punjab Chamber of Commerce at Delhi to certify indents of consumers of coal?" Regulation of coal supplies.

"(b) Is the Government also aware that for each indent the Chamber levies a fee of Rs. 10 to the public, and if so, will the Government be pleased to state if the Chamber is justified to make this assessment, and under what law?"

"(c) Is the Government also aware that industries in the Punjab are suffering for want of promptness in certification of indents by the Chamber, situated as it is, outside the Province of the Punjab?"

"(d) Will the Government be pleased to devise some easier means for the certification or to regulate the supply of coal?"

The Hon'ble Mr. Townsend replied:—

"The answers to (a) and (b) are in the affirmative, and, as to (c), Government believes that owing to the short outturn of coal there has been some difficulty and delay in meeting indents. In regard to (d), the Hon'ble Member's attention is invited to the *Press communiqué*, dated the 12th of October 1917, issued by the Government of India—a copy of which is placed on the table—describing certain new arrangements to be introduced with effect from the 1st November for controlling the distribution of coal."

The Hon'ble Khan Sahib Mirza Muhammad Ikram Ullah Khan asked:—

12. "Has the attention of the Government been invited to the article, which appeared in the vernacular daily "*Al Sabah*" of 12th October 1917 on the subject of 'Burial Place' at Lahore, and, if so, will the Government be pleased to state what action do they intend to take in removing the complaint?" Burial places at Lab. cre.

The Hon'ble Mr. Lumsden replied:—

"Government has seen the article in question, which is apparently based on the recent order of the Committee closing for sanitary reasons the burial ground in the vicinity of the village of Ghari Shahu.

"The statements made in the article are far from accurate. For instance, the Budhu-ka-Ava cemetery is not closed, but has been quite recently extended by the addition of a plot measuring about 80 kanals. Again the suggestion that the Miani Sahib burial ground is overcrowded has no basis in fact as ample space exists on the south of the Bahawalpur Road for the accommodation of graves for many years to come. The question is primarily one for the Municipal Committee of Lahore. Government sees no reason to interfere with the discretion of that body, and in present circumstances does not propose to take any action in the matter."

The Hon'ble Khan Sahib Mirza Muhammad Ikram Ullah Khan asked:—

13. "(a) Is it a fact that cotton and other crops have been considerably damaged by the last heavy rains and floods in certain districts, and, if so, what portion of the yield to that of last year is expected?" Remissions on account of floods.

"(b) Will the Government be pleased to state if they intend to reduce the assessment of revenue in the affected areas, and to what extent?"

The Hon'ble Mr. Maynard replied:—

"(a) It is not clear whether the Hon'ble Member's question refers to the last heavy rainfall in September, or to the monsoon rainfall of 1917 as a

[*Mr. Maynard ; Khan Sahib Mirza Muhammad Ikram Ullah Khan ;
Colonel Hendley*]

whole and the floods which it occasioned in some localities. It is assumed for the purposes of this reply that he refers to the rainfall and floods of the whole monsoon season.

"The yield of the cotton crop is generally expected to be below normal. The variation from normal will be different in different portions of the Province: and it is too early yet to say with any approach to certainty what it will amount to in any locality. Local enquiries recently made by the Financial Commissioner in two important cotton growing tracts, the Lower Chenab and the Lower Jhelum Colonies, led him to the opinion that the yield of cotton there might even be as low as the very low estimate of average outturn which was made for assessment purposes, but probably not lower, while the selling price of the cotton will probably be at least double what the assessing officer assumed it to be.

"The millets have generally suffered a good deal from excessive rainfall. Sugarcane and rice have done well. It is too early yet to make any estimate of the yield as compared with last year, and it is not until the crop inspection records have been filed and abstracted that even areas of matured and failed crop can be calculated.

"(b) In tracts under fluctuating assessment, remissions for failure are automatic. In tracts under fixed assessment, they are given in the event of a calamity of a kind not taken into account in making the assessment. The destruction of a crop by submersion, if occurring over any considerable area, would be a calamity of this character. The initiative in making proposals for the remission of land revenue is taken by local officers in the ordinary course of business: but it is premature to say to what extent it will on this occasion be found desirable to make them, though there is reason to suppose that they will be substantial in parts of the Province."

The Hon'ble Khan Sahib Mirza Muhammad Ikram-Ullah Khan asked:—

14. "(a) Is it a fact that the boarding-house for the 1st-year Assistant Surgeon Class students of the Medical College, recently rented, is devoid of bath-rooms and latrines, and is generally in an insanitary order?

"(b) Is it also a fact that the Superintendent of the boarding-house is not a Medical man?

"(c) Will the Government be pleased to state what medical aid is supplied to the boarders in case of illness and how?

"(d) Is the Government aware that the medical students of the upper classes suffer a great hardship for want of a boarding-house, and will the Government be pleased to consider the advisability of renting houses for the purpose until a permanent hostel is built?"

The Hon'ble Colonel Hendley replied:—

"The house rented this year as a hostel for the Medical College students is the large bungalow on Lake Road formerly occupied by Sardar Ayub Khan, and it is most conveniently arranged in every respect for a temporary students' hostel. About the middle of September the Principal of the College arranged with the landlord for the construction of ten new latrines and for water connections to be made to the bathrooms, and though there has been some delay in carrying out the work it is on the point of completion.

"The Principal has very recently inspected the house and compound in company with the Warden (Dr. Caleb) and found the whole place most clean and tidy, and in a thoroughly sanitary condition.

"(b) The Superintendent is a University graduate, as in other temporary hostels. The Warden is Dr. Caleb, a Medical man, who has the hostel under his personal supervision, and visits it regularly.

[Colonel Hendley; Khan Sahib Mirza Muhammad Ikram Ullah Khan; Mr. Richey; Sardar Bahadur Sardar Gajjan Singh; Mr. Aikman.]

"(c) The Medical College hostel is on the list of hostels looked after by the special Medical Officer in charge of University hostels, who comes whenever sent for. In case of illness the Superintendent also reports to Dr. Caleb, who sees the student and sends him to the students' wards in the Mayo Hospital, if he is seriously ill.

"(d) A large new hostel for 150 College students was part of the King Edward Memorial Scheme, but its erection has been held in abeyance till the question of the separation of the School from the College, which is under the consideration of Government, is decided: as should the School be removed from Lahore the present School hostel will be available. The present temporary hostel accommodates all first-year students who do not live with their parents or guardians, and at present 44 students are resident. A list is kept in the Principal's office of students' private lodgings, and they are regularly inspected each year by selected members of the College staff. The want of greater temporary hostel accommodation is certainly a hardship for some students, but even if Government sanctions the increased expenditure it will not be easy to obtain suitable houses for the purpose."

The Hon'ble Khan Sahib Mirza Muhammad Ikram Ullah Khan asked:—

15. "Is the Government aware that the Government and other colleges and schools open after long vacations in the middle of September whereas the courts generally remain closed till the end of that month and, considering the sultriness of the season, full of malaria and other pests, will the Government be pleased to consider the advisability of issuing orders for vacations to be so arranged as to reopen the colleges and schools in the beginning of October?"

The Hon'ble Mr. Richey replied:—

"Government only fixes the dates of the vacations for Government Schools and Colleges.

"In order to reopen in October the Government College would have to work till the end of June when the weather is certainly more sultry than in the latter half of September. Schools whose holidays are shorter would have to work all through July, a very trying month.

"There is no question of the students avoiding the heat and malaria, as in the case of the courts, whose presiding officers may be in a position to seek cooler and healthier climates during vacations. Not 10 per cent. of the students of the Government College go to the hills and the great majority of these return to the plains in September. The percentage from other colleges is probably less, and from schools is negligible. Life in a college or school hostel under regular medical supervision is probably as healthy as in most homes. Government, therefore, sees no reason to alter the present dates of vacations in Government Schools and Colleges."

The Hon'ble Sardar Bahadur Sardar Gajjan Singh asked:—

16. "Will the Government be pleased to inform:—

"(a) What were the salaries of Canal Zilladars and Deputy Collectors of different grades in 1888?"

"(b) Has there been any increase in their pay since then?"

"(c) If not, then in view of the enormous rise in the prices of food-stuffs and fodder, does the Government contemplate any such increase?"

The Hon'ble Mr. Aikman replied:—

"(a) The salaries of Deputy Collectors and Zilladars in 1888 were:—

	Rs.
Deputy Collector, 1st grade	400
" " 2nd "	300
" " 3rd "	200
Zilladar, 1st grade	80
" " 2nd "	60
" " 3rd "	50
" " 4th "	40
Naib Zilladar, 1st grade	35
" " 2nd "	25

Dates of vacations of Government Schools and Colleges.

Salaries of Canal Zilladars and Deputy Collectors.

Mr. Aikman ; Sardar Bahadur Sardar Gajjan Singh ; Mr. Thompson.]

"(b) There has been no increase in the pay of Deputy Collectors since 1888, but the pay of Zilladars has been substantially increased since the year 1908, and Zilladars, 1st grade, now draw Rs. 100, 2nd grade, Rs. 80, 3rd grade, Rs. 60, and 4th grade, Rs. 50, while Naib Zilladars were abolished in 1902. In 1888 the average monthly pay of Zilladars and Naib Zilladars was only Rs. 44, and in 1917 it was Rs. 66, an increase of 50 per cent.

"(c) In view of the facts above stated no increase in pay is contemplated at present."

The Hon'ble Sardar Bahadur Sardar Gajjan Singh asked :—

17. "Will the Government be pleased to inform :—

Numbers of Zilladars.

"(a) What were the total number of Zilladars' posts in the Irrigation Department in 1888? How many of such posts were of the 1st and the 2nd grades?

"(b) How many new posts of Zilladars were created consequent upon the opening of the Lower Bari Doab, Upper Joelum, and Upper Chenab Canals? How many of such newly created posts were of the 1st and 2nd grades?

"(c) If none, does the Government think it desirable to make a proportionate increase in the Upper Grades?

The Hon'ble Mr. Aikman replied :—

"(a) There were 30 Zilladar and 26 Naib Zilladar posts = 56 posts in 1888. There were five 1st grade and seven 2nd grade posts.

"(b) The Zilladar cadre was increased by 56 posts in connection with the Triple Canals, including eight 1st grade and eleven 2nd grade posts.

"(c) In view of the facts above stated no further increase is at present contemplated."

The Hon'ble Sardar Bahadur Sardar Gajjan Singh asked :—

18. "Will the Government be pleased to inform :—

Eligibility of Canal Zilladars for the post of Extra Assistant Commissioner.

"(a) Are the Canal Zilladars eligible for the post of Extra Assistant Commissioner?

"(b) If so, has the Government so far accepted any such candidate for the said post?

"(c) If not, is Government prepared in future to consider the cases of suitable candidates favourably?"

The Hon'ble Mr. Aikman replied :—

"(a). Yes.

"(b) No. The natural line of promotion for Zilladars is to the posts of Deputy Collectors in the Irrigation Department, and these posts are held almost exclusively by promoted Zilladars.

"(c) Any names submitted will be considered along with those submitted by other Departments."

The Hon'ble Sardar Bahadur Sardar Gajjan Singh asked :—

Provincial Civil Service.

19. "Will the Government be pleased to state when the Provincial Civil Service was started in the Punjab and what were its minimum and maximum rates of salary fixed at the time?"

The Hon'ble Mr. Thompson replied :—

"The Provincial Civil Service was the outcome of the Report of the Public Services Commission of 1893. The pay was graded from Rs. 250 to Rs. 800."

[Sardar Bahadur Sardar Gajjan Singh ; Mr. Thompson ; Khan Bahadur Sayad Mehdi Shah.]

The Hon'ble Sardar Bahadur Sardar Gajjan Singh asked :—

20. "Is it a fact that the initial rate of salary of the Provincial Civil Service has remained steady ever since, viz., Rs. 250?" Provincial Civil Service.

The Hon'ble Mr. Thompson replied :—

"These rates are still in force."

The Hon'ble Sardar Bahadur Sardar Gajjan Singh asked :—

21. "Is the Government aware that the Provincial Civil Service is discontented with its present rates of pay and prospects and the pinch is being very severely felt, specially in the lower grades from Rs. 250 to Rs. 400?" Provincial Civil Service.

The Hon'ble Mr. Thompson replied :—

"Government will, no doubt, be made acquainted with the latest views of the service on the points in question by the officers who have been selected to represent them."

The Hon'ble Sardar Bahadur Sardar Gajjan Singh asked :—

22. "Has the Government read the series of articles in the *Tribune* of February 16-22, March 9, 23, and 31, and May 13, 1917, showing that the rate of Rs. 250-40/3-500 proposed by the Royal Services Commission is severely condemned by the Provincial Civil Service and instead of affording a relief it is a definite set-back?" Provincial Civil Service.

The Hon'ble Mr. Thompson replied :—

"Government has seen the articles referred to."

The Hon'ble Sardar Bahadur Sardar Gajjan Singh asked :—

23. "When is the Government going to consult the two representatives of the Provincial Civil Service and finally deal with the future of the Service?" Provincial Civil Service.

The Hon'ble Mr. Thompson replied :—

"Government will consult the representatives of the Provincial Civil Service when it is itself consulted by the Government of India."

"It is impossible to say when orders will be passed in regard to the Provincial Civil Service."

The Hon'ble Sardar Bahadur Sardar Gajjan Singh asked :—

24. "Can the Government definitely say when can anything be expected to improve the lot of the Provincial Civil Service?" Provincial Civil Service.

The Hon'ble Mr. Thompson replied :—

"Government cannot say, even approximately, when any improvement can be expected in the pay and prospects of the Provincial Civil Service. If the Hon'ble Member has found time to study the literature of the subject, he is, doubtless, aware that the opinion of the Punjab Government in 1913, when the Royal Commission visited Lahore, was that, though revision of salaries and grading would be necessary from time to time, both salaries and grading were for the time being adequate. Sir Louis Dane was then Lieutenant-Governor. His Honour is not prepared at present to express an opinion one way or the other, but is giving his careful consideration to the matter in connection with the Royal Commission's report."

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Sayad Mehdi Shah asked :—

25 " (a) Has the lecture on the "The Paucity of Muslim Employees in the Education Department, its Evil Effects on the Muslim Education in Paucity of Muslim Employees in the Education Department.

[*Khan Bahadur Sayad Mehdi Shah ; Mr. Richey.*]

the Punjab and Remedies" delivered by Shaikh Niaz Ali, B.A., LL.B., Pleader, Chief Court, Lahore, at the last anniversary of the Anjuman Himayat Islam, Lahore, on the 7th April 1917, come to the notice of the Punjab Government ?

"(b) If so, will the Government be pleased to state what steps has it kindly thought fit to take to improve the representation of the Muslim community in the Education Department ?"

The Hon'ble Mr. Richey replied :—

"(a) The answer is in the affirmative.

"(b) The Education Department has made, and is making, constant efforts to increase the representation of Muhammadans in its service but, in view of the counter attractions offered by other branches of Government service, the success achieved hitherto has not been as great as could be desired.

"When it is stated that of 541 students who passed degree examinations last year only 88 were Muhammadans, only a small number of whom were candidates for employment by the Education Department, it will be realized that the difficulties in the way of increasing the proportion of Muhammadans are considerable."

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Sayad Mehdi Shah asked :—

26. "(a) Has the Government in this connection considered the Resolution of the Government of India regarding encouragement of Muslim education ?

"(b) If so, will the Government be pleased to show what special facilities have since been provided for the propagation of secondary education among the Muslim community in the Punjab ?"

The Hon'ble Mr. Richey replied :—

"(a) Yes.

"(b) The special facilities for secondary education which affect Muhammadans are—

(i) special scholarships for Muhammadan pupils ;

(ii) reduced fee rates in Anglo-Vernacular Schools in some of the Muhammadan Districts, e.g., Dera Ghazi Khan, Muzaffargarh, Multan, Mianwali, Jhelum, Attock, Shahpur and Rawalpindi ; and

(iii) the provision of a considerable number of free studentships for poor pupils in Anglo-Vernacular Schools."

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Sayad Mehdi Shah asked :—

27. "(a) Will the Government be further pleased to add if a proportion has been fixed for the admission of Muslim students into the teachers' training institutions of the Punjab ?

"(b) If the answer be in the affirmative will the Government be pleased to place a statement on the Council table showing the proportionate number of Muhammadan students admitted to such institutions this year."

The Hon'ble Mr. Richey replied :—

"(a). No communal proportion has been fixed for admissions into training institutions, nor can be fixed, as the admissions must depend on the number and qualifications of the applicants. In the Rawalpindi Division, for example, which is 87 per cent. Muhammadan, there were only 66 candidates for admission to the Normal School. Of these 38 were Muhammadans.

"(b) The statement* required is laid upon the table."

*See appendix B.

Encourage-
ment of
Muslim edu-
cation.

Admission of
Muslim stu-
dents to tea-
chers' training
institutions.

[Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Hussain; Mr. Richey.]

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Hussain asked :—

28. "Will the Government be pleased to state the number of pupils in each standard of the primary schools, in the Punjab, in 1910-11, 1912-13, 1914-15, 1915-16, 1916-17 and to explain the large number in the lowest class."

The Hon'ble Mr. Richey replied :—

"Figures for pupils in each standard of primary schools in the Punjab are only obtained quinquennially, such figures having been obtained for the first time in 1911-12. The number of pupils in each standard at the close of the school years 1911-12 and 1916-17 were as follows :—

YEAR.	STANDARD.				
	1	2	3	4	5
1911-12	133,387	48,160	40,046	28,630	23,888
1916-17	160,725	67,824	55,319	41,729	35,711

"These figures include pupils attending the primary departments of secondary schools. No separate figures for primary schools only are available.

"There appear to be two chief reasons to account for the large number in the first class—

"(a) The presence in school of a large number of children who are sent to school for a year or two by their parents to be out of harm's way, and who are removed as soon as they are old enough to be of service in their homes.

"(b) Ineffective teaching in infant classes.

"The subject is considered at length in the quinquennial report which will shortly be issued."

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Hussain asked :—

29. "Will the Government be pleased to state whether the General Educational Conference held last April in Lahore has made a report stating whether in their opinion the teaching and study of vernaculars in our schools are on a satisfactory basis? And whether, in the said Conference, great volume of opinion was not in support of the contention that the teaching and study of vernaculars in our schools had deteriorated?"

The Hon'ble Mr. Richey replied :—

"There was a general consensus of opinion at the General Educational Conference held in Lahore last April that greater encouragement might be given to the study of the vernacular. In accordance with the recommendations of the Conference, the vernacular medium has already been introduced in the Middle Department, and the University has been asked to admit the vernacular as an alternative to a classical language at the Matriculation.

"The second part of the question seems to postulate a time when the vernaculars were largely studied, and efficiently taught. In this connection I quote from the first report on Education in the Punjab, written by

[Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Hussain; Mr. Richey.]

Mr. Delafied Arnold in 1857. Referring to a statement showing some 3,000 schools in the Punjab, he says :—

“It will be seen that there are only ten Urdu indigenous schools, and I rather doubt the actual existence—as such—of these. To educate a boy by teaching him his native language is to the natives almost a contradiction in terms. Persian is something and Sanskrit is something, but what is Urdu?”

“The teaching of the vernacular can hardly have deteriorated since those days. Whether owing to the competition of other useful subjects it has deteriorated of recent years in spite of the large increase in the number of trained and efficient teachers was not a point on which the Educational Conference came to any definite conclusion, though, as previously stated, recommendations were made for the encouragement of the study of the vernacular.”

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Hussain asked :—

Hostel accommodation at Government College, Lahore.

30. “Will the Government be pleased to state whether the hostel accommodation in the Government College, Lahore, is adequate? In case the accommodation is not adequate will the Government be pleased to state when for the first time this want of adequate hostel accommodation was brought to their notice and with what results? And also whether this matter has not been brought to the notice every year since then?”

The Hon'ble Mr. Richey replied :—

“The fact that the existing hostel accommodation of the Government College is inadequate was first brought to the notice of Government in 1894; and has been brought to the notice of Government at frequent intervals, since. Houses for branch hostels have been hired by Government to accommodate additional boarders. It was stated in this Council in reply to a question by Mr. Shadi Lal in 1911 that the Lieutenant-Governor was of opinion that the task of providing hostel accommodation for students attending Government institutions in Lahore was one in which religious and other societies might well be asked to assist, building grants being given them for the purpose. Hostels conducted by such bodies have been successfully established in connection with the Muir College, Allahabad, and elsewhere. In Lahore so far no such society except the Young Men's Christian Association has come forward with a proposal of this kind.

“Government has recently purchased a site for a new hostel to accommodate 200 students at a cost of Rs. 1,17,760.”

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Hussain asked :—

Ditto.

31. “Will the Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that if hostel accommodation is made available for 200 students in the Government College, it will barely meet the demand for it? If so, will the Government be pleased to state how many boarders the proposed hostel on the new site will accommodate, and what is the estimated cost of this hostel accommodation per boarder?”

The Hon'ble Mr. Richey replied :—

“There are at present 173 boarders accommodated in the branch hostels of the Government College so that the accommodation for 200 students which it is proposed to provide in the new hostel, will meet present requirements. The plan and estimates for the new hostel being still under preparation, it is not yet possible to estimate the probable cost of accommodation per boarder.”

[Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Hussain; Mr. Richey.]

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Hussain asked :—

32. "Will the Government be pleased to state the total number of applicants, satisfying the requisite conditions of admission, who wanted to join the B. T. Class of the Central Training College, Lahore, and the S. A.-V. Class of the same institution, and the actual number admitted to each class?" Applicants for admission to B. T. Class.

The Hon'ble Mr. Richey replied :—

"The total number of qualified applicants for the B. T. and S. A.-V. classes of the Central Training College last year was 194 and 159 respectively. Of these 48 were admitted to the former class and 45 to the latter."

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Hussain asked :—

33. "Will the Government be pleased to state whether all the secondary schools in the Punjab have got trained staff? And whether a large number of trained teachers are not required to replace the untrained staff, and to enable the secondary education to expand efficiently?" Trained staff of Secondary schools.

The Hon'ble Mr. Richey replied :—

"There is still a large demand for trained secondary teachers in the Punjab though the percentage of trained teachers in secondary schools has increased during the last five years from 54.6, to 64.8, and is at present I believe higher than that in any other province in India."

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Hussain asked :—

34. "Will the Government be pleased to consider the advisability of opening a second section of the B. T. Class in the Central Training College, Lahore, next year?" Opening of a second section of B. T. class.

The Hon'ble Mr. Richey replied :—

"The question of enlarging the B. T. or indeed any class at the Central Training College depends on conditions of staff and accommodation."

"Proposals for a considerable strengthening of the College staff are now under the consideration of Government."

"Plans and estimates for the construction of a Normal School at Ghakhar in the Gujranwala District have recently been submitted to Government for administrative sanction. Funds are in hand for this work. When the buildings are completed the Lahore Normal School will be removed to this locality, and the buildings it at present occupies in the Central Training College compound will become available for the enlargement of that institution. It is hoped that the buildings will be completed next year."

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Hussain asked :—

35. "Will the Government be pleased to state whether the summer vacations this year in the Central Model School, Lahore, were shifted from the usual vacation months? And, if so, on what grounds?" Summer vacations at Central Model School and High Schools in Lahore.

36. "Will the Government be pleased to state whether other High Schools in Lahore were requested to so arrange their vacations as to reopen on the 15th of August? And, if so, whether all or any of them complied with this request? And, if not, are the Government aware of the reason for non-compliance?" Ditto.

37. "Will the Government be pleased to state whether the shifting of the summer vacations was mentioned in the Prospectus of the Central Model School this year? And, if not, whether the staff and the students had due notice of it?" Ditto.

[*Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Hussain ; Mr. Richey.*]

Summer vaca-
tions at Cen-
tral Model
School and
High Schools
in Lahore;

38. "Will the Government be pleased to state whether their attention was drawn—(a) to the criticism to which the proposed change was subjected by the Press, (b) to the wishes of a large number of guardians of the pupils and (c) to the fact that medical opinion on the advisability of quininising school children in Lahore was divided?"

Ditto.

39. "Will the Government be pleased to state how the percentage of attendance of pupils, on the reopening of the Central Model School, Lahore, this year, after vacations compared with the percentage of attendance on the reopening of the school after vacations in 1915 and 1916?"

Ditto.

40. "Will the Government be pleased to state the total number of pupils on the rolls of the Central Model School, Lahore, when it closed for vacations, and the number of quininised on its reopening this year?"

The Hon'ble Mr. Richey replied:—

"With the permission of the Hon'ble Member I will reply to questions 35—40 which all deal with one subject in a single statement which will include all the points raised in his various questions.

"The summer vacation of the Central Model School was altered this year in order to reopen the school in August instead of in September for the administration of preventative quinine to the pupils.

"All other High Schools in Lahore were requested to alter the dates of their holidays for the same purpose. All with the exception of the D. A. V. and the Rang Mahal Mission School did so. The Headmasters of these two schools informed the Inspector that they had not had sufficient notice to enable them to make arrangements for the change.

"The Headmasters' Association of Lahore also protested at the short notice; and not without good reason. Notice of the schools selected by the local authorities for quininisation was only received by the Education Department in the middle of June and was then transmitted through the Inspector to the schools concerned."

"There is no doubt the short notice did cause inconvenience, more especially to the school staffs. There is incidentally no prospectus of the Central Model School.

"Some criticisms of the change of dates did appear in the papers, based, if my recollection is correct, on the mistaken notion that a number of pupils were taken by their parents to the hills during the fever season, whereas the number who do go to the hills is very small indeed in proportion to the number who remain.

"Only one parent, the Hon'ble Member himself, wrote to me on the question, and no complaints from parents were received by the Inspector.

"Medical opinion is generally in favour of the scheme of quininisation though all medical men do not advocate it. In this particular instance no doubt as to its advisability was expressed by any medical authority until the schools had been actually closed for the holidays.

"The average attendance at the Central Model School on its reopening after the summer holidays this year was exactly the same as last year, namely, 87 per cent. In 1915 it was 90 per cent.

"The total number of pupils attending the Central Model School when it closed for the vacation was 966. The number quininised at its reopening was 477.

"In conclusion, I should add that steps are being taken to obviate a recurrence of the inconvenience that was caused this year by the short notice.

[*Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Hussain* ; *Colonel Hendley*.]

In future it is hoped to be able to ask schools selected after consultation with the Malaria Department, in February, if they are prepared to be quininised in the summer."

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Hussain asked :—

41. " Will the Government be pleased to state the total number of students and the number of Musalman students in the Medical College, Lahore, on 31st March of 1905, 1910, 1915 and 1917 ? "

Number of
Musalman
students in
the Lahore
Medical
College.

The Hon'ble Colonel Hendley replied :—

" Total number of students and the total number of Musalman students in the Lahore Medical College on the 31st March of 1905, 1910, 1915 and 1917 was :—

		Total.	Musalmans.
1905	...	274	23
1910	...	175	23
1915	...	172	17
1917	...	232	22

and in the School it was —

		Total.	Musalmans.
	...	325	73
1910	...	209	55
1915	...	258	53
1917	...		84

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Hussain asked :—

42. " Will the Government be pleased to state the total number of Assistant Surgeons in the employ of the Local Government, and also to state how many of them are Muhammadans ? "

Number of
Muhammadan
Assistant
Surgeons.

The Hon'ble Colonel Hendley replied :—

" There are 207 Assistant Surgeons of all grades whose names are borne on the Provincial list. Of these 36 are Muhammadans. "

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Hussain asked :—

43. " Will the Government be pleased to state whether they have during the last five years taken any particular action to afford facilities for Musalman students to join the Medical College ? "

Facilities for
Musalman
Medical
students.

" In case no particular step has been taken, will the Government be pleased to consider the advisability of admitting qualified Musalman candidates to the Medical College, provided their number does not go beyond 33 per cent. of the total admissions ? "

The Hon'ble Colonel Hendley replied :—

" During the last five years with the exception of the present year, every student, whether Musalman, Hindu or Sikh, who has applied for admission to the Medical College, and has been duly qualified, has been admitted. For the first time in the history of the College this year the total applications for admission have exceeded the available accommodation for College students. Of 40 new students admitted into the College 16 were Musalmans, 55 Hindus and 9 Sikhs, and of 96 new admissions into the School 31 were Musalmans, 33 Hindus and 32 Sikhs.

[Colonel Hendley ; Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Hussain ; Mr. Thompson.]

"In the School admissions this year in the case of Hindus and Sikhs selection was restricted to candidates who had passed the Entrance examination in the Science Faculty, but in the case of Musalmans when all with Science Faculty qualifications had been taken a selection was made from applicants who had only passed the Entrance examination in the Arts Faculty.

"In the School 33 per cent. of the Punjab Civil Scholarships are reserved for Musalmans, and for the Burma Scholarships Musalmans and Sikhs have preference over Hindus, while in the North-West Frontier Province scholarships are usually awarded to Musalmans. In the College, however, Government Scholarships are awarded only by competition, irrespective of religion or race."

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Hussain asked :—

Want of accommodation at Medical College, Lahore.

44. "Will the Government be pleased to state whether any Musalman candidates for admission to the Medical College this year, though possessing requisite qualifications, were refused admission on the ground of want of accommodation? And, if so, how many?"

The Hon'ble Colonel Hendley replied :—

"This year 80 students were admitted into the College and 96 into the school, while admission had to be refused to 17 applicants for admission to the College and 257 to the School. Of the 17 College applicants refused admission 3 were Musalmans, 11 Hindus and 3 Sikhs, and of the 257 School applicants refused admission 31 were Musalmans, 162 Hindus and 64 Sikhs."

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Hussain asked :—

"With reference to the answer given by the Hon'ble Member I beg to ask whether the Hon'ble Member will kindly explain the difference between a Matriculate on the Science side and a Matriculate on the Arts side with Science as one of the subjects."

The Hon'ble Colonel Hendley replied :

"Well, we prefer the Science."

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Hussain asked :—

Statistics given in a lecture by Sheikh Niaz Ali.

45. "Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the statistics given in a lecture delivered by Shaikh Niaz Ali, B.A., at the anniversary of the Anjuman-i-Himayat-i-Islam, Lahore, on the 7th April 1917, and published in several Lahore papers? If so, will the Government be pleased to state whether the said statistics are correct?"

The Hon'ble Mr. Thompson replied :—

"Government has seen the article in question. The figures given by Sheikh Niaz Ali in his lecture are inaccurate in detail, but are approximately correct."

The Hon'ble Mr. Fazl-i-Hussain asked :—

High Court for the Punjab.

46. "Will the Government be pleased to state whether a scheme for the Punjab High Court has been framed? And, if so, whether it has been sent to the Government of India? And whether it has been finally sanctioned by the Secretary of State? And will the Government be pleased to lay the scheme on the Council table if it has not yet been considered by the Government of India."

The Hon'ble Mr. Thompson replied :—

"I presume that what the Hon'ble Member wishes to know is whether any proposals have been made and approved in regard to the constitution of the

[Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Hussain ; Mr. Thompson ; Mr. Lumsden.]

Punjab High Court. There is no intention, so far as the Punjab Government is aware, of making the Punjab High Court when created, an exception among the High Courts of India in regard to its statutory constitution, and section 101 of the Government of India Act, 1915, will presumably apply. The conversion of the Chief Court into a High Court will take place after the war and when financial conditions permit. The end of the war is not yet in sight and there is no object in framing detailed proposals at present."

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Hussain asked :—

47. "Will the Government be pleased to state with reference to the Public Meeting of the Citizens of Lahore held in Bradlaugh Hall, Lahore, on 28th June 1917—

Meeting at
Bradlaugh
Hall, Lahore,
on 28th June
1917.

"(a) whether on perusal the Government found the speeches delivered in the said meeting to be moderate ?

"(b) whether at midnight, following the said meeting, all the newspapers in Lahore were prohibited by orders, served through police agency, from publishing the proceedings of that meeting or even referring to the meeting ?

"If so, will the Government be pleased to state who was responsible for issuing that order? And whether it was issued before or after the meeting ?"

The Hon'ble Mr. Thompson replied :—

"(a) It is a fact that on perusal Government found the speeches delivered at the Bradlaugh Hall meeting of the 28th June moderate in tone.

"(b) The facts are as stated in the first part of question. The order prohibiting publication was issued by Government before the meeting."

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Hussain asked :—

48. "Will the Government be pleased to state the total expenditure incurred in printing the proceedings of the meetings of this Council in 1912-13 1915-16, 1916-17? And the number of copies printed during each of the aforementioned years ?

Cost of print-
ing proceed-
ings of
Council.

The Hon'ble Mr. Lumsden replied :—

"The information required by the Hon'ble Member is as follows :—

Years.	Expenditure on printing proceedings.			No. of copies printed.
	Rs.	A.	P.	
1912-13	391	7	8	1,150
1915-16	492	1	3	1,200
1916-17	503	5	11	800

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Hussain asked :—

49. "Will the Government be pleased to state the total expenditure incurred during the years 1912-13 and 1915-16 in supplying the non-official members of the Council with copies of the proceedings of the Imperial and Provincial Legislatures ?"

Supply of
copies of pro-
ceedings of
Legislative
Councils.

[*Mr. Lumsden ; Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Hussain ; Mr. Thompson.*]

The Hon'ble Mr. Lumsden replied :—

"The copies of proceedings of other Councils are supplied to us free of charge."

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Hussain asked :—

Discontinu-
ance of supply
of copies of
proceedings of
Legislative
Councils.

50. "Will the Government be pleased to state whether the order discontinuing the supply of proceedings of other Legislative Councils to non-official members of this Council—

- "(a) covers the proceedings of the Imperial Legislature as well? and
"(b) is a war measure, or is intended to remain in force after the war as well?"

The Hon'ble Mr. Lumsden replied :—

"(a) Copies of the proceedings of the Imperial Legislative Council are supplied to Members as heretofore."

"(b) The supply of other proceedings has been discontinued as a war measure in order to economise paper. It is intended to resume the supply after the war."

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Hussain asked :—

Persons dealt
with under
the Defence of
India Act.

51. "Will the Government be pleased to state—

- (a) the total number of persons dealt with under the Defence of India Act?
(b) And out of these the number against whom an order under the Act is still in force?"

The Hon'ble Mr. Thompson replied :—

"(a) The total number of persons dealt with under the Defence of India Act is 176.

"(b) The number of persons against whom an order under the Act is still in force is 109."

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Hussain asked :—

52. "Will the Government be pleased to state whether any general rules have been framed to guide the Heads of Departments and the Courts in selecting newspapers for advertisement work?"

The Hon'ble Mr. Thompson replied :—

"No general rules have been framed to guide Heads of Departments and the Courts in selecting newspapers for their official advertisements, but Government reserves to itself the right to send its work in this respect to such newspapers as appear most suitable."

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Hussain asked :—

52 (A). "Will the Hon'ble Member kindly define the term 'suitable' in his reply?"

The Hon'ble Mr. Thompson replied :—

"That is a matter which rests in the discretion of Government in each individual case."

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Hussain asked :—

Government
advertisements in news
papers.

53. "Will the Government be pleased to name the English newspapers of Lahore to which the advertisement work of the Government is being given this year?"

[*Mr. Thompson ; Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Hussain ; Mr. Craik.*]

The Hon'ble Mr. Thompson replied :—

"Government advertisements have been given to the following English newspapers of Lahore this year :—The *Civil and Military Gazette*, the *Panjabee*, the *Tribune*, the *Observer* and the *Bulletin*. But I repeat that Government reserves the right to use such newspapers for its work as it thinks fit."

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Hussain asked :—

54. "Will the Government be pleased to state whether it has framed any rules under section 20 (1) of Act III of 1911, laying down the method of Enquiry before issuing notification under Section 3 of the said Act that a gang of persons is a criminal tribe? If so, will the Government be pleased to lay the same on the Council Table. If no rules have yet been framed, will the Government be pleased to state the practice prevailing as to the disposal of such matters, with special reference to—

Notification of gangs under the Criminal Tribes Act, 1911.

"(a) the authority initiating the proposal and framing charges against the gang and its individual members ;

"(b) the opportunity afforded to the persons concerned to meet such charges ;

"(c) the authority determining the matter in issue ;

"(d) whether the opinion of any of the Law Officers is taken."

The Hon'ble Mr. Craik replied :—

"No rule of the nature indicated has been framed. In practice proposals to declare a gang a criminal tribe under Act III of 1911 are initiated by the local officers, i.e., by the Superintendent of Police or District Magistrate. So far as Government is aware, no formal opportunity is given to members of such gangs to show cause against the action proposed, nor does the Act provide specifically for such opportunity being given. But Government has no reason to doubt that in all cases members of the gang are well aware of the action contemplated, and that any representations they may make to the local officers are accorded full consideration. The usual basis for action under the Act is the fact that the criminal habits of the members of the gang jointly or severally have been established by convictions in the Criminal Courts or proceedings under the Criminal Procedure Code. When the local officers are satisfied that the gang is addicted to the systematic commission of non-bailable offences, proposals for its notification as a criminal tribe under section 3 of the Act are submitted by the District Magistrate to the Commissioner of the Division, together with all material available regarding the criminality of the gang. If the Commissioner is satisfied that the proposals are justified, he forwards them to the Deputy Inspector-General of Police, who records his opinion and sends the papers to the Central Police office. They are there examined by the Deputy Inspector-General in the Criminal Investigation Department and the Inspector-General and forwarded to the Deputy Commissioner for Criminal Tribes. The latter officer may, and usually does, make further investigation in communication with the local officers, and if satisfied that the proposal is justified submits it to Government with his recommendation. The final authority determining whether the gang is to be notified is the Local Government. The Law Officers are consulted on any legal points that may arise, such as the wording of the notification, but not on the facts."

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Hussain asked :—

55. "Will the Government be pleased to place on table, by way of illustration, the case of any notification declaring a number of persons of different tribes to be a gang under section 3 of Act III of 1911."

Ditto.

[*Mr. Craik ; Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Hussain ; Sayad Makhdum Rajan Shah.*]

The Hon'ble Mr. Craik replied :—

"Only 3 gangs consisting of persons of different tribes have been notified as criminal tribes. Government is not prepared to lay papers on the table, but the following figures illustrate the criminality of the 3 gangs:—

"Gang A consists of 15 persons. Eight of these have been convicted in 12 cases under the Indian Penal Code, and 11 have been convicted in 22 cases under the Criminal Procedure Code. All members of the gang have been suspected of the commission of 108 offences.

Akka's gang.

"Gang B consists of 13 persons, 5 of whom have been convicted in 6 cases under the Penal Code, and 12 in 36 cases under the Criminal Procedure Code. The members of the gang have been suspected of committing 154 offences.

Yara's gang.

"Gang C consists of 12 persons, 3 of whom have been convicted in 4 cases under the Penal Code and 5 in 7 cases under the Criminal Procedure Code. The gang is suspected of committing 58 offences."

Diw Muhammad's gang.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Hussain asked : —

Detention of
Muhammad
Said in the
Lahore Lunatic
Asylum.

56. "Will the Government be pleased to state whether one Muhammad Said of Kasur, an inmate of the Lahore Lunatic Asylum, was received and detained as a criminal lunatic or as a lunatic so found by inquisition, or under a reception order, or under sections 8, 16, or 18 of Act IV of 1912?"

Ditto.

57. "If the above-mentioned Muhammad Said was received and detained under a reception order, will the Government be pleased to mention the authority issuing the reception order, and the section of Act IV of 1912 under which it was issued?"

The Hon'ble Mr. Craik replied :—

"Muhammad Said was detained in the Lunatic Asylum for observation as a non-criminal lunatic in pursuance of an order made by the District Magistrate of Lahore under section 16 (1) of Act IV of 1912. After a few days' detention he was certified by the Medical Officer of the Asylum to be insane and the District Magistrate thereupon passed a reception order under section 14 of the Act."

The Hon'ble Sayad Makhdum Rajan Shah asked :—

Attendance of
students at
political meet-
ings.

58. "(a) In their Circular No. 2350-11-S. B., dated the 20th July 1917, the Punjab Government has remarked that—

"The young require special protection against those who appeal to them to join in agitation by flattering them as patriots, as defenders of religion and as saviours of their country, and thereby sow the seeds of indiscipline and anarchy, which may have lamentable results in future. This is no imaginary picture; within the last few years some scores of school boys and students belonging to loyal and respectable families have, by means of such insidious appeals, been perverted and drawn into sedition and rebellion."

"Will the Government be pleased to state if the mischievous propagandas alluded to in the above extract have been preached in public meetings? If so, will the Government be pleased to state when, and at what places, have political meetings taken place in the Punjab, during the last 5 years, which have perverted students in the way mentioned in the above question?"

"(b) Will the Government be also pleased to give the names of the speakers who made such inflammatory speeches in the Province during the last 5 years?"

[*Sayad Makhdum Rajan Shah ; Mr. Thompson.*]

" (c) Have the above referred to speakers been prosecuted by Government and with what results ? If not, what are the grounds for not proceeding against them ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Thompson replied :—

" The first of the Hon'ble Member's question is not so strictly limited in regard to time as the second. Both presumably refer to the Punjab alone.

" As regards the Punjab, the circumstances of 1907 are probably within the recollection of the Hon'ble Member. Public meetings were held in Lahore, Rawalpindi and elsewhere, and were attended by students in large numbers. The direct result of these meetings in Lahore and Rawalpindi was an outbreak of rioting in which unfortunately students were prominent.

" The second question relates specifically to the Punjab and the last five years, that is, the five years since the autumn of 1912. During this period, the tone of speeches at public meetings in the Punjab, though occasionally bitter and unfriendly, and calculated to produce and foster feelings of resentment and hostility towards Government, has not been such as to necessitate punitive action against individual speakers. Anarchy and violence are not preached in public, as a rule, but how far this is due to the knowledge that such preaching will not be tolerated by the authorities, I leave it to the Hon'ble Member to determine. The records of the various conspiracy cases show that schoolboys and students were induced to join by secret propaganda and private meetings in 1914 and 1915.

" Instances, however, are not wanting in which undesirable doctrines have been preached in public since the outbreak of the war. It is believed that the flight of several Muhammadan students from Lahore to join the King's enemies was in part due to speeches which were publicly delivered here in Lahore by two agitators from outside the province. One of the two agitators has since fought against us on the frontier, and is still at large : the other has been interned by order of a Provincial Government other than that of the Punjab."

The Hon'ble Sayad Makhdum Rajan Shah asked :—

" 9. (a) Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the names and particulars of persons interned under the Defence of India Act, together with the dates when they were interned ?

Persons interned under the Defence of India Act.

" (b) Will the Government be further pleased to inform the Council which of the persons interned have been already released and on what dates ?

" (c) Are the cases of other interned persons being reconsidered by Government at present ? If so, when can the public expect the result of such reconsideration ? "

The Hon'ble Mr. Thompson replied :—

" The figures regarding the number of persons interned under the Defence of India Act and the number against whom orders under the Act are still in force have already been given. Government does not consider that further details will serve any useful purpose.

" Regarding the last part of the question, the cases of the persons against whom orders are still in force are constantly scrutinized and considered by Government, and orders are modified or cancelled immediately it is considered safe to do so in the interests of public safety."

[*Sayad Makhdum Rajah Shah ; Mr. Townsend ; Mr. Lumsden.*]

The Hon'ble Sayad Makhdum Rajah Shah asked :—

Expenditure
of wheat pro-
fits.

60 “ Will the Government be pleased to give the detailed expenditure of the non-recurring assignment of Rs. 10,70,000, made by the Imperial to the Provincial Government on account of wheat profits in the current budget, under head 26-A—(Agriculture) ? If this amount has not been already spent, will the Government kindly state how and when do they propose to spend it ? ”

The Hon'ble Mr. Townsend replied :—

“ The only sum that has as yet been disbursed from the assignment of 11.7 lakhs. in question—an additional lakh has been assigned to the Punjab within the last few weeks—has been 1 lakh of rupees, which has been devoted to the purchase of pure wheat seed by the Agricultural Department for sale to cultivators for sowing purposes this autumn.

“ It is proposed to expend the greater part of the balance on the following objects :—Extension of the Lyallpur farm buildings ; extension of the Gurdaspur farm and buildings ; establishing demonstration farms (the recurring cost of which will be borne by district boards, though they will be managed, on behalf of these boards, by the Agricultural Department) ; power boring plant for wells ; an experimental farm in the North Punjab ; two seed go-downs ; water saving and other connected experiments on a large scale at Roda Koru, near Lyallpur ; a tube well in the Sialkot District ; additional veterinary hospitals in the south-east of the Province ; a demonstration farm in connection with the Borstal Jail ; the extension of the laboratory at the Agricultural College ; an experimental rice farm on the Upper Chenab Canal, and the reclamation of ‘ bara ’ land in the Lower Bari Doab Colony. After providing for the estimated expenditure necessary for these purposes, some surplus will still remain over ; and proposals as regards the expenditure of this amount are under consideration. Any suggestions which Hon'ble Members may care to submit to me in this connection will receive careful consideration.

“ It is impossible as yet to say accurately what exact amount will be spent in the current financial year, apart of course from the sum of one lakh, devoted to the purchase of pure wheat seed. Probably it will amount in all to about another lakh of rupees. The rest of the assignment will be spent in the next financial year and its successors.

“ This answer also disposes of question No. 20 standing in the name of the Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Ram Saran Das.”

The Hon'ble Sayad Makhdum Rajah Shah asked :—

Executive
officers as pre-
sidents of
Municipal and
District
Boards.

61. “ In view of the recent announcements of His Excellency the Viceroy, as regards the desirability of developing Local Self-Government, is the Punjab Government prepared to consider—

“ (a) the desirability of requiring Executive Officers not to stand (at least in some of the selected districts of the Punjab) for election as Presidents of the Municipal Boards ?

“ (b) the desirability of providing by legislature or otherwise, the election of non-officials as Presidents of District Boards ? ”

The Hon'ble Mr. Lumsden replied :—

“ (a) Under section 20 of the Municipal Act, 1911, the election of a President is a matter in the discretion of the Committee and Government is reluctant to restrict in any manner the power thus conferred. There is no reason to suppose that executive officers use their influence to secure election. I

[*Mr. Lumsden ; Sayad Makhdum Rajan Shah ; Mr. Richey.*]

may mention that 13 Municipalities* in this Province already possess elected non-official Presidents ; where other Municipal Committees desire to follow that course Government will certainly not raise any objection to the election of a suitable non-official as President.

"(b) No legislation is necessary to provide for the election of non-official Chairmen of District Boards. On the general question I would refer the Hon'ble Member to my reply to the somewhat similar enquiry to be made at this meeting by the Hon'ble Chaudhri Lal Chand.

The Hon'ble Sayad Makhdum Rajan Shah asked :—

62. "Will the Government kindly inform the Council what are the details of the new scheme of consolidated grants to be made in future to District Boards from Provincial revenues ?" Consolidated grants to District Boards.

"(b) Is there any difference between the total recurring grants made to each District Board from Provincial revenues, as made under the old scheme, and as now proposed under the new scheme of consolidated fixed grants ? If so, will the Government give a statement showing the difference for each District ?

"(c) If the answer to (b) be in the affirmative, and the total amount of recurring grants made to all District Boards under the new scheme be less than those given under the old system, will the Government kindly state how they propose to augment the already meagre recurring resources of the District Boards in future ?

"(d) Will the Government also state whether, under the new scheme, the District Boards have been burdened with any new expenditure ? If so, what is the approximate total amount of the burden in the case of each District Board in the Province ?

"(e) Will the Government kindly state whether any grants have, under the new scheme, been withdrawn ? If so, will the Government kindly state what those grants are and what is their total amount in the case of each District Board ?"

The Hon'ble Mr. Lumsden replied :—

"As regards the portions (a), (c), (d) and the first part of (e) I would refer the Hon'ble Member to the reply to be given to the Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Ram Saran Das. The information asked for in the latter parts of (b) and (e) will be found in the statement* laid on the table."

The Hon'ble Sayad Makhdum Rajan Shah asked :—

63. "(a) Will the Government kindly state what proportion of educational expenditure was met from Provincial revenues by grants-in-aid five years ago and what is the proportion now ?" Provincial grants in aid towards Educational expenditure.

"(b) If there is any diminution in the proportion of educational expenditure met from Provincial revenues will the Government be pleased to state what proposals they have under consideration to aid education from the State funds to a greater extent ?"

The Hon'ble Mr. Richey replied :—

"(a) I am not quite sure whether the Hon'ble Member refers to direct grants to aided institutions or to grants to Local Bodies. I conclude that he means the latter.

"The proportion of expenditure on education by Local Bodies met from grants-in-aid from Provincial revenues is 46.3 per cent. in 1916-17 as compared with 29.5 per cent. in 1911-12.

"(b) There has consequently been no diminution in the proportion met from Provincial revenues but an increase of over 55 per cent. The methods of distributing grants to Local Bodies have recently been considered by a special committee, who has forwarded recommendations to Government which are now under consideration."

[*Sayad Makhdum Rajan Shah ; Mr. Thompson ; Rai Bahadur Ram Saran Das ; Mr. Lumsden.*]

The Hon'ble Sayad Makhdum Rajan Shah asked :—

Students and
the Punjab
Provincial
Conference.

64. " Will the Government be pleased to announce whether the enlistment of students as volunteers in connection with the Punjab Provincial Conference or any political meeting is permissible or not under the directions of the Government ? "

The Hon'ble Mr. Thompson replied :—

" I am not quite clear what the duties of the volunteers in question are. In so far as they involve—and *prima facie* they do involve—attendance at political meetings and active participation in politics, they come within the scope of the recent circular."

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Ram Saran Das asked :—

Consolidated
grants to Dis-
trict Boards.

65. " Is it a fact that the new scheme of consolidated fixed grants for District Boards has been introduced in all the Divisions ? If so, will the Government kindly furnish for the information of the public a statement showing—

- (i) the total actual income and expenditure in each District for the year 1916 in the Rawalpindi Division and for 1916-17 in the remaining four Divisions ;
- (ii) the difference between the total income and expenditure in each District for the year 1915-16 in the Rawalpindi Division and for 1916-17 in the remaining four Divisions ;
- (iii) the total amount of grants made from the Provincial revenues to each District under the old scheme for the same years ; and
- (iv) The total amount of consolidated fixed grants for each District under the new scheme ? "

The Hon'ble Mr. Lumsden replied :—

" The scheme has now been introduced in all the Divisions. The statement* asked for is laid on the table."

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Ram Saran Das asked :—

Withdrawal
of existing
grants from
District
Boards.

66. " Will the Government kindly state for the information of the public what existing grants for various purposes from Provincial revenues to District Boards have under the new scheme of consolidated grants been withdrawn and what special grants maintained ? "

The Hon'ble Mr. Lumsden replied :—

" Grants for the following purposes from Provincial revenues to District Boards were abolished on the introduction of the new scheme :—

1. Public Works buildings ;
2. Staging Bungalows ;
3. Nazul properties ;
4. Divisional scholarships ;
5. Engineering establishment ;
6. Veterinary establishment ;
7. Feeder roads ;
8. Rest-houses ;
9. Plague grants ; and
10. Miscellaneous grants ;

The latter includes a number of petty grants, such as the grant, to the Hissar District Board, for the maintenance charges of the Rangoi Canal, and the grant for the Sakesar Sanatorium in the Shahpur District.

[Rai Bahadur Ram Saran Das ; Mr. Lumsden.]

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Ram Saran Das asked :—

67. "Will the Government kindly state whether the maintenance charges of any new services and works have been thrown on the District Boards under the new scheme? If so, have the charges of these services and works been taken into consideration at the time of fixing consolidated grants?"

New maintenance charges imposed on District Boards.

The Hon'ble Mr. Lumsden replied :—

"No new maintenance charges have been thrown on the District Boards under the new scheme. They will now, however, be directly responsible for the maintenance of certain rest-houses and other Provincial properties which were handed over to them originally with maintenance grants. The cost of maintenance of all such properties has been taken into consideration in fixing the consolidated grants."

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Ram Saran Das asked :—

68. "Is it a fact that in calculating the consolidated grants the Government has reduced the existing rate of maintenance charges for roads? If so, will the Government kindly furnish a statement showing for each District the rate per mile of metalled roads :—

Reduction of maintenance charges of District Board Roads.

- (i) Under the management of the Public Works Department in 1909-10.
- (ii) Under the management of the Public Works Department in 1915-16.
- (iii) Under the management of District Boards in 1915-16.
- (iv) As calculated by Government in fixing consolidated grants for District Boards under the new scheme."

The Hon'ble Mr. Lumsden replied :—

"The answer is in the negative. I would explain that District Boards at present maintain no road tables such as are kept up by the Public Works Department, and so no proper maintenance rates calculated on scientific principles could be worked out. In fixing the maintenance rates the Local Government has in almost every case adopted a figure which will allow for a higher expenditure on the maintenance of roads than the average of the actuals for the three years preceding that from which the new scheme takes effect and the rates were settled after most careful and detailed enquiry and after consultation with the Public Works Department."

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Ram Saran Das asked :—

69. "Is it a fact that the total amount of grants as now fixed under the new scheme of consolidated grants is less than what was actually granted from Provincial revenues to District Boards under the old system? If so, will the Government kindly state what has been the saving to Government by the introduction of the new scheme?"

Effect of consolidated grants to District Boards.

The Hon'ble Mr. Lumsden replied :—

"It will be convenient to take this question and No. 72 together. Under the old scheme the recurring grants to all the District Boards in the Province (exclusive of grants for educational purposes which have not been altered) come to Rs. 9,39,000 (round figures). The consolidated grants total Rs. 7,74,000. There is thus an apparent saving of Rs. 1,65,000, but against this must be put the sum of the contributions

[*Rai Bahadur Ram Saran Das ; Mr. Lumsden.*]

previously recovered from District Boards by Government which are now being relinquished. These amount to Rs. 42,000. There is thus a net saving to Government of expenditure, which is strictly of a recurring nature, of Rs. 1,23,000. This saving, however, is only apparent because it is intended, whenever the finances of the Province permit, to place annually at the disposal of Commissioners a sum for grants to the Boards in their Divisions for development expenditure. The normal amount has been fixed provisionally at Rs. 2,60,000. In good years when there is plenty of money to spare it may be possible to allot a larger sum, and it is hoped that even in bad years it will not be necessary to reduce the amount to any substantial extent. It will be thus seen that on the introduction of the new scheme Government will be spending normally about Rs. 1,37,000 more on contributions to District Boards than before. The above figures do not include the special grant of Rs. 3,50,000 which has been made annually for the last few years to certain Boards for new roads in the Canal Colonies. As I have on various occasions explained the object of the change was not to save money to Government but to secure a more equitable distribution of the grants and at the same time allow the District Boards a free hand in apportioning the amounts received, and thus by putting their financial position on a more secure basis to promote and extend their activities in the matter of local self-government."

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Ram Saran Das asked :—

Development grant made to District Boards.

70. "Will the Government kindly state whether the development grant of one lakh granted to District Boards in the current year was out of this saving from the total amount of old grants or over and above this latter amount?"

The Hon'ble Mr. Lumsden replied :—

"The sum of a lakh of rupees which was provided in the budget this year for development grants to District Boards was, as will be evident from the reply to the previous question, quite distinct from the provision which had been made for the old scale of recurring grants and did not come out of the savings referred to in the last question."

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Ram Saran Das asked :—

Consolidated grants to District Boards

71. "Will the Government kindly state whether it is under contemplation—

(i) to increase the consolidated grants to District Boards in such a way as not to reduce the total amount of recurring grants made from Provincial revenues to such Boards under the old scheme; and

(ii) to make in future development grants over and above the total amount of such grants?"

The Hon'ble Mr. Lumsden replied :—

(i) "As already explained the full amount of the old recurring grants is being allotted to District Boards either in the form of the consolidated grants or by way of development assistance. The consolidated grants are subject to revision at the end of five years.

(ii) "This question has already been fully discussed in the reply to No. 69.

"I may add for the information of the Hon'ble Member that a Resolution now in course of preparation will issue shortly dealing with the whole question of the new scheme and explaining the exact position of the different Boards under it."

[Rai Bahadur Ram Saran Das ; Mr. Lumsden ; Mr. Richey.]

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Ram Saran Das asked :—

72. " Will the Government kindly state whether the last development grants were made for the present year only, or will this practice be continued? What are the Government's intentions in this matter for the next year and for the future in general? "

Development grants to District Boards.

(Vide reply to question 69.)

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Ram Saran Das asked :—

73. " Will the Government kindly state whether it is under contemplation to increase fees in Primary Schools under the District Boards? "

Fees in District Board Primary Schools.

The Hon'ble Mr. Lumsden replied :—

" No such change is under contemplation."

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Ram Saran Das asked :—

74. " Is it a fact that in the distribution of educational grants the Government has now introduced a system of giving fixed grants per school in place of meeting from Provincial revenues a certain proportion of educational expenditure? "

Grants to Local Boards for Schools.

The Hon'ble Mr. Lumsden replied :—

" Grants to Local Boards for new Primary and Middle Schools are now given at fixed rates which were calculated on two-thirds of the average cost of each class of school when in full running order. The proportion, therefore, given for a new school in its opening years is considerably higher on an average than it was before this system was introduced in 1915."

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Ram Saran Das asked :—

75. " Will the Government kindly give for the information of the general public a statement showing for each district the total amount of grants received by educational institutions from Provincial revenues :—

Provincial grants to Educational institutions.

" (i) during the last year of the old system on salary basis ;

" (ii) during each under the new scheme ; and

" (iii) during each of the last two years if the old scheme had been still in force."

The Hon'ble Mr. Richey replied :—

" A statement* giving so far as is possible the information required is laid on the table. It is impossible to give the information asked for in section (iii) of this question, since grants under the old scheme were calculated on an exhaustive enumeration of every Vernacular teacher employed by every Local Body, with his qualifications and his salary. Since under the new system the necessity for compiling these exhaustive statements was obviated no such statistics are available."

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Ram Saran Das asked :—

76. " Is it a fact that by the introduction of the new scheme of fixed grants the Government has indirectly restricted the opening of new Primary Schools by District Boards? If so, will the Government kindly state whether it is under contemplation to revert to the old system or to adopt some other suitable method which should avoid any check being placed on the extension of primary education."

Effect of fixed grants on opening of new Primary Schools.

* See Appendix F.

[*Mr. Richey ; Rai Bahadur Ram Saran Das.*]

The Hon'ble Mr. Richey replied :—

"On the contrary the effect of the new system is exactly the opposite of what the Hon'ble Member supposes. The new system gives every encouragement for the opening of new schools, but has been criticized because it does nothing towards the improvement of existing schools.

"A special committee considered the method of distribution of Provincial grants to Local Bodies last week and is submitting its recommendations to Government."

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Ram Saran Das asked :—

Fuller explanation of Revised Financial Statement.

77. "Is the Government aware that the revised financial statement showing figures under major heads and the memorandum accompanying it are in themselves not sufficient to explain adequately provincial financial affairs to the non-official members ?"

The Hon'ble Mr. Lumsden replied :—

"The reply is in the negative. Government, however, is aware that the intricacies of the budget cannot be mastered by Hon'ble Members or others without careful study, and though it is doubtful if much can be done to simplify the elaborate and detailed memorandum, Government will be glad to consider any concrete suggestions put forward by Hon'ble Members and to meet their wishes as far as possible. I might point out however that I have personally on various occasions asked non-official members to consult me freely should they experience any difficulties with regard to budget figures, and the fact that little or no advantage has been taken of this invitation during the past two years would seem to show either that the Hon'ble Member's complaint is not of general application or that non-official members feel that they already receive as much financial information as they can conveniently assimilate."

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Ram Saran Das asked :—

Supply of detailed civil estimates.

78. "Is the Government aware that in some other provinces detailed civil estimates are also supplied to non-official members along with the financial statement ?"

The Hon'ble Mr. Lumsden replied :—

"Government has no information on the point."

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Ram Saran Das asked :—

Supply of detailed civil estimates.

79. "Will the Government kindly state whether it is under contemplation to supply in future copies of detailed civil estimates along with the financial statement to non-official members ?"

The Hon'ble Mr. Lumsden replied :—

"The question of such supply was considered recently in connection with a proposal that the estimates should be printed locally instead of as at present by the Comptroller-General. Government is quite prepared to make the necessary arrangements, provided there is any real and general desire on the part of Hon'ble Members for this further information, but in view of the fact that the estimates cover nearly 100 pages and the present necessity of exercising the strictest economy in the use of paper, it is felt that any change might well be deferred until after the war."

[Rai Bahadur Ram Saran Das ; Mr. Lumsden.]

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Ram Saran Das asked :—

80. "Is the Government aware that the items in the schedule of works and the charges to be met from the unallotted amount placed at the disposal of Finance Committee are not sufficiently described so as to enable the non-official members to understand the nature of such charges? Will the Government kindly consider the desirability of giving a sufficient description of such items?" Fuller explanation of Revised Financial Statement.

The Hon'ble Mr. Lumsden replied :—

"The Government was not aware that Hon'ble Members had experienced any difficulty so far in understanding the nature of the items of unallotted expenditure. As the Finance Committee affords an opportunity for free and informal discussion in respect of these charges and enables the elected members to investigate their nature fully, it is not considered necessary to increase the length and complexity of the list by giving a detailed description of every item."

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Ram Saran Das asked :—

81. "(a) Is it a fact that from 1st April 1917 no grain compensation allowance has been granted by Government?" Grain compensation allowance.

"(b) If answer to (a) be in the affirmative will the Government kindly state whether it is under contemplation to appropriate the savings under grain compensation allowance to such objects as Education, Sanitation or Medical Relief."

The Hon'ble Mr. Lumsden replied :—

"(a) Yes, with the exception of a small amount paid in Kasauli.

"(b) The Hon'ble Member is doubtless aware that the Government of India and His Majesty's Government are making every effort to economise expenditure that is not urgently necessary. He is also probably aware of the currency difficulties experienced by the Government of India, owing to the large military expenditure being incurred on behalf of His Majesty's Government and to the difficulty of obtaining sufficient silver to meet the coinage requirements. The amounts provided in the current year's budget for Education, Sanitation, Medical Relief, etc., were considerable and while the Local Government is prepared to consider the question of making additional special grants in cases of clear and urgent necessity it is essential that until the return of normal financial conditions the policy of careful economy which is at present being pursued should be continued."

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Ram Saran Das asked :—

82. "(a) Is the Government aware that there is a great deal of water-logging in various places in the vicinity of Lahore, specially near Shahdara?" Water-logging near Lahore.

"(b) Will the Government kindly state whether it is under contemplation to make allotments out of the savings of this year for sanitary purposes?"

"(c) Will the Government kindly state whether it is under contemplation to increase the recurring grants for sanitation during the next financial year."

The Hon'ble Mr. Lumsden replied :—

"(a) Government has no information to show that water-logging habitually exists in the vicinity of Lahore. No doubt in the vicinity of the river and on the low-lying ground around Shahdara water has collected this year in consequence of the abnormal rainfall and river spill. In the case of public lands the attention of the local authorities has been drawn by the Malaria Department to the necessity of dealing with such casual water, but a number of the depressions occur on private property. It is to be hoped that owners will not fail to do their part towards the removal of this source of danger to the public."

[Mr. Lumsden ; Rai Bahadur Ram Saran Das ; Mr. Townsend.]

"(b) No applications for assistance have been received so far by the Sanitary Board in connection with this matter. If the Hon'ble Member's question is intended to be of general application, I would refer him to the answer given to him already in connection with anticipated grain compensation savings.

"(c) The budget restrictions will be in force during the ensuing year, and it is not proposed to increase the recurring grant for sanitation. There is no reason to suppose that this year's allotment to the Sanitary Board of rupees four lakhs will prove to have been inadequate, and the Hon'ble Member will recognise that in consequence of the war it is difficult to obtain various kinds of materials required for the carrying out of sanitary schemes."

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Ram Saran Das asked :—

Increase in grants for sanitation.

83. "Will the Government kindly state whether it is under contemplation to increase the recurring grants for sanitation during the next financial year"

The Hon'ble Mr. Lumsden replied :—

"The budget restrictions will be in force during the ensuing year and it is not proposed to increase the recurring grant for sanitation. There is no reason to suppose that this year's allotment to the Sanitary Board of rupees four lakhs will prove to have been inadequate and the Hon'ble Member will recognise that in consequence of the war it is difficult to obtain various kinds of materials required for the carrying out of sanitary scheme."

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Ram Saran Das asked :—

Expenditure of wheat profits.

84. "Will the Government kindly state whether or not the wheat profits amounting to Rs. 10,70,000 which were allotted in the current budget under head "26-A—Agriculture" have been spent or likely to be spent in the current financial year? If not, will the Government kindly state what are their intentions with respect to this amount in the next year?"

(For reply see reply to question No. 60).

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Ram Saran Das asked :—

Supply of wheat falling short of the demand.

85. "(a) Is it a fact that supply of wheat is not keeping pace with the demands for it in this province?"

"(b) If the answer to (a) be in the affirmative, will the Government kindly state what measures they propose to take for increasing the supply of wheat?"

The Hon'ble Mr. Townsend replied :—

"(a) Government has no reason to believe that the supply of wheat is not keeping pace with the demands for it in the province where the area sown with wheat is steadily increasing year by year.

"Government has this year taken special measures to encourage the extension of wheat cultivation, but the output largely depends on climatic conditions which are beyond human control. The matter is one that receives continual attention from Government: and should Government be satisfied in the future that the contingency mentioned by the Hon'ble Member has arisen, it will not hesitate to take such action as may appear necessary to rectify the situation.

"(b) The answer to the first part of this question being in the negative, the second part does not arise."

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Ram Saran Das asked :—

Expenditure of wheat profits.

85.A "I beg to ask a supplementary question. I did not mean the internal requirements but the export requirements. The Punjab does not meet the wide export requirements,

The Hon'ble Mr. Townsend replied :—

"If the Hon'ble Member wishes to ask this question, I want notice."

[*Mr. Townsend ; Rai Bahadur Ram Saran Das ; Mr. Maynard ; Mr. Lumsden.*]

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Ram Saran Das asked :—

86. " Will the Government kindly state for the information of the public how lands reserved by the Government in the new colonies for grazing purposes have been distributed ?" Distribution of land for grazing in new colonies

The Hon'ble Mr. Maynard replied :—

" The area, amounting to 10 per cent. of the total in villages containing peasants' and horse-breeders' grants, which is reserved for grazing purposes on the Lower Bari Doab Canal, remains in the hands of Government, but is available for grazing the cattle of all residents in the village. The proportion varies in the different colonies: but the method of treatment is the same. Where proprietary right in the area of agricultural grants has been transferred to the grantees, the proprietary right in grazing land is reserved by Government, but the use of the land for grazing purposes is conceded free of charge to the residents of the village concerned."

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Ram Saran Das asked :—

87. "(a) Is the Government aware that on account of abnormal increase in the prices of hides agricultural cattle are being killed in large numbers?" Killing of agricultural cattle on account of their hides.

"(b) If the answer to (a) be in the affirmative, will the Government kindly state whether or not they propose to take any action in the matter?"

The Hon'ble Mr. Maynard replied :—

"(a) It is understood that by agricultural cattle the Hon'ble Member refers to plough bullocks and well bullocks. A good plough bullock is worth Rs. 100 to Rs. 150 and a good well bullock more. At the present high prices a good bullock's skin is worth from Rs. 25 to Rs. 30. Allowing for the value of other parts of the carcase, a dead bullock may be worth Rs. 35 to Rs. 40. It obviously would not pay any one to kill an animal worth Rs. 100 or Rs. 150 when living in order to get Rs. 35 to Rs. 40 for him when dead. It follows that only old and useless agricultural cattle are likely to be slaughtered in a season such as the present when fodder of all kinds is abnormally plentiful. Moreover, there is a great diminution since September of last year (1916) in the actual supply of hides. In that month 3,400 pieces arrived in Lahore each day. The number now arriving daily is only 300.

"(b) In these circumstances no action is contemplated."

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Ram Saran Das asked :—

88. "(a) Will the Government kindly state for the information of the public whether it is under contemplation to raise certain notified areas to the status of Municipal Boards and to reduce certain Municipal Boards to the status of notified areas?" Notified areas and municipal palities.

"(b) If so, will the Government kindly state in what towns this change is under contemplation?"

The Hon'ble Mr. Lumsden replied :—

"No specific proposals of the nature referred to in part (a) of the question are at present under consideration, and consequently part (b) does not arise."

[*Rai Bahadur Ram Saran Das ; Mr. Thompson ; Rai Bahadur Raizada Bhagat Ram ; Mr. Richey.*]

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Ram Saran Das asked :—

Provincial
Service officers
as Under-
Secretaries.

89. "Is it a fact that there were recently two vacancies of Under-Secretaries to the Government in this Province. If so, was the name of any Provincial Service officer considered while filling these vacancies?"

The Hon'le Mr. Thompson replied :—

"Two of the Under-Secretaryships became vacant in October. The question of appointing a Provincial Civil Service officer to one of them was considered."

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Raizada Bhagat Ram asked :—

Education of
Indian
women.

90. "(a) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the series of letters by Ghulam Yaseen, Bar-at-Law of Amritsar, on the education of Indian women in the Punjab, that were published in the "Tribune" of various dates between the months of April and June 1917 and now collected in a pamphlet?"

"(b) Will the Government be pleased to state if it is a fact that some of the earlier Punjab education report like, for instance, that for 1898-99, used to show a statement giving the attendance at girls' schools of all grades in the different districts of the Province?"

"(c) If so, will the Government be pleased to resume in future this old practice, as suggested in the aforementioned letters, to facilitate comparison of the number of girls in such schools, according to districts?"

The Hon'ble Mr. Richey replied :—

"The answer to all three parts of this question is in the affirmative.

"A statement will in future be included in education reports showing the state of female education by districts."

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Raizada Bhagat Ram asked :—

Statistics
relating to
Primary
Education of
Girls.

91. "The annual report on the progress of education in the Punjab as at present arranged contains no general table like General Table XI in the Education Report for the year 1915-16 with regard to boys, in respect of Primary Schools for girls, by districts. Will the Government be pleased to order for a supplementary return in future annual reports on education, showing separately particulars of Government, Municipal, Board or Private Lower and Upper Primary Schools for Girls, both Vernacular and Anglo-vernacular and Aided or Unaided, by districts, on the general lines of Table XI in the report on Education for 1915-16?"

The Hon'ble Mr. Richey replied :—

"The suggestion of the Hon'ble Member will be gladly adopted by Government, and the table for girls' schools similar to Table XI incorporated in future reports."

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Raizada Bhagat Ram asked :—

Amount spent
by local
authorities on
female
education.

92. "The annual reports on the working of Municipalities and District Boards in the Punjab do not at present show separately in their statements of expenditure the amount spent during the year on female education. Will the Government be pleased to order such amounts spent during the year on female education to be separately shown in future annual reports on the working of Municipalities and District Boards?"

[Mr. Lumsden ; Rai Bahadur Raizada Bhagat Ram ; Mr. Richey ;
Mr. Fagan.]

The Hon'ble Mr. Lumsden replied :—

"The total amounts spent by Municipalities and District Boards respectively on female education are shown in Table VII of the Education Report, and that information which is readily accessible will probably meet the Hon'ble Member's requirements.

"The statements appended to the reports on the working of Municipalities and District Boards are prescribed by the Government of India and cannot be altered without their sanction. In any case the statements are already very elaborate and the addition of further details would entail a sacrifice of clearness."

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Raizada Bhagat Ram asked :—

93. "(a) Is it a fact that, as many as 35 years ago, in his statement submitted to the Commission, the late Haji Ghulam Hassan, as the Punjab Member of the Indian Education Commission of 1892, had definitely stated that, unless some special privileges were granted to female schools, he did not think that any satisfactory result would accrue to female education in the Punjab ?

Preferential
treatment of
girls' schools.

"(b) If so, will the Government be pleased to give effect to that principle by revising the present rules of grants, both building and other, to female schools in a more liberal and sympathetic spirit ?"

The Hon'ble Mr. Richey replied :—

93. "(a) The statement of the late Haji Ghulam Hassan to which reference is made has been recently quoted publicly ; but is not available

"(b) Meanwhile, the regulations for award of grants to girls' schools which in 1892 did not differ from those of boys' schools, have been completely revised. The various forms of preferential treatment for girls' schools are too numerous to mention. It will be sufficient to say that in the case of elementary institutions the block grants for girls' schools are calculated at double the rates for boys' schools, and the staff grants at a fifty per cent. higher rate while no fees are charged in girls' schools, with the exception of Queen Marys College and Victoria School."

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Raizada Bhagat Ram asked :—

94. "In reply to questions Nos. 60 and 61 with regard to suggestion for removal of difficulties experienced by female co-sharers in realising their share of produce of land the Hon'ble Mr Fagan, on 2nd September 1916, was pleased to say that no amendment of the existing law appeared to be necessary as section 144 of the Land Revenue Act afforded facilities suggested in above-mentioned questions. Will the Government be pleased to state whether lately in some cases decided by Revenue Officers it has been found that the provisions of section 144, Land Revenue Act, do not afford effective remedy for realization of produce by division as section 144 of Land Revenue Act does not clearly apply to the case of co-sharers in a holding or estate."

Difficulties of
female co-
sharers of
land.

The Hon'ble Mr. Fagan replied :—

"It seems probable that this question has been framed with reference to a decision given by the Collector of Jullundur on a claim for division of produce brought by one Murad Bibi against one Khadim Hussain. This decision has come on the revision side before the Financial Commissioner whose order, affirming the right of a co-sharer to have his share of the produce of land separated off by a revenue officer notwithstanding the objections of other co-sharers, will be published in the Punjab Record. The answer to the question is that there is no reason for supposing that section 144 of the Land Revenue Act correctly interpreted does not provide an effective remedy."

[*Rai Bahadur Itazada Bhagat Ram ; Mr. Townsend ; Mr. Maynard ; Mr. Thompson.*]

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Raizada Bhagat Ram asked :—

Shrinkage of
water in
Jullundur.

95. " In answer to question No. 64 the Hon'ble Mr. Townsend, on 2nd September 1916, was pleased to state that the Government will make inquiry from the Agricultural Engineer as to the cause of shrinkage of water in some of the tahsils of Jullundur District. Will the Government be pleased to state whether the promised inquiry has been made and, if so, what was the result of those inquiries ? "

The Hon'ble Mr. Townsend replied :—

" The inquiry referred to has been made by the Agricultural Engineer and completed, so far as he is concerned. His report has, however, been sent to the Irrigation Department for any comments the authorities of that Department may wish to offer on it. Pending the receipt of those comments it would be premature for the Government to make any pronouncement on the subject, but I will be glad to show the Hon'ble Member privately the Agricultural Engineer's report."

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Bhagat Ram asked :—

Tube wells in
Jullundur.

96. " Would the Government be pleased to give the number of wells in which tubes were inserted in the Jullundur Tahsil during the last five years and with what result ? "

The Hon'ble Mr. Townsend replied :—

" The number of wells in the Jullundur Tahsil in which pipes have been inserted by the Agricultural Department during the last five years is 21. In 11 of these the supply of water was increased. I may add that boring work has been discontinued in this tahsil, because the head of water in wells in it is generally too low for borings to be successful."

The Hon'ble Raizada Bhagat Ram asked :—

Grant of
land to the
Megh Udhar
Sabha.

97. " Will the Government be pleased to state whether any grant of land has been made to the Megh Udhar Sabha in the Lower Chenab, Jhelum or Lower Bari Doab Colonies to provide for members of the Megh class ? If not, would the Government be pleased to state on what grounds the grant has been refused ? "

The Hon'ble Mr. Maynard replied :—

" Government has agreed to make a grant on the Lower Bari Doab Canal to the Megh Udhar Sabha for the Megh class on the same terms as a similar grant to the Salvation Army."

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Raizada Bhagat Ram asked :—

Persons
interned under
Ordinance V
of 1914.

98. " (a) Will the Government be pleased to state how many persons under Ordinance No. V of 1914—

" (i) are in jail,

" (ii) are interned within specified areas,

" (iii) are put on security ? "

" (b) Would the Government be pleased to state how many men of class (a) have been released and in how many cases of class (b) restrictions have been removed and how many of class (c) discharged."

The Hon'ble Mr. Thompson replied :—

" The number of persons in jail under Ordinance No. V of 1914 is 85, and the number of persons in this class who have been released from jail is 265."

[Mr. Thompson ; Rai Bahadur Raizada Bhagat Ram ; Mr. Craik ; Rai Bahadur Bakhshi Sohan Lal.]

"(b) The number of persons restricted to specified areas is 586, and the number of persons of this class who have been freed from all restrictions is 1,086.

(c) Government is unable to indicate the number of those on security, the advisability of demanding which is usually left to the discretion of District Magistrates.

"The cases of all persons dealt with under Ordinance No. V of 1914 are periodically reconsidered in the same way as those of persons dealt with under the Defence of India Act."

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Raizada Bhagat Ram asked :—

99. "(a) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the fact that the emigrants interned under Ordinance V of 1914 are allowed to leave the area of internment under certain rules only, framed by the Deputy Commissioners, and which are treated as confidential. Persons interned under Ordinance V of 1914.

"(b) Will the Government consider the advisability of framing and publishing a general set of rules on the subject applicable to all the districts of the province."

The Hon'ble Mr. Thompson replied :—

"(a) Instructions have been issued to district officers to grant leave to restricted emigrants to absent themselves temporarily from their villages for legitimate purposes. The Local Government is not aware that any rules have been framed by Deputy Commissioners.

"(b) The instructions already issued apply to the whole province and Government has no intention of modifying them."

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Raizada Bhagat Ram asked :—

100. "Will the Government be pleased to state how many emigrants interned under Ordinance V of 1914 have been challaned for contravening the provisions of the said Ordinance. Persons interned under Ordinance V of 1914.

"Will the Government be further pleased to state the results of these chalans."

The Hon'ble Mr. Thompson replied :—

"Of the emigrants interned under Ordinance V of 1914 five have been challaned for contravening the provisions of the said Ordinance. All five were convicted, four being sentenced to six months' rigorous imprisonment and the fifth to two months' simple imprisonment."

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Raizada Bhagat Ram asked :—

101. "In reply to my question No. 71 regarding the working of the Insolvency Law as administered in the Punjab, the Hon'ble Mr. Craik was pleased to state on 2nd September 1916 that it was understood that the question of amending the Act was under the consideration of the Government of India. Will the Government be pleased to state what progress has so far been made in this matter?" Amendment of the Insolvency Law.

The Hon'ble Mr. Craik replied :—

"The Local Government has no information of the subject beyond that communicated in my reply of 2nd September 1916."

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Bakhshi Sohan Lal asked :—

102. "Will the Government be pleased to state whether it is correct or not that the subject of Philosophy used to be taught in the Government Study of Philosophy at Government College, Lahore.

[Mr. Richey ; Rai Bahadur Bakhshi Sohan Lal ; Mr. Craik.]

College, Lahore, for many years, probably from the time of the start of the College at Lahore ? ”

103. “ If so, will the Government be pleased to state when the subject was originally introduced in the curriculum of studies in that College and when its tuition was discontinued ? ”

The Hon'ble Mr. Richey replied :—

“ The answer is in the affirmative.”

“ Philosophy was taught at the Government College from its commencement till 1914.”

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Bakhshi Sohan Lal asked :—

Study of
Philosophy at
Government
College,
Lahore.

104. “ Will the Government be pleased to state the causes which necessitated the discontinuance of teaching Philosophy in the Government College ? ”

The Hon'ble Mr. Richey replied :—

“ It was discontinued owing to the great falling off in the number of students who took the subject, and the increased demand for Science teaching.

“ But by an arrangement with the Forman Christian College, students of the Government College taking Philosophy may attend the lectures held at that Institution.”

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Bakhshi Sohan Lal asked :—

The same.

105. “ Will the Government be pleased to state whether the question of filling up the chair of Philosophy is or is not under the consideration of the Government ? ”

The Hon'ble Mr. Richey replied :—

“ The question of again instituting the chair of Philosophy is *not* under consideration.”

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Bakhshi Sohan Lal asked :—

Turpentine
Factory at
Jallo.

103. “ Will the Government be pleased to state —

“ (a) If it is a fact that there is a proposal to shift the Jallo Turpentine Factory to Lucknow in United Provinces.

“ (b) If the reply to the above be in the affirmative what is the cause which has necessitated its removal from this Province ?

“ (c) Will its removal from this Province which is already so backward in its industrial activities, create an adverse effect on local industries ? ”

The Hon'ble Mr. Craik replied :—

“ At a conference of forest officers held at Dehra Dun last July, at which the Punjab was represented, a majority of those present were in favour of amalgamating the two existing factories, at Bhowali in the United Provinces and at Jallo in the Punjab, into one central factory at Bareilly. The advantages of such a course were considered to be —

“ (a) centralised control, enabling savings to be effected in technical staff and cost of administration ;

“ (b) standardization of products and concentration of research work, and

[Mr. Craik ; Rai Bahadur Bakhshi Sohan Lal.]

"(c) savings in the cost of purchase of stores, such as hoop-iron, drums, nails, &c.

"No decision has yet been arrived at, and the Punjab Government will not consent to the removal of the Jallo factory without careful consideration of all its consequences, including the possibly adverse effect on local industries."

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Bakhshi Sohan Lal asked :—

107. "Will the Government be pleased to state —

"(a) How many officiating vacancies in Forest Provincial Service occurred during the last two years and how they were filled up?"

Vacancies in
Provincial
Forest service.

"(b) Whether some of such vacancies were for short period and how many were not filled up at all ?

"(c) If so, what is the number of vacancies at present and how long they were to be kept vacant ?

"(d) How is it proposed to qualify sufficient numbers of Forest Rangers for appointment to half the permanent vacancies in the post of Extra Assistant Conservator of Forests by completing two years' probationary service as required by its rules ?

"(e) Whether the Forest Rangers are given equal and same facilities for completing the two years' probationary service as are allowed to direct nominees so as to secure for themselves half of the number of permanent vacancies or are given lesser chances of officiating in temporary posts and therefore they have less chance of filling permanent vacancies ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Craik replied :—

"(a) Two officiating vacancies have occurred in the Provincial Forest Service during the last two years. Both were filled up as usual by the promotion of Forest Rangers to officiate.

"(b) Neither of the vacancies was for a short period. When officers of the Provincial Forest Service proceed on privilege leave for short periods, no officiating promotion is given.

"(c) There is one officiating vacancy at present due to the deputation of an Extra Assistant Conservator to foreign service. A Ranger is officiating in his place.

"(d) Difficulty does occasionally arise in finding a Ranger who has completed 2 years' probationary service, when a permanent vacancy occurs to which a Ranger should be appointed. Government will consider whether the period of probation could be curtailed, or whether further opportunities for qualifying themselves would be afforded if Rangers were appointed to officiate in short leave vacancies. I would, however, point out that the subject of recruitment to and probation for the Provincial Forest Service is discussed in the Report of the Royal Commission on the Public Services in India (paragraph 9 on page 146 and paragraph 13 on page 147), which is still under the consideration of the Government of India.

"(e) The Hon'ble Member appears to be under a misapprehension as to the system in force. Promotion in officiating vacancies is given only to Rangers. No direct nominee can be appointed except on the occurrence of a permanent vacancy. As I will show in answer to the Hon'ble Member's subsequent questions, it is not the fact that Rangers have fewer chances than direct nominees of filling permanent vacancies."

[Rai Bahadur Bakhshi Sohan Lal ; Mr. Craik.]

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Bakhshi Sohan Lal asked :—

Vacancies
filled by
Forest
Rangers.

108. "With reference to my questions and replies thereto by Hon'ble Mr. Craik in the meeting of 13th March 1917, will the Government be pleased to state—

"(a) Whether the fourth vacancy which occurred in August 1916 has or has not yet been filled up by promoting permanently or temporarily a qualified Forest Ranger?

"(b) Whether it is proposed or not to give three consecutive vacancies to the Forest Rangers after having already filled three vacancies in Extra Assistant Conservator of Forests by the direct nominees?

"(c) Whether it is proposed or not to reserve for the Ranger class the recent vacancy caused by the retirement of Khan Bahadur Munshi Imam-uddin, Extra Assistant Conservator of Forests, in Kangra District?

"(d) If not, in what manner it is proposed to allot half the number of vacancies in the Provincial Service to Rangers qualified by officiating for at least two years as Extra Assistant Conservator when almost all the vacancies, temporary or permanent, go to direct nominees."

The Hon'ble Mr. Craik replied :—

"(a) The vacancy in question has been filled by the appointment of a Forest Ranger.

"(b) If the Hon'ble Member will refer to the answer returned by me to his question of 13th March 1917 he will see that according to the half-and-half rule Forest Rangers are not entitled to the next three vacancies. Only one vacancy which should have gone to a Forest Ranger has been filled by the appointment of a direct nominee, owing to there being no qualified Ranger available at the time it occurred.

"(c) No recommendation has yet been received from the Head of the Department regarding promotion *vice* the official referred to, and Government is not in a position to say how the vacancy will be filled.

"(d) As pointed out, the Hon'ble Member's assertion that almost all vacancies, temporary or permanent, go to direct nominees is not in accordance with the facts. Since the present system of promotion was introduced, ten permanent vacancies have occurred. Of these five have gone to Rangers and four to direct nominees. The tenth only occurred a few days ago and, as I have explained, has not yet been filled up."

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Bakhshi Sohan Lal asked :—

Vacancies
in Forest
Department.

109. "Will the Government be pleased to state if it is correct or not that the recent vacancy caused by the retirement of Khan Bahadur Munshi Imam-uddin is intended to be given to the direct nominees? If so, the Forest Rangers will get only one post out of five, *i. e.*, one-fifth of the vacancies instead of the half as is required by the rules."

The Hon'ble Mr. Craik replied :—

"The Hon'ble Member is referred to the answers just given to question 7 (b) and (c). If the vacancy in question is given to a direct nominee, Rangers will have been given five out of the last ten vacancies, and two out of the last five."

[Chaudhri Lal Chand ; Mr. Maynard.]

The Hon'ble Chaudhri Lal Chand asked :—

110. "Will the Government be pleased to state, by districts, the number of squares or rectangles of land granted during the last five years to.— Grants of squares by Government.

- (a) Retired Indian Officers ;
- (b) Retired Indian Military Officers ;
- (c) Members of the Gentry ; and
- (d) Members of the Yeomanry ;

111. Will the Government be pleased to state the highest number of squares or rectangles conferred on a single grantee in each of the four classes mentioned in question (1) during the last five years ?

112. Will the Government be pleased to state, by districts, under each of the four classes mentioned in question 1 the number of grants above 5, 10, 20, and 30 squares or rectangles, respectively, conferred during the last five years ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Maynard replied :—

"The information asked for will take some time to obtain : but will be tabulated and laid upon the table at the next meeting of this Council if the Hon'ble Member will make it clear what is meant by the expression 'Members of the Yeomanry,' and whether peasants are meant."

The Hon'ble Chaudhri Lal Chand asked :—

113. "Will the Government be pleased to state the total number of candidates accepted for the post of Tahsildar, Munsif, Inspector of Police, and Sub-Inspector of Police during the last two years, and the number of Hindu and Sikh Jats among the accepted candidates ?" Number of Jats among candidates accepted for certain Government appointments.

The Hon'ble Mr. Craik replied :—

"During the last two years nine candidates were accepted for the post of Tahsildar. One was a Sikh Jat. None were Hindu Jats.

"Nine candidates were accepted for the post of Munsif on Register A and 33 on Register B. Three were Sikh Jats and one a Hindu Jat.

"Five candidates were accepted for the post of Inspector of Police. Of these none are Hindu or Sikh Jats.

"I regret that I have not yet been able to obtain information about candidates for the post of Sub-Inspector of Police. Perhaps the Hon'ble Member will kindly repeat this part of the question at the next meeting when I hope to be in a position to answer it."

The Hon'ble Chaudhri Lal Chand asked :—

114. "Will the Government be pleased to state —

"(a) How many candidates in all have been accepted during the last two years for the post of Extra Assistant Commissioner by the Hon'ble Financial Commissioners on their list ; Jats accepted as Extra Assistant Commissioner candidates.

"(b) How many, if any, among the accepted candidates are Hindu and Sikh Jats respectively ;

"(c) How many of the competing candidates who had been recommended by the Commissioners were Hindu Jats and Sikh Jats."

The Hon'ble Mr. Maynard replied :—

"(a) Seventeen persons were accepted as Extra Assistant Commissioner candidates on Financial Commissioners' Register A during the last two years.

[Mr. Maynard ; Chaudhri Lal Chand.]

"(b) Of the accepted candidates one was a Sikh Jat. No Hindu Jat was accepted.

"(c) It is understood that the question refers to candidates recommended by Commissioners during the last two years for acceptance on Financial Commissioners' Register A. Twenty-nine persons were so recommended, of whom two were Hindu Jats and two Sikh Jats."

The Hon'ble Chaudhri Lal Chand asked :—

Appointment
of Tahsildars
from Naib
Tahsildar
candidates.

115. "Will the Government be pleased to state, for the information of this Council :—

"(a) What is the principle on which Tahsildar candidates are selected from among Naib-Tahsildars of the Province ?

"(b) Is there any list of such eligible and accepted candidates kept in the Financial Commissioners' Office ?

If so, will the Government be pleased to lay the same on the table ?

"(c) Will the Government be pleased to publish these lists six-monthly, so that Naib Tahsildars may know when they could expect to become permanent Tahsildars ?"

The Hon'ble Mr. Maynard replied :—

"(a) As explained in reply to question No. 9 asked by the Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Bakhshi Sohan Lal at the meeting of this Council on 9th September 1916, Naib Tahsildars are not accepted as candidates for the post of Tahsildars, but are, in virtue of their office, when of not less than 2 years' standing as Naib Tahsildars, eligible for appointment as Tahsildars, although eventual promotion to that grade is not assured. The claim of thoroughly efficient Naib Tahsildars to be promoted in order of seniority is duly considered. But the early advancement of Naib Tahsildars, specially distinguished by good work, education or other merit, is borne in mind.

"(b) and (c) Commissioners are required to submit a half-yearly statement showing the names of Naib Tahsildars whom they consider fit for promotion to Tahsildar. A provincial abstract is then compiled in the office of the Financial Commissioners, and the names of the Naib Tahsildars so considered fit are entered in it according to seniority by date of first appointment of Naib Tahsildar as shown in the divisional seniority lists. Promotions to Tahsildarship are ordinarily made in the order given in these provincial seniority statements. Of every 20 vacancies in the post of Tahsildar 13 are given to Naib Tahsildars and 7 to Tahsildar candidates accepted under paragraphs 27 and 29 of Standing Order No. 12.

"There is no reason to suppose that Naib Tahsildars are not well aware of their position on the seniority lists, and it does not appear that any useful object would be served by the publication of a list of Naib Tahsildars considered by Commissioners to be fit for promotion. Any Naib Tahsildar who is passed over as unfit for promotion has ample opportunities for representing his case."

The Hon'ble Chaudhri Lal Chand asked :—

Naib
Tahsildars.

116. "(a) Will the Government be pleased to state the number of Naib Tahsildars who have been serving as Naib Tahsildars for over ten years without being promoted to the post of Tahsildar ?

"(b) In view of the block in the promotion of Naib Tahsildars, will the Government be pleased to devise means to remove the congestion ?"

[Mr. Maynard, Chaudhri Lal Chand; Mr. Thompson; Mr. Fagan; Mr. Richey.]

The Hon'ble Mr. Maynard replied :—

“(a) The number of Naib Tahsildars of over ten years' standing who have not yet been promoted to Tahsildar is 88, excluding those who have been reduced from Tahsildar or considered unfit for promotion, but including those who have been promoted to the post of Head Vernacular Clerk.

“(b) Openings in other lines are from time to time made available for Naib Tahsildars whose promotion is retarded, and a good many are at present employed in other lines, such as District Recruiting Officers, on deputation to the Supply and Transport Department, etc. It is not apparent what further special measures of the kind suggested in the question could be taken.”

The Hon'ble Chaudhri Lal Chand asked :—

117. “Will the Government be pleased to state the number of Sikhs Government appointments held by Sikhs. serving under the Punjab Government in posts carrying a salary of Rs. 150 or upwards, classifying them as Jat Sikhs and non-Jat Sikhs?”

The Hon'ble Mr. Thompson replied :—

“The figures will take some time to collect, but I hope to be able to lay a statement on the table at one of the meetings during the coming cold weather.”

The Hon'ble Chaudhri Lal Chand asked :—

118. “In view of the increasing litigation relating to *abadi* lands in villages, will the Government be pleased to direct records-of-rights similar Records-of-rights of village-abadis. to those relating to agricultural land to be prepared for all villages as soon as circumstances allow of the same being done?”

The Hon'ble Mr. Fagan replied :—

“Government is not aware of any such recent increase in the kind of litigation to which the question refers as would either necessitate or justify undertaking the difficult and complicated measure suggested. Moreover, in view of the terms of section 4 (1) of the Land Revenue Act which excludes nearly all *abadi* lands in villages from the provisions of Chapter IV of the Act no legal machinery at present exists for the preparation of records-of-rights of such lands.”

The Hon'ble Chaudhri Lal Chand asked :—

119. “Will the Government be pleased to direct all District Boards District Boards and Primary Schools. to multiply primary schools within a definite period as to leave no village or group of villages having a population of 1,000 or upwards without a school.”

The Hon'ble Mr. Richey replied :—

“In June of this year the Local Government asked for maps to be prepared for the expansion of primary education in District Board areas. The lines on which these maps were to be prepared are those suggested by the Hon'ble Member in his question.

“The maps and programmes have been received and were considered by a special committee only last week. The recommendations of this committee are now being submitted to Government.”

The Hon'ble Chaudhri Lal Chand asked :—

120. “Will the Government be pleased to lay a statement on the Non-official Presidents of Local Boards. table showing—

“(a) the names of the District Boards of the Province which have got non-official Presidents and Vice-Presidents?”

[Chaudhri Lal Chand ; Mr. Lumsden.]

"(b) the names of the Municipalities which have got non-official Presidents ?

"(c) considering the small share of non-official members in District Boards management, will the Government be pleased to rule that at least one of the office bearers in District Boards stated in part (a) shall be a non-official ?"

The Hon'ble Mr. Lumsden replied :—

"(a) Details regarding the chairmanship of District Boards are to be found in statement No. I of the Annual Report. No board in this Province has at present a non-official chairman. There is nothing in the Act restricting the chairmanship to officials and Government is prepared to support the experiment of appointing non-official chairmen in selected districts should any desire for this change be manifested and provided that a well-qualified executive staff is maintained.

"The selection of vice-chairmen is a matter entirely at the discretion of the board (*vide* section 19 of the Act) and Government receives no information as regards such appointments. It is believed, however, that in a majority of cases non-officials have been appointed to this office.

"(b) The information desired by the Hon'ble Member is given in the Annual Report on Municipalities. For the convenience of the Hon'ble Member a statement is, however, laid on the table.

"(c) I would refer the Hon'ble Member to what has been said above in answer to part (a) of the question."

The Hon'ble Chaudhri Lal Chand asked :—

121. "Will the Government be pleased to state the—

"(a) names of the district boards which have got sub-committees for Education, Finance and Public Works like municipalities.

How do these sub-committees work ?

How many times in a year do they meet ?

"(b) Will the Government be pleased to make it necessary for District Boards to have sub-committees as suggested in (a) ?"

The Hon'ble Mr. Lumsden replied :—

"(a) Full information on the subject is not available in this office. The appointment of a Finance Committee is prescribed by section 39 (1) of the District Board Act and presumably every Board is so provided. It is understood that a number of boards have appointed Education Sub-Committees and a few also possess Public Works Sub-Committees.

"As regards the working of such sub-committees I would refer the Hon'ble Member to certain remarks on the subject in paragraphs 3 and 4 of the last review on District Board administration.

"(b) It is not the policy of Government to interfere with discretionary procedure adopted by District Boards to enable them to fulfil their duties, but the Hon'ble Member's suggestion will be brought to their notice."

The Hon'ble Chaudhri Lal Chand asked :—

122. "Is the Government aware that during the recent heavy rains a very heavy loss has been suffered by certain villages in Rohtak, Gurgaon and Hissar Districts on account of floods, and will the Government be pleased to depute a special officer to take a survey of the loss of life and property and to take measures to relieve the distressed inhabitants ?"

Sub-committees of District Boards.

Loss from goods in autumn of 1917.

[Mr. Fagan ; Chaudhri Lal Chand ; Mr. Aikman ; Mr. Lumsden.]

The Hon'ble Mr. Fagan replied :—

" Government has learnt with regret that during the recent heavy rains considerable damage has been caused to buildings and crops in the Rohtak, Gurgaon and Hissar Districts. District officers have taken suitable measures for rendering such assistance as is necessary and possible and they have been asked to report whether any extra staff is required in connection with such measures ? "

The Hon'ble Chaudhri Lal Chand asked :—

123. " What arrangements, if any, does the Government propose to make for the improvement of drainage in the area affected by the *Sahbi Nadi* in the Rohtak and Gurgaon Districts. "

Improvement
of drainage
in Rohtak
and Gurgaon
Districts.

The Hon'ble Mr. Aikman replied :—

" The matter in question is under enquiry in the Public Works Department. "

The Hon'ble Chaudhri Lal Chand asked :—

124. " (a) What is the total amount realised from fairs at Thanesar during the last five years by the authorities in Karnal District and how much, if any, has been spent on the repairs of tanks ? "

Fairs and
tanks in
Karnal Dis-
trict.

" (b) Will the Government be pleased to take early steps to preserve the tanks and temples at Thanesar, held sacred by the Hindu and Sikhs, in their original condition ? "

The Hon'ble Mr. Lumsden replied :—

" (a) The total amount realised by the local authorities at Thanesar fairs in 1912 and 1914 was Rs. 36,946. This sum did not cover the ordinary expenses of these fairs, and Government was obliged in 1914 to assist the Board by accepting part of the deficit as a charge on Provincial revenues. There were no fairs in 1913, 1915, 1916 or 1917. The expenditure did not include any sum for the repair of the tanks. "

" (b) No application for Government assistance towards the preservation of the tanks and temples at Thanesar has been received, and it is not understood what steps the Hon'ble Member wishes Government to take in the matter. The matter is primarily one for the communities in question, and it is understood that a Ruling Chief outside the Punjab is already giving generous assistance for the improvement of the tanks. "

The Hon'ble Chaudhri Lal Chand asked :—

125. " (a) How many candidates have been accepted by the Canal Department for the post of Zilladar since November 1915 when the Government was pleased to issue a circular letter with regard to Hindu Jats, and how many out of such accepted candidates are Hindu Jats ? "

Hindu Jat
Zilladars.

" (b) Do the Canal authorities keep a record of applications for Zilladarships that are rejected ? If so, will the Government be pleased to state how many Jats have been rejected during the said period, and what were their qualifications ? "

The Hon'ble Mr. Aikman replied :—

" (a) Forty-five candidates have been accepted since November 1915. Of these ten are Sikh Jats and one is a Hindu Jat. "

" (b) The recommendation rolls submitted by Superintending Engineers show that no Jat has been rejected during the said period. The names of two Departmental men, who are Jat Sikhs and who could not be selected for want of vacancies, will be considered if repeated by their Superintending Engineers when the next rolls are due. "

[Chaudhri Lal Chand ; Mr. Aikman ; Mr. Townsend.]

The Hon'ble Chaudhri Lal Chand asked :—

The same.

126. "(a) How many of the accepted candidates referred to in question 125 had relatives serving in the Canal Department ?

"(b) Will the Government be pleased to make rules for Zilladars, as in the case of Naib Tahsildars, to the effect that at least half of the accepted candidates shall be from among the leading agriculturists and persons of good social standing residing in each Division ?"

The Hon'ble Mr. Aikman replied :—

"(a) Of the 45 accepted candidates seven have relatives now serving in the Canal Department and seven are related to men who have retired from the service.

"(b) The rules in force already lay down that candidates for the post of Zilladar must be of respectable family and position, belonging to the agricultural classes, unless their immediate progenitors have been, or are, in Government employ and have rendered service worthy of recognition. If, however, it is shown by enquiry that an undue number of appointments goes to the latter class, Government will consider the advisability of a more definite rule."

The Hon'ble Chaudhri Lal Chand asked :—

Admissions
to the Lyall-
pur College.

127. "Will the Government be pleased to state for the information of the Council :—

"(a) How many applications were received for admission to the Lyallpur College in both English and Vernacular classes during the last two years and how many of them were rejected ?

"(b) Considering the great need for agricultural education will the Government take steps to provide model Agricultural Schools in each District and at least for the Vernacular Course ?"

The Hon'ble Mr. Townsend replied :—

"(a) To the English course at the Agricultural College the number of students seeking admission was, in 1916, 138 ; in the present year, 202. In the former year 38 students were admitted to the course ; in the latter year 40.

"To the Vernacular course at the College 101 students sought admission in 1916, and the same number in 1917. Thirty-eight students were admitted to the course in 1916, and 45 in the present year.

"Both, however, last year and this year some of the disappointed applicants for admission to both classes, but especially, the English class, were quite unsuitable, whether from educational or other limitations, for admission to the College, and could not have been admitted even had no other candidates offered themselves.

"(b) The suggestion made by the Hon'ble Member will be borne in mind by Government in deciding what action should be taken on the recent letter on agricultural education addressed to it by the Government of India ; and in reviewing the Annual Report for 1916-17 the Lieutenant-Governor has directed that the question of opening a vernacular class at the Gurdaspur farm, in addition to that at Lyallpur, should be taken up."

[*Chaudhri Lal Chand ; Mr. Townsend ; Mr. Thompson.*]

The Hon'ble Chaudhri Lal Chand asked :—

128. " Will the Government be pleased to state the number of Indian Teachers and Professors in the Agricultural College, Lyallpur, classifying them as agriculturists and non-agriculturists ? " Indian teachers at the Lyallpur College.

The Hon'ble Mr. Townsend replied :—

" The total number of whole-time Indian Teachers and Professors at the Agricultural College is 14. Of these gentlemen five belong to agricultural and nine to non-agricultural tribes."

The Hon'ble Chaudhri Lal Chand asked :—

129. " Will the Government be pleased to state the number of applications received for the posts of English and Botany Professors at Lyallpur ? How many of them were agriculturists and what were the qualifications of the two best men among them ? " English and Botany Professors at Lyallpur College.

" Who have been appointed ?

" Are they agriculturists or non-agriculturists ?

" What are their qualifications ? "

The Hon'ble Mr. Townsend replied :—

" For the recently sanctioned posts of Assistant Professorships—to which I presume the Hon'ble Member refers—of English and Botany at the Agricultural College, 87 and 28 applications, respectively, were received. It is impossible to say how many of the applicants were agriculturists, especially as many of them did not belong to this Province.

" It is entirely a matter of opinion as to who were the two " best " men among the applicants. The gentlemen appointed were those whom the authorities at Lyallpur and I decided, after careful personal consultation, to be best suited to these appointments, bearing all requirements in mind.

" To the post of Assistant Professor of English has been appointed Mr. J. Guleri, a non-agriculturist resident of Kangra, who had taken the M.A. degree in Economics in the second class and the LL.B. degree at the Allahabad University : where he also obtained a gold medal and studentship and a University scholarship in Economics. The principal reason that led to his appointment was the exceedingly strong recommendation made in his favour by Professor Jevons, Professor of Economics at the Allahabad University. The teaching of Economics, I may add, will be one, and that by no means the most important, part of his duties at Lyallpur.

" To the Assistant Professorship in Botany has been appointed Lala Chuni Lal, a non-agriculturist, who has taken the degree of M. Sc. (Botany) in the Punjab University. He was first in the first class, and received two gold medals."

The Hon'ble Chaudhri Lal Chand asked :—

130. " Will the Government be pleased to call for returns from every district in the Province showing the number and rank of men who having served at the front have been discharged by military authorities without a pension ? " Persons serving at the front discharged without pension.

The Hon'ble Mr. Thompson replied :—

" The collection by civil agency of the information asked for would involve a very great deal of labour, and when collected could not be regarded as authoritative. The Punjab Government has received a few complaints of dis-

[Chaudhri Lal Chand ; Mr. Aikman.]

charge without pension after service at the front, and they have been forwarded to the Army Department for disposal. If the Hon'ble Member can report specific instances, enquiry will be made."

The Hon'ble Chaudhri Lal Chand asked :—

Damage to
cotton crop in
South-east
Punjab.

131. "(a) Has any information been received by the Government that the cotton crop in canal-irrigated areas of the South-eastern Punjab has been damaged by heavy rains and the yield is in most cases below two annas in the rupee, and, if not, will the Government be pleased to make special enquiries through experts and high officials immediately before the crop is cut ?

"(A) Will the Government be further pleased to direct that, as the damage is general, the canal authorities may remit the water rate, where necessary, without waiting for a formal application for each field from the cultivator, as has been provided by the rules ?"

The Hon'ble Mr. Aikman replied :—

131. "(a) Information has been received by Government that the cotton crop irrigated by the Western Jumna Canal in the South-eastern Punjab has suffered severely this year from excessive rainfall.

"The Superintending Engineer of that Canal has made personal and extensive enquiries in consultation with officers of the Irrigation and Civil Departments. The preliminary opinion formed in the middle of October was that, though remissions would be considerable, it was probable that the crop would so improve by the end of the month that general remissions would be unnecessary, and that they could be dealt with under clause I of rule 20 of the Canal Act. It was, therefore, decided to reconsider the case at the beginning of November. Further heavy rainfall has, however, occurred on the 25th and 26th October over the whole area, and it now appears possible that recourse may have to be taken to clause II of rule 20 of the Canal Act, which provides for special treatment in the case of a widespread recognized calamity affecting large areas. Full reports have not yet been received upon which a final decision can be made, and a little time must elapse before the full results of the recent untimely rains can be gauged. The present abnormally high prices of cotton have to be taken into consideration as well as the poorer outturn.

"(b) The case of a widespread recognized calamity affecting large areas, for which total remissions may be given, is dealt with under rule 20 to section 32 (b) of the Canal and Drainage Act, VIII of 1873, and the present situation may have to be treated in accordance therewith. If so, formal application for each field will not be required, if the field is included in the area for which a general remission is ordered."

[The Hon'ble Mr. Lumsden.]

Punjab Vaccination (Amendment) Bill.

The Hon'ble Mr. Lumsden :—Your Honour, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to amend the law relating to Vaccination in the Punjab. As Hon'ble Members are aware the Bills introduced by the Finance Member whatever their fate may be, are generally of the most modest and unpretentious character, but I doubt whether in the whole series of measures introduced into this Hon'ble Council there has ever been one less complex and less contentious than the present Bill. Its origin is as simple as its provisions. Some months ago certain notified areas passed resolutions applying the provisions of the Vaccination Act to themselves and forwarded these resolutions to Government for the necessary action in the way of publication and notification.

On examination it was found that a notified area could not possibly be brought within the scope of the Vaccination Act, and that short of promoting the notified areas to the status of municipalities there was no way of remedying this difficulty. The reason for this omission from the original Act seems to be clear. The original Act was passed in 1880 and so far as I can discover at that time there was no such body as a notified area in existence. At any rate, so far as the Punjab is concerned, notified areas did not come into existence until the passing of the Act of 1891, when by section 210 power was given to constitute such bodies. Since then there has been a very rapid increase in the number of notified areas and they are now almost as numerous as municipalities. Many of these bodies are of a progressive nature and it seems a pity to deny to them the benefits which they are anxious to secure by making use of the Vaccination Act.

The same difficulty was experienced in the United Provinces and in the Central Provinces. In the case of the former in 1907 and in the case of the latter in 1915 similar Acts were passed by which notified areas could be given the benefits of the Vaccination Act. I feel sure all members will welcome the introduction of this Bill.

The motion was put to the vote and agreed to.

The Hon'ble Mr. Lumsden :—Your Honour, I introduce the Bill and beg to move that it be taken into consideration. I make this motion for two reasons. In the first place, the Bill is, as I have already said, of such extreme simplicity that an adjournment for its consideration seems superfluous, and in the second place as we have already received definite applications for the extension of the privileges of the Vaccination Act it seems a pity to delay matters longer than is absolutely necessary. At the same time should there be any general feeling on the part of Hon'ble Members that the measure is being rushed through and that they would like time for further consideration, Government is perfectly prepared to accept any amendment to that effect. Personally I feel confident that the resources of this Council are not unequal to disposing of a simple measure of this kind in one sitting, and I also feel sure that the Hon'ble Members will agree with me that the sooner a measure of this kind is passed, the better. It will perhaps assist the Hon'ble Members in forming their conclusion in the matter if I run through very briefly the various sections of the Bill.

The first section is only formal and requires no comment.

The second section is the most important part of the Bill. In the United Provinces and in the Central Provinces which have both followed the same procedure the provision is somewhat different. The corresponding clause reads as follows :—

“The Local Government may by notification in the official gazette declare its intention to extend this Act to the whole or any part of a notified area.”

That is to say, both in the United Provinces and in the Central Provinces the initiative lies with Government. On the other hand, in our Bill we have ventured to throw the whole initiative on the local bodies and thus place them on exactly the same footing as municipalities. We have done so for three reasons. In the first place, as I have already said, we have received definite applications from notified areas and we have reason to hope that

[*The Hon'ble Mr. Lumsden.*]

further applications of the kind will be forthcoming. Personally I believe that we would have received several more applications by this time, had it not been for the fact that we were obliged to point out to Commissioners that there was no use sending up any further applications from such bodies.

Then we have the history of municipalities. As the Hon'ble Members are aware, a municipality takes the whole initiative and Government employs no pressure of any kind. After the Act had been in existence for 27 years there were only 25 municipalities which had made use of it. During the last 10 years the number has increased to 68. Thus practically 70 per cent. of the municipalities have already taken action in order to avail themselves of the provisions of this Act. There is no very great difference in essentials between a municipality and a notified area, and there is every reason to believe that progress with notified areas will be nearly as rapid.

In the third place, the general principle of this Government is as far as possible to leave the initiative to local bodies in such matters. Consequently instead of following the United Provinces and the Central Provinces examples we have struck out a line of our own and placed a notified area on exactly the same footing as a municipality. I feel sure that the Hon'ble Members will agree with me that we have adopted the best course.

At first sight section 3 appears to be somewhat contradictory to what I have just been saying. Hon'ble Members will ask, and will very properly ask why if it is the policy of Government to leave initiative to local bodies it should reserve to itself the power of making rules consistent with the Act. Well, the reason for this is very simple. If members will refer to section 19 of the Vaccination Act, they will discover it at once. The relevant part of the rule runs as follows :—

“Such rules should be made in the manner in which, under the law for the time being in force, the Municipal Commissioners make rules or byelaws for the regulation of other matters within the limits of the municipality and shall, when confirmed by the Local Government (now Commissioners) and published in the official gazette, have the force of law.”

This explains at once why it is necessary to make the difference between municipalities and notified areas in respect of the framing of bye-laws. A notified area as such has no power whatever to make bye-laws. So that unless we insert a section of this kind it will be practically impossible for any notified area to have bye-laws under the Vaccination Act. I do not think the distinction is a matter of any very great importance. As the Hon'ble Members know the making of bye-laws has not been a marked success in municipal government. We have this year indeed prepared a series of model rules in order to assist municipalities in this branch of their work. What we would probably do in the present case would be, with the help of the Sanitary Commissioner, to frame a model set of rules under this Act, and when any notified area had applied the provisions of the Act and desired the assistance of bye-laws, we would forward a copy of those model bye-laws to the notified area and ask that body if it wishes to make any modification to suit local requirements. In this way there would be no difficulty in suiting the bye-laws to the conditions of each notified area.

Sections 4 and 5 are merely consequential amendments necessitated by the introduction of the new section 19 A.

Section 6 requires a word or two of explanation. The fund of a notified area does not possess the status of a municipal fund unless section 51 of the Municipal Act is specially extended to it. Now section 23 of the Vaccination Act runs as follows :—

“The amount of all fees and fines realized and the amount of all expenditure incurred under this Act in any municipality shall be respectively credited to and paid from the municipal fund.”

So if the Act is extended to a notified area, without the addition made in the draft Bill, there will be some difficulty as regards crediting any fines or fees realized under the Act. There were two remedies available. We could have done so by extending section 51 of the Municipal Act to any notified

[*The Hon'ble Mr. Lumsden; the Hon'ble Sardar Bahadur Gajjan Singh; the Hon'ble Mr. Fazl-i-Hussain.*]

area which passes a resolution applying the Vaccination Act, but this might have led to trouble as some notified areas might not wish to change their funds into municipal funds which are bound about with a greater number of formal rules. Consequently instead of adopting this course, we have preferred merely to add the words or "notified area fund" to section 23. In this way it will be a simple matter for notified areas to realise themselves all the fees and fines payable under the Act.

I do not think I need say anything more about the Act. What I have said, I am sure, will have satisfied the Hon'ble Members as to the essential simplicity of the measure. I move that the Bill be now taken into consideration.

The motion was put and agreed to.

The Hon'ble Mr. Lumsden :—Your Honour, I now move that the Bill be passed. I do not think I need add anything to what I have said before. I have explained the Bill briefly. I have said already the measure is extremely simple in character. I feel sure that notified areas will derive benefit from this Bill.

The Hon'ble Sardar Bahadur Gajjan Singh :—I strongly support the motion. We all know that it will afford great relief to notified areas and will be very useful. I therefore support the Bill.

The motion that the Bill be passed was put to the vote and carried.

**RESOLUTION RE IMPROVEMENT OF THE CONDITION OF
PRIMARY SCHOOLS AND THE LOWER PRIMARY
DEPARTMENT, AND FURTHER EXPANSION OF
PRIMARY EDUCATION.**

The Hon'ble Mr. Fazl-i-Hussain :—Your Honour, I beg to move the following resolution standing in my name :—

This Council recommends to His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor that the condition of the primary schools, and especially of the Lower Primary Department, be improved and that further expansion of primary education should take place through the improved schools.

By the term "primary schools", Your Honour, I mean vernacular schools which almost entirely exist in villages. The resolution does not concern the Anglo-primary schools which exist in towns, cities, or in big villages which claim to be almost towns. Primary schools are the agency for imparting what is known as primary education, and these are the only schools with which this resolution is concerned. It has now been admitted on all hands that the first and foremost duty of Government is to impart primary education to such an extent that the percentage of literacy is considerably raised. Now what is the exact scope of primary education? Whatever divergence of opinion on that point may be, it is clear that a person who has been through a primary school course should be able to read and write in vernacular, know a little arithmetic and also know what is termed as "General Knowledge," that is to say, elementary principles of hygiene, sanitation and a little geography and history. In upper primary schools there are five classes, that is to say, five standards, five different sections in the school, or five lots of pupils having different standards. In each class there are so many subjects taught. I believe a very large number of members of this Council will be rather surprised to hear that in these primary schools there are about 40 or 50 students and as many as 5 or 4 classes—, and so many subjects to be taught in each class. The work is entrusted to one individual, and that one man has to attend to all the classes and has to teach them all the subjects. I myself was very much surprised when I learnt that. The Hon'ble Members will be further surprised to hear that the wonderful man who is doing all this work is drawing not more than Rs. 15 a month. That is his pay. Now, this wonderful man who is drawing Rs. 15 a month and imparting primary education to 50 odd boys in 5 different standards and in 4 or 5 subjects to each standard, must be really a wonderful man to do this work efficiently. It is not my object in connection with this resolution to dwell upon the products of these schools who have passed the fifth primary standard, whether they are good or bad. I am

[*The Hon'ble Mr. Fazl-i-Hussain.*]

more or less satisfied with the products of these schools. By products I mean those who have appeared in the test and obtained a certificate of having passed the examination.

I simply want to refer the Hon'ble Members to the figures quoted by the Hon'ble Member in charge of education this morning. Now there are statistics available only for two years, that is to say, is for years 1911 and 1916, but those figures are most eloquent. In the year 1911 there were in all about 260,000 students in the primary department. Of these half the number are in the lowest class and the other half is distributed unequally in the four higher standards. I was under the impression that possibly during the last five years matters had improved, that is to say, the number of students in the higher standards had gone up; but I am sorry to notice that the last five years have really made no change at all. Now, instead of 130,000 students being in the lowest class in the primary schools there are 160,000, that is to say, in these primary schools the number of students in the lowest class has risen by 30,000. There has been no very great increase in the higher classes. How is this to be explained? Why is it that in the lowest class there are such a large number of students who never go to the higher classes. Now it has been stated that the parents of a large number of the students in the lowest class are not particular to send them higher and remove them after a year and that as soon as the pupils are grown up they are taken out and put to other work. Now, is this removal due to the schooling being inefficient, or is it due to the fact that they are grown up and put to the field? Has the nursery proved entirely useless to impart any education to the pupils? and is it a fact that they remained in this nursery more than a year without learning anything and their parents thought that the children could learn as much in their own homes and that, therefore, there was no use keeping them in the school. There can be no doubt that the condition of this dumping ground is very bad. We are about to make primary education compulsory. We are all agreed on that. What will be the result? Supposing the number of students increased on account of this compulsory primary education movement tenfold. If the present agency for imparting primary education remains in its present condition you simply multiply the number of pupils in the lowest class to 13 lakhs? It is only one-fourth nearly of the pupils that travel from the lowest class to the class next higher in the primary schools. When you increase the number of schools and make education compulsory the result will be that in the lowest class you will find 13 lakhs of students of whom 10 lakhs will be wasting their time. Is it fair, when you are making attendance at schools compulsory? It seems to me that it is not only compelling the people to send their children to school but it is only wasting the time of their children. There is no justification for making primary education compulsory unless the machinery for imparting it is improved. Now, why is it that their efficiency is not up to the proper standard? There are two reasons. The first is that the staff is utterly inadequate in number. You cannot expect one man to tackle such a large number of standards. It is impossible to do it efficiently. In the second place teachers of superior qualifications should be engaged. You must multiply your staff by 3, or if you multiply it by 2 you must also improve their quality. This can be done by providing increased accommodation at normal schools and by improving the pay and prospects of the teachers. It is generally stated that a man is worth the money that he gets and that these teachers who are given Rs. 15 a month would not take the job if the pay were too low. This argument has only recently been refuted by Mr. Fisher most eloquently. I am, Sir, reading from the speech of Mr. Fisher :—

“ We feel that no system of public education can be satisfactory which does not repose on the co-operation of a body of devoted, capable and well trained teachers, and that the first step towards educational reform is to attract good men and women into the teaching profession. The Government has come to the conclusion that the financial position of the teachers in our elementary schools is unsatisfactory and that it should be improved and to this end a large additional sum of money has been recently voted by Parliament for elementary education. We do not intend that this grant should be spent in relief of rates. We propose that it should be chiefly spent on the augmentation of

[Mr. Fazl-i-Hussain ; Raizada Bhagat Ram ; Lala Jowahir Lal, Bhargava.]

teachers' salaries. It is sometimes urged that the education given in the schools is not good enough to justify higher salaries. That is a vicious circle. You cannot get good education without good teachers and you cannot get good teachers unless you are prepared to pay for them. We have thought fit to indicate the minimum salary which should be paid to certificated and uncertificated teachers. We cannot allow teachers in our national schools to be exploited at a starvation wage. And here, let me add, that I shall not consider that I have placed the financial position of the teaching profession on a satisfactory basis till I have succeeded in securing adequate pensions for all classes of teachers."

The argument which has been rightly stigmatised by Mr. Fisher as 'a vicious circle' has been a favourite one here, and has been responsible for keeping the pay of teachers in the Primary Department as well as in other Departments, where it is. It is urged that the teacher is not fit for any higher salary, but it is forgotten that there is such a thing as "exploiting at starvation wages." That is what has been done not only by Government but also by private agencies, denominational institutions, and so on. I trust that the figures that I have quoted are enough to support the resolution. In the interests of primary education, as it is imparted at present, and in the interests of the primary education as it is to be imparted in the near future through the agency of compulsory education, it is absolutely necessary to improve the condition of our primary schools.

The masses at present are willing to go to schools to receive primary education, and the educated classes in this country are very anxious that primary education be made as universal as possible, and the Government is also anxious that it should be done. But, in my humble opinion, if the present defects are not removed, if the present agency for imparting primary education remains as inefficient as it is at present, there will be a very serious set-back received and a revulsion of feeling will take place against compulsory education. Therefore, I request the Hon'ble Members of this Council to recommend to His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor that the condition of the primary schools, and especially of the Lower Primary Department, be improved and that the further expansion of primary education should take place through the improved schools.

The Hon'ble Raizada Bhagat Ram :—"Your Honour, I wish to give my whole-hearted support to the resolution which my friend has proposed for the consideration of this Council. He has put it in a very lucid manner and proved it by facts and figures that the question of the improvement of primary schools should be taken in hand as soon as possible. He has touched on a point on which I can satisfy the Council that the masses of the country are certainly willing to help this movement and they know that the primary education as it is given at present is not very satisfactory. On two occasions during the last month this very question was mooted before the district board meeting of the Jullundur District, and that question was mooted by a landlord who is not an educated man himself and who desires that his children should be educated. He very strongly protested that this system of education in primary schools is very unsatisfactory. There were a number of causes which were mentioned on that occasion but the most important was the defect as to the qualifications of teachers and also the inadequacy in the number of teachers. Your Honour, it is a burning question of the day and I submit that the more speedily the improvement is effected the better. I support this resolution."

The Hon'ble Lala Jowahir Lal, Bhargava :—"Your Honour, I support the resolution which has been put forward by the Hon'ble Mr. Fazl-i-Hussain and seconded by Raizada Bhagat Ram. The resolution moots

[*Lala Jowahir Lal, Bhargava ; Lala Lal Chand.*]

the principle about the usefulness of which there can be no two opinions. The Punjab is indebted to Your Honour for the practical scheme for the extension of primary education, and Your Honour's solicitude for the welfare of the Punjab is well known. The Bill which has been recently circulated for opinion shows the beneficent intentions of Government in unmistakable terms. This resolution is simply designed to augment the efficacy, usefulness and quality of the education that is to be imparted. It is needless to point out that the time which is spent in primary education by the children is impressionable on their minds and the mental equipment that is given them has farreaching effects later in life and in a way moulds the later growth. It is essential, therefore, that the education that is imparted in these schools should be as practical as possible. Mere acquaintance with reading and writing is not enough. The teachers that impart education should be very good and efficient men and the staff should also be very adequate. Now that Government is on the threshold of embarking on a scheme of vast expansion of primary education and making primary education compulsory it is necessary that this education should be imparted through the improved school and in the manner suggested by the Hon'ble Mover.

The Hon'ble Lala Lal Chand :—“ The improvement and expansion of primary education is already engaging the kind attention of the Government, and it is hoped that in the near future most of the defects so ably put forth by the Hon'ble Mian Fazl-i-Hussain will be remedied. But the subject is of such vital importance for the regeneration of the ignorant masses that the more it is brought to the forefront the better. Most of us here have had something to do with village primary schools. But I hope the Hon'ble Mr. Richey will excuse me if I say that no one can lay claim to more personal experience of these village primary schools than my humble self. The Hon'ble Sardar Bahadur Gajjan Singh and Sardar Bahadur Partap Singh no doubt got their primary education in a village school but their experience is rather antiquated, things have certainly improved since then. So, the few remarks that I propose to make are the result more of personal observation than the result of a perusal of reports submitted by others.

Your Honour, no other institution is so ill-equipped now-a-days as the village primary school. The village schoolmaster is generally a low paid official with no other source of income and it is no wonder then, that we attract only men of very low qualifications. His prospects are hardly worth mentioning but the work that he has to do or is expected from him is simply tremendous. Ordinarily there being only one teacher in a village primary school, he is supposed to give lessons in reading, writing, arithmetic, geography, mensuration, object lessons, agriculture, and several other subjects to five different classes separately every day. He is supposed to act as drill instructor and to teach practical survey of land as well. How he manages all this is known only to those who go there as students. The moment he has given his lessons to the fifth upper primary class, his task is done. It is for this class to teach the fourth primary and so on down to the infant class. The boys who are sent to this school to learn their own lessons have, besides imparting knowledge to their juniors, to do a lot of other things for their teacher. Looking after his kitchen, cleaning his utensils, filling his chilams, and very often collecting fuel for him and bringing water from the well are some of the extra duties of a student.

Your Honour ! I cannot give all the details of menial work that is done by the boys, suffice it to say, that most of their time is taken up by extra labour. This I must confess is not against Indian sentiment and that is the reason why it is tolerated. Raise the pay of the teacher and multiply their numbers is the only prescription for this disease.

[*Lala Lal Chand ; Rai Bahadur Ram Sarn Das ; Mr. Richey.*]

Besides being ill-equipped our village primary schools are few in number. The other day I was passing a village on my way to a recruiting meeting and as I stopped my car all the boys of the village school came out. I asked them a few questions. I learnt that 15 boys came from a village at a distance of three miles and was told that ten more boys from that village attended another school at a distance of three miles in another direction. I need hardly say that 25 more would attend if the village be given a local school. The very next morning I was attending a meeting of the District Board to discuss the budget and as I was one of the members of the Finance Sub-Committee and while preparing the budget had seen how difficult it was to meet even the existing demands, I had not even the courage to make a proposal for a new school for want of funds.

Your Honour, Local Bodies cannot meet the growing demands for education. Unless the Provincial Government makes substantial grants, things can hardly improve. In Rohtak we are trying to make use of section 30 of the District Boards Act and I would suggest similar action for other Boards also in order to give our brethren, the non-agriculturists, an opportunity to share the burden of the village school in the same way as they have been enjoying its benefits.

With these few words I beg to support the resolution that is before the Council."

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Ram Sarn Das :—" Your Honour, the mover and the supporter have fully explained the noble objects of the resolution I give it my hearty support."

The Hon'ble Mr. Richey :—The question which has been raised by the Hon'ble Member is one of great importance at the present juncture. The rival claims of efficiency and expansion in education have formed a fertile subject for debate. Some urge that we should not open new schools till we have trained teachers forthcoming to staff them.

The Hon'ble Mover has pressed the claims of efficiency and in saying that I agree with him, I should first like to allay the fears of those members who press the claims of expansion. I do not think we need be afraid that the Punjab Government will subordinate expansion to efficiency. It has taken two important steps in this direction. First there is under consideration the proposal to introduce compulsory education in the areas where Government is assured that the necessary facilities will be provided. But compulsion will at first at any rate affect only urban areas. Another step which Government has taken, which I gather from the question this morning about primary education in rural areas is not so well known is for expansion in rural areas. In June of this year it issued a circular asking for preliminary surveys for the needs of each district.

Then there are others who have been impressing on us the necessity of opening a large number of schools at once regardless of the quality of teaching given in them. I do not think we need go to either extreme that there should be no expansion without efficiency or that expansion should be regardless of efficiency.

The Inspectors were asked to send in maps showing the proper centres for new schools. The principle on which these maps have been based is this that, ultimately Board Schools should be established at every centre where an attendance of 50 students can be expected provided a distance of two miles exists between two Board Schools. These maps have come, and we considered them in a committee which met last week, and they are putting up their recommendations to Government as to the lines on which programmes should be drawn up by District Boards, and it is hoped ultimately that programmes will be drawn up

[*Mr. Richey ; Bakhshi Sohan Lal.*]

to fulfil Government's ideal programme. I have dwelt at some length on these two points, because I think it is necessary to reassure the advocates of expansion that we are not going to subordinate quantity to quality. The policy of the Local Government as regards expansion, one might say, is the systematic and continuous provision of adequate facilities for primary education where such do not exist and the introduction of compulsion whenever and wherever adequate facilities do exist. The most ardent expansionists could not wish for more. But it will not be any use to multiply inefficient schools in the country in which the pupils cannot go beyond the lower primary standard. The efficiency of an institution cannot be easily judged by statistics. You can prove by figures that 50 boys attended a school, but you cannot assess the amount of education they are receiving. The figures quoted by the Hon'ble Mover give room for pause. I have, however, referred to these questions at some length in the quinquennial report, and I do not propose to go into them at length now. I feel the Hon'ble Mover is justified in his complaint; in fact, he has been supported by gentlemen who are an authority on questions about primary schools, such as the Hon'ble Lala Lal Chand. I will only mention two steps which the Local Government has already taken. In the first place the casual attendance in the primary schools, which the Hon'ble Member said might be due to defects in teaching, is, I think, not entirely due to that cause. There are quite a number of parents who treat the primary schools as places where they can place their children while they go out to work. For this evil I can see no remedy except compulsion, and that principle has been accepted. The other step we have taken is the improvement in the salaries of teachers during the last five years. The salaries of teachers in this province do not compare unfavourably with those of any other Province except Bombay where Vernacular Middle Schools are classed as Primary Schools. More might perhaps be done. I think the Hon'ble Member quoted Rs. 15 as being their salary. Nearly all the District Boards give progressive scales of salaries. Some give up to Rs. 20 and others Rs. 15—30. That scale of pay is not a bad pay for the teachers of primary schools and for their qualifications. The teacher lives near his home and may draw allowances in addition. One-sixth of the primary teachers in the Province, including both headmasters and their assistants, draw postal allowances in addition. In these two ways Government has done something.

As regards the qualifications of primary teachers, there are nowhere in India so high.

But having got your comparatively well-paid and well-qualified teacher you must not set him an impossible task. You must not ask him to teach five classes at once. No doubt reform is possible in this direction. In matters of training I think it is possible that the training might be specifically directed to the work to be done in rural primary school. Further, the importance of primary education might possibly be more fully realized by those officers whose duty it is to supervise it. Improvements in this direction are inexpensive and effective, and we can in this way make the best advance for the wide diffusion of education. I have great pleasure in accepting the resolution."

The Hon'ble Bakhshi Sohan Lal :—“ Your Honour, I also wish to support this resolution. There is no difference of opinion that the education in primary schools which are to be the basis or foundation of forming character of the children, male and female, in their life, must be entrusted to teachers of sound and adequate qualifications. There can also be no two opinions on the question that the very low pay paid in village schools cannot attract such men and women for the teacherships who can be said to have sound training. I wish first to see an improvement in the quality of teachers, and it is important in the interests, both of the schools as well as of teachers. With these few words I support the resolution.”

[His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor.]

His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor:—"I wish to say a word to supplement the statement made by the Director of Public Instruction that the Government will accept the resolution: I may say that every country—East and West—has gone through the stage, this primitive stage, of a single teacher striving to cope with several classes which has been described so vividly to-day. I refer to the Hon'ble Member's description of the village teacher. I think the picture in Goldsmith's 'Deserted Village' corresponds almost exactly to the village schoolmaster described by him. If I remember the lines they ran:—

'The village master taught his little school,
'A man severe he was and stern to view,
'I knew him well and every truant knew."

Then the poet goes on to say in describing his qualifications:—

'The village all declared how much he knew,
'Twas certain he could write and cipher too,
'Land he could measure, terns and tides presage,
'And even the story ran that he could gauge.'

Now here is a point that learned members of the Bar will appreciate—

'In arguing too, the parson owned his skill,
'For even though vanquished he could argue still,
'While words of learned length and thundering sound,
'Amazed the gaping rustics gathered round,
'And still they gazed and still the wonder grew,
'That one small head could carry all he knew.'

those old time "dominies" were men of character and often left their mark on their pupils. But I think men of this type, men of these varying qualifications must now be rare; it is, however, for us to improve the existing type. The Director of Public Instruction has pointed out that there are two methods of doing this—by increasing the efficiency of our teachers and the second is to extend the scope of primary education. He has explained what Government has done in reference to these two important considerations. A Bill for making primary education compulsory is now before the public. The root principle of the Bill is that Local Bodies who wish to apply its provisions when it becomes law shall satisfy Government that the necessary facilities are forthcoming.

The Punjab Government will require that it should be satisfied of the adequacy of the staff and also as to the suitability of the form of education for the needs of the population. I entirely agree with the Hon'ble Raizada Bhagat Ram's complaints of the equality of education; the complaint occurs mainly in the rural areas. They say in the first place that the teachers are largely men from towns who do not understand rural needs or rural conditions; they have not the same influence over their pupils. There is a frequent complaint that the long school hours from ten to four are not suited to the agricultural population, that they cause the withdrawal of the boys from the fields, and that the boys are unable to give reasonable assistance to their fathers in agricultural work. The shorting of the school hours is therefore a matter for careful consideration. Thirdly, there is a complaint that the holidays given in primary schools are not suited to rural needs; and do not coincide with the harvest periods; this is a matter that will require the consideration of Local Bodies who will have to take into account agricultural needs. If Local Bodies will approach the subject from the point of view of meeting the needs of the population I am sure the objections raised by Raizada Bhagat Ram will be met, and the rural population will realize that the form of education, given in primary schools is to their advantage. Their objections to send their children to school will then disappear."

[*Mr. Fazl-i-Hussain.*]

The Hon'ble Mr. Fazl-i-Hussain :—"I am very grateful for the reception accorded to my resolution by the members of the Council. There is nothing more for me to say on the subject."

His Honour then put the motion to the meeting and it was accepted.

RESOLUTION RE RECRUITMENT OF PROFESSORS OF ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY IN THE MEDICAL COLLEGE, LAHORE.

The Hon'ble Mr. Fazl-i-Hussain :—Your Honour, I beg to move my second resolution which runs as follows :—

This Council recommends to His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor that recruitment for the Professorship of Anatomy in the Medical College, Lahore, be not restricted to the Indian Medical Service and that suitable qualified men outside the Indian Medical Service be eligible for the post.

So far as our Medical College is concerned I think we are all now in a position to be proud of the fact that this institution is second to none in this country. It is well-equipped, well-staffed and as I have said, is second to none. It attracts men even from outside the Province. I want to make it clear that this resolution is not brought forward in a spirit of criticism. On the other hand, the efficiency of our Medical College is beyond reproach. The object of this resolution is not to find faults in the institution. Then, what is the object of this resolution? It is this. At present there are eleven chairs distributed as follows :—

There are—

- Two Professors of Surgery ;
- One Professor of Medicine ;
- One Professor of Materia Medica ;
- One Professor of Midwifery ;
- One Professor of Diseases of Eye, Ear and Throat ;
- One Professor of Pathology ;
- One Professor of Forensic Medicine ; and
- One Professor of Hygiene.

Besides these nine there are two more Professors, one of Anatomy and one of Physiology. So far as the first nine chairs are concerned it is obvious that practical experience is needed. So far as the last two are concerned—Anatomy and Physiology—these departments of medicine are of a literary nature and such as require more college education than actual every-day experience. Now, in the Lahore Medical College for the last 30 years the chair of Physiology has been occupied by a Professor who did not belong to the Indian Medical Service. Till recently in other provinces all the Professors were recruited from the Indian Medical Service, and only recently in Lucknow and in Bengal, and in Madras last year. Last year the Hon'ble Dr. Nair proposed in the Madras Legislative Council that the chair of Professor of Anatomy in the Medical College should be held either by a specially recruited officer or by a qualified Assistant Surgeon, that is to say, recruitment was limited exclusively to Assistant Surgeons, and to persons other than those belonging to the Indian Medical Service. So far as the recruitment to this post was concerned it was closed to members of the Indian Medical Service. Personally, I am not in favour of creating any hard and fast distinctions like that, in an educational institution. We want the best men for the posts in these institutions. We want men who are really an acquisition and have very good academic distinctions. What happens when a man with such qualifications, and suitably in touch with institutions in the West, but who does not belong to the Indian Medical Service applies for such a post? What reply will be get? You will say you cannot

[*Mr. Fazl-i-Hussain ; Sayad Rajan Shah ; Rai Bahadur Bakhshi Sohan Lal.*]

get the post, you are not a member of the Indian Medical Service. Supposing he says that he has worked in a very good science institute and possesses very good degrees. He will get the reply—it does not matter, you may know your subject well and perhaps better than many Indian Medical Service men. As long as you are not a member of that service you cannot be taken for the post.

It is to remove this bar that non-Indian Medical Service men are not eligible that I have brought forward this resolution. Just as an instance I may mention the case of Colonel Stephenson, who is Principal of the Government College and is a member of the Indian Medical Service. It was, I think, by the courtesy shown by the Government as well as by the Indian Educational Service that he was selected as the best-suited man to fill that high and exalted office. He has been an unqualified success. It has become quite evident that had the bar of service been created in his way and allowed to stand in the way of his appointment, he would not have had the chance of benefiting the institution and successfully managing it. Now, if from the Indian Medical Service we can take Colonel Stephenson for the Indian Educational Service—and he has done wonderfully well there—is there any reason to suppose why you cannot take a man who does not belong to the Indian Medical Service when he is an equally qualified man. Now we already know that for more than a quarter of a century the chair of Professor of Physiology has been filled with distinction by Dr. Caleb. Is there any reason to suppose that it is impossible to find a successor of his outside the Indian Medical Service? I want to make it quite clear that it is not intended to cast any reflections whatever on the Indian Medical Service for which I have the greatest respect? The record of that service is splendid, and in the present war they have added greater lustre to it. We have admired the service, we appreciate it, but at the same time it is unreasonable to urge that outside that service it is not possible to find good men, and especially at a time when the need of that service is very great elsewhere. So I request the Council to support this resolution which I trust is quite moderate, inasmuch as it simply raises the point of principle of a very general application, and to recommend to His Honour that recruitment for the Professorship of Anatomy in the Medical College, Lahore, be not restricted to the Indian Medical Service and that suitable qualified men outside the Indian Medical Service be eligible for the post. It is unnecessary for me to dilate on this subject."

The Hon'ble Sayad Rajan Shah supported the above resolution.

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Bakhshi Sohan Lal:—"Your Honour, I beg leave to move an amendment to this resolution by adding after the word 'Anatomy,' the words 'or of Physiology.' This amendment will have the effect of removing the reservation, if any, for Indian Medical Service, of the chairs of these subjects in the teaching staff of the Medical College, Lahore, and of allowing these appointments to be open for the best man, within or out of the Indian Medical Service. We all know that Dr. Caleb, who is an Indian and does not belong to the Indian Medical Service, has efficiently, rather most creditably discharged the duties of the Professor of Physiology for a large number of years in the Medical College, Lahore. His service is now approaching retirement on full pension. On his vacating the chair there is no reason why the appointment should necessarily go to a man of Indian Medical Service if an equally qualified or better fitted person be forthcoming for the post from the Medical graduates of any of the Indian or English Universities and thoroughly experienced to be entrusted and relied upon for the efficient discharge of the duties of Professor of Physiology though not necessarily belonging to the Indian Medical Service. With these few words I recommend to Your Honour, and to the Hon'ble Members of the Council to modify

[*Pandit Jowahir Lal ; Colonel Hendley.*]

the resolution moved by the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Mian Fazal Hussain, by adding the words ' or of Physiology ' after the word ' Anatomy ' in the second line of the resolution given."

The Hon'ble Pandit Jowahir Lal :—" Your Honour, I second this amendment. I think the restriction for recruitment for the Professorship of Anatomy and Physiology in the Medical College from among the members of the Indian Medical Service should be removed for one of these chairs, Anatomy or Physiology. Of course in all such matters efficiency should be the prime consideration, and if men outside the service can be available for filling up the chairs for any of the posts, there appears to be no reason for imposing the restriction that exists, and, as already remarked by the Hon'ble Mover and the Hon'ble Bakhshi Sohan Lal, the chair of Physiology was occupied by one who did not belong to the Indian Medical Service, and he has discharged the duties with as much efficiency as can be desired. There is no reason to retain that bar and the claims of those persons who are otherwise qualified should not be ignored altogether. With these words I support the resolution as put forward by Mr. Fazal-i- Hussain and amended by Bakhshi Sohan Lal."

The Hon'ble Colonel Hendley :—" Your Honour, seeing that the question raised in this resolution and the amendment is dealt with in the recommendations made by the Public Services Commission, the Local Government, though willing it should be discussed in the Council, is not disposed to make any pronouncement in connection with it, while those recommendations are still under the consideration of the Government of India and if pressed to a division the official members will not vote. In view, however, of its importance as affecting the efficiency of the Government Medical College, which is the only channel through which medical men can enter the profession in the Punjab, it is as well the Council should be put into possession of certain aspects of the case that may be of assistance in the discussion.

" Appointment to the chairs of Anatomy and Physiology is made by the Government of India. The Punjab Government, if it has a suitable Indian Medical Service officer in view, can nominate him, and no doubt unless the Government of India had an officer with more suitable qualifications available it would accept the Punjab Government's nomination. The Government of India, in consultation with the Secretary of State, decides what appointments should be recruited for through the Indian Medical Service.

" There are 770 officers in the Indian Medical Service, a service which is open to all duly qualified natural born subjects of His Majesty of European or East Indian descent, and yet only two or three of the special anatomy appointments in India are reserved for them. In this large number of officers there are no doubt some always available with very special qualifications in Physiology and Anatomy, men probably who entered the service mainly with a view to work in these special departments. These appointments and others similar to them are what the Secretary of State has to attract young practitioners when he recruits officers for service in the Army in India and if the service is deprived of these special appointments in order to give them to other practitioners, who, if they wanted such appointments, might have entered the Indian Medical Service, and borne their share in the heat and burden of the day in military, plague or other disagreeable service, the question may well arise, will the Secretary of State still be able to induce highly qualified men to enter it ?

" Under the present system we may say that hitherto only accomplished anatomists have occupied the chair of Anatomy at Lahore, at least two of whom entered the service hoping for such an appointment. Amongst others I might mention Major Neil, Major Lawrie, Major Perry, names of men well known in

[Colonel Hendley.]

and outside the Punjab, Sir Havelock Charles, to whom we owe in the main our magnificent anatomical rooms, and Colonel Lamont, who, at the outbreak of war, patriotically left a similar appointment in Scotland which he was filling with ease and dignity to take up his old duties in Lahore. Would there be great hopes of recruiting men equal to or better than these from the ranks of medical men outside the Indian Medical Service?

"Will the proposal before us make for efficiency? It is probably known why, as a subject, anatomy is so important and why such great emphasis is laid on an accurate knowledge of it; as illustrating this take quite a small operation, the removal of a gland from the neck, the surgeon with his accurate knowledge of anatomy avoids a dangerous issue by the one-sixteenth of an inch or so, had he not the knowledge gained in the dissecting room or been badly taught would this have been possible?

"The science of physiology has made such strides within the last generation or so as to have almost completely revolutionized treatment and made it necessary that it should be taught by men well versed in the latest developments and prepared to keep in touch with them.

"But supposing we put into the appointments at Lahore a good anatomist or physiologist it does not follow that he will be a good teacher, take a case which has actually occurred in India. Such a man, he did not belong to the Indian Medical Service, was found after several years from the failure of his students to pass their examinations to have been all along inefficient as a teacher. This only came out gradually and in the meantime think of the injury done to the students and to the patients they had to attend when they eventually qualified. Some will no doubt say that this might happen with an Indian Medical Service Officer, possibly, but remember he has been under the notice of the authorities (responsible for appointing him) for some years, he will have shown his ability, his sense of discipline and probably by acting in appointments, his teaching powers, and then, this is a very important point, he can be transferred to another appointment of a different kind should any doubt arise as to his efficiency: whereas in the other case the College is probably tied to him indefinitely or until his agreement expires.

"Then in our College and School we have, as I dare say this Council is well aware, difficult elements that are anything but easy to deal with; here in the Punjab we have students who tend to be unruly, not unexpectedly, perhaps, as many of them come of the fighting classes. The pupil is introduced into the dissecting room and into the Physiological Laboratory early in his career as a medical student, he has little idea of discipline and he is allowed a freedom previously unknown to him. If he comes under the influence of a man with a strong sense of discipline who has his respect, he will probably do well but leave him to a man who is himself inexperienced and has not had the disciplined training an Indian Medical Service Officer must have had, the result may be disastrous not only to the youth but to the College. The Professors of Anatomy and Physiology are in a very independent position, they have complete control of these young men for many hours at a most impressionable time in their careers, and if they fail then failure has a greater effect upon the reputation of the College and of the student, and is of far more reaching effect upon the lives of people than probably would be the case by the failure of any other professors in any other profession.

"The resolution and the recommendations of the Public Services Commission would have the effect of throwing a much greater degree of responsibility upon the shoulders of those responsible for making these appointments and would besides subject them to the possibility of much unfavourable criti-

[Colonel Hendley ; Mr. Fazl-i-Hussain.]

cism should they decide in favour of a service man. There would be too no doubt much difficulty experienced in recruiting for services in which the statutory numbers could never be accurately stated, and in arranging for leave vacancies or a reserve in case of sickness, details, that can be worked out, but any one with experience of the working of a service knows how very difficult they are to deal-with in practice.

"As the war is not yet over it would be idle to speculate as to how admittedly changed conditions will affect the Public Services Commission's recommendations. It is certain, however, that it will be difficult for years to come to fill up casual medical appointments in India by young men of established reputation. It is estimated that only 519 male medical students will pass out in England in 1919 whereas the normal wastage, not war wastage, is but little short of double that number. It would seem that our only hope therefore is that there may still be men looking to join a service, in spite of the increased attractions in civil life, for the security it offers of an assured future and prospective pension.

Throughout these remarks it is assumed that candidates for these appointments would be required to have received their professional education in Europe and to have had experience in similar appointments in recognised British Medical Schools to meet the requirement of the University whose degrees are registrable under the British Acts."

The Hon'ble Mr. Fazl-i-Hussain:—"So far as the amendment is concerned, Your Honour, I accept it. Therefore there need be no division on that point. The Hon'ble Member in charge has said that he does not intend to express an opinion on the resolution and that the Government members will not take part in the discussion. The subject-matter of the resolution appears to me to be more or less as a sort of axiomatic truth. Therefore I did not speak at any great length when proposing it. All that I feel necessary for me to do now is to make just a few remarks with reference to the points taken up by the Hon'ble Member in charge.

"1. I think there is no doubt that every member of the Council will agree with the Hon'ble Member in charge that the efficiency and discipline of the institution must be maintained, although there may be considerable difference of opinion on the subject if it is contended that both these can only be done by members of the Indian Medical Service. Now I fully recognise that members of the Indian Medical Service are selected by open competition which is open to Indians, but possibly it would have been better if this aspect of the question had not been brought out in connection with this resolution. This resolution does not aim at benefiting Indians. It only widens the field of selection from among non-Indian Medical Service men when they possess the requisite qualifications with a degree from an Indian or a British University, and it is as much in the interests of the young English practitioner as of an Indian.

"2. Now the argument that inasmuch as a member of the Indian Medical Service does a good deal of disagreeable work, therefore for that work he should be given this post in the Medical College is hardly a good one. I do not think, Sir, that service in any station for 5 or 10 years or in a plague-infected or cholera-stricken area particularly tends to increase the knowledge of physiology or anatomy. Therefore I think the services of the Indian Medical Service men in doing their disagreeable part of the work should be rewarded in ways other than this. The reason why I wanted the recruitment to be open to non-Indian Medical Service men is that the fact that they have worked in Indian conditions for a long time and done miscellaneous work does not tend to increase the knowledge of Indian Medical Service officers or even enable them

[*Mr. Fazl-i-Hussain.*]

to keep up their knowledge of a subject like anatomy. It is for this very reason why I wanted the recruitment to be open to non-Indian Medical Service men.

"3. Then it has been said that very eminent men have been holding the chair of Anatomy, but I would remind the Hon'ble Member that Colonel Perry won his reputation more as a surgeon than as an anatomist. Moreover, Sir, the object of the resolution is not that the post of Professor of Anatomy should necessarily be filled from outside the Indian Medical Service. It cannot be that in India students do not acquire sufficient knowledge where to find the diagonal bone. We want to give the post to those who will know all about it. I believe the knowledge of glands is not a thing which men outside the Indian Medical Service cannot acquire.

"4. The question of discipline is one, on which we agree. I do not think the Hon'ble Member in charge intended to imply that if a Professor is recruited from outside the Indian Medical Service he will find it impossible to maintain the discipline. Discipline is maintained in other educational institutions in Lahore which are managed by officers other than Indian Medical Service men.

"5. Then it has been urged that the men selected for the Indian Medical Service are under the eye of the Secretary of State during the period of their service, and that the Secretary of State is able to judge their capabilities. It seems to me more or less impossible for him to find out from an officer having done well as a medical man that he is fit for teaching work. It cannot be said that members of a special service are particularly fit for teaching to the exclusion of others. If the Indian Educational Service were recruited from amongst the members of the Indian Civil Service I have not the slightest doubt that a very large number will be found who will be able to do the work quite well. At the same time I believe it is generally admitted that so far as educational institutions are concerned, that a man may be an excellent scholar and yet not a good administrator. In fact, I remember, Sir, that your predecessor in office, Sir Louis Dane, once told me that one of his contemporaries in the Indian Civil Service had a very good knowledge of Oriental languages and he would have been an excellent man to fill the post of Principal of the Oriental College, Lahore. He found that neither as a District Officer nor as a District Judge Oriental scholarship was of any avail. If only that man were given a chance in the Oriental College he would have been a very great success. Now there are many instances like that. At the same time it is not seriously urged that the Indian Civil Service should supply the Education Department with teachers

6. "The next point taken up by the Hon'ble Member is this that if an Indian Medical Service man proved unsuccessful as teacher or was failure as such, he could put him on some other work. May I ask if we proceed further and find that he proves a failure in the other work to which he was put, what will he do with that man. Will he turn him out?

"7. I do not think it is necessary for me, for purposes of this resolution, to enter into the effects of the war. I fully realise that it is desirable to attract a large number of men to the Indian Medical Service, but so far as I can see it does not affect my resolution, as my resolution is not designed to exclude any particular service.

"8. I find that in a number of other Provinces it has been found possible to consider that the products of the Medical Colleges in India are also good enough to fill this post. At all events in Madras the Hon'ble Surgeon-General said that the products of the Madras College were quite capable of filling this post. We claim that

[*Mr. Fazl-i-Hussain ; Mr. Parker ; His Honour the President.*]

our Medical College is second to none in efficiency. Is it intended then to imply that the products of this College are not equal to the products of other Medical Colleges in India and therefore they are not suitable? If it is suggested that in the Punjab it is not possible to give the post to a suitable non-Indian Medical Service man, then it is clear that the teachers in the Lahore Medical College have not been doing their duty by their students to give them a proper training. I cannot understand when they have been able to find men outside the Indian Medical Service in Madras and elsewhere to fill the post of Professor of Anatomy, why it should be difficult to find men for the Lahore Medical College.

"In conclusion I would refer to the fact that the resolution is not one that wants that anything particular should be done for a particular class or section of a class. It only asks that this disability against the people outside the Indian Medical Service be removed."

The Hon'ble Mr. Parker :—Your Honour, I rise to ask whether this Council or the Punjab Government has any control over the appointments of Professors of the College."

His Honour the President :—"This is a point that has been raised in the recommendations of the Public Services Commission. They have made recommendations more or less on the lines of the present resolution. Their recommendations are receiving the attention of the Government of India, and no doubt the Local Government will be consulted. So to some extent the present discussion has not been infructuous. At the same time I may point out with reference to the question asked by the Hon'ble Mr. Parker that the decision in this matter does not rest with the Local Government but with the Government of India. But of course the Local Government is competent to bring the resolution of this Council before the Government of India for their consideration. As the question is likely to be under discussion between the Local Government and the Government of India, the Local Government expresses no opinion at this stage, and therefore official members will not vote one way or the other.

"I first put the amendment proposed by the Hon'ble Bakhshi Sohan Lal. He recommends that in the second line of the resolution as originally proposed after the words 'Professorship of Anatomy' the words 'or of Physiology' be added.' The Hon'ble Mover accepts this amendment."

The amendment was put and carried.

The resolution as amended was then put to the vote and carried.

RESOLUTION *re* IMPROVEMENT IN THE POSITION OF THE TEACHERS OF CLASSICAL LANGUAGES IN ANGLO-VERNACULAR HIGH SCHOOLS.

The Hon'ble Mr. Fazal-Hussain :—"Your Honour, my third resolution runs as follows :—

"This Council recommends to His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor that in the Subordinate Provincial Educational Service ten posts be taken out of the Rs. 20 to Rs. 30 grade and put into the Rs. 35 to Rs. 50 grade to improve the position of the teachers of classical languages in Anglo-Vernacular High Schools."

"In order to understand the significance of this Resolution I will first state that in the Punjab the Educational Department maintains a number of Anglo-Vernacular High Schools, while there are a large number of schools that are not

[Mr. Fazl-i-Hussain.]

maintained by Government—they consist of Municipal Board schools, District Board schools and denominational schools maintained by Hindu, Muhammadan and Sikh charitable institutions. This Resolution concerns the Anglo-Vernacular High Schools maintained by Government which, so far as I can gather, are kept up by Government as model institutions to be copied by other institutions. These institutions are maintained so that the efficiency of secondary education might be kept up at a certain level; therefore we expect that these model institutions would naturally be maintained at a standard of efficiency which would be higher than that of any other institution, while all other institutions would make efforts to keep up to that standard. In the Anglo-Vernacular High Schools maintained by Government a number of subjects are taught, e.g., English, History, Mathematics, Geography, Science, Persian, Arabic and Sanskrit. Now the point that I want particularly to press upon the attention of the Council is this that the schools are well maintained, they are officered by Headmasters drawing a pay of Rs. 200 to Rs. 400 a month; the teachers of Science, History, Mathematics and Geography all draw pay varying from Rs. 75 to Rs. 200 a month. When we come, however, to the teaching of oriental languages, we find that a large number of the teachers get no more than Rs. 20 a month, although the work is very hard, as hard as that of the High Department; they are imparting instruction in oriental languages; they are not graduates in Arts but only graduates in Oriental languages. The subject of their pay has been, on the interpolation side, before the Council; it was raised by me once and once by my friend Rai Bahadur Ram Saran Das. On the last occasion the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Education Department admitted that these men were imparting instruction in the High Schools in oriental languages, they were men who had obtained the highest degrees in the university in their subjects: the best test of knowledge in the subject was the title of Maulvi Fazil in Arabic and Munshi Fazil in Persian, and Shastri in Sanskrit. There is no other Indian university that confers the same title on scholars in these three different subjects. It comes to this that men possessing the best oriental qualifications in India who are imparting instruction in High Schools, where the Headmasters get Rs. 200 to Rs. 400 and where other teachers get Rs. 75 to Rs. 200, get only Rs. 20 to Rs. 30 a month; when they are lucky they get from Rs. 35 to Rs. 50, it is a rare instance when a man gets Rs. 50,—it is generally when he is approaching death. As I have said, these facts are admitted by the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Education Department. His plea was this, 'why do they come? it is a question of supply and demand, and the second plea was that denominational and charitable institutions are doing the same, they were not paying any more. All these defences I venture to submit are no justification for what Mr. Fisher called *exploiting labour on starvation wages*. If poor charitable institutions are paying Rs. 20 to Rs. 35 it is because they cannot afford to pay more. Is it not the duty of the Education Department which maintains model schools for secondary education, to set the pace and the standard so that other institutions may follow? I think it is more creditable to look after the welfare of these poor teachers than to think what the extra expense will be. In any case what denominational institutions are doing would not become right because the Education Department chooses to follow them. The plea that we get the men to come on these rates and go on paying them at those rates is radically a wrong doctrine. I will not repeat the quotation I made from Mr. Fisher, that applies equally, as a matter of fact, very appropriately to the unfortunate teachers of oriental languages. What Mr. Fisher says is no more than an adaptation of the Persian proverb—

کہ مزد در بخش دل کند باز بیش

I should not be understood to imply at the same time that these did not work properly. But I think it is very curious that men holding the best

[Mr. Fazl-i-Hussain; Khan Sahib Mirza Ikram Ullah; Rai Bahadur Ram Sarn Das.]

degrees in Arabic, Persian and Sanskrit should find themselves penniless. The Director of Public Instruction makes use of the poverty of the poor men to entice them to accept at the hands of Government wages of Rs. 20 a month and no brilliant prospects of rising to Rs. 200 or even Rs. 400 a month. When the Inspector finds that the men are doing their work well he gives them a special certificate of efficiency, he says 'you are a very good teacher I give you this special certificate for teaching Arabic'; that man is satisfied and for several months after he hopes that something will be done, but his hopes are destined to be frustrated. Years pass by and he rises to Rs. 24 or so. I have got here from the register of the Education Department a large number of instances illustrating that these men who are more or less enticed into the Department are faring very badly indeed. I have noted the case of two men, the first is Ramji Das who was engaged in 1905, he holds a diploma of Shastri in Sanskrit; a few years later he was given a special certificate for teaching Sanskrit in the High School; to-day after 12 years he is getting Rs. 30 a month; he has advanced during 12 years by Rs. 10. Another example, possibly a more appropriate one, is that of Abdul Karim. In 1905 he also was more or less induced into the department on Rs. 20 a month—a few years later he was given a certificate of fitness for teaching Arabic. He is now drawing Rs. 26 a month, that is a promotion of Rs. 6 after having served the department for 13 years. I know teachers who have obtained excellent elts from their Headmasters, special certificates of fitness from the Inspectors and sweet smiles from the Director of Public Instruction. So far as *increment* is concerned, none of these authorities can give them a pice on account of the hard and fast machinery that exists. This is highly unsatisfactory and the men are beginning to grumble. It appears from what the Hon'ble Member in charge told me that unless the oriental readers learn to assert themselves in the western way there is no hope for them. The Hon'ble Member in charge of the Department said last year that he felt that in the interests of mercy and justice they should be put into a higher class than the 6th but that he could not do it, there was no money to be had, but that as soon as money is available he will do what he can. I venture to submit that it will not require a large amount of money, to do justice, to afford relief to these badly paid men even in times of war. I urge their claim *on account of the fact that war is going on, and is making it extremely hard for these poorly paid men to gain a living.* It is the claims of these men that should be considered; in England the prospects of teachers are being considered and it is necessary that it should be done here as well. Having placed these facts before the Council I trust the Council will see its way to make a recommendation with a view to relieving these oriental scholars from their present predicament. As soon as the recruitment is improved and the pay raised from Rs. 35 to Rs. 50 the men will have a chance of holding their own in the schools and be on the same platform as the teachers of other subjects: the efficiency of the institutions will suffer if this discrepancy is allowed to continue between teachers in the same department. The men have to dress well and how can a man with a family do so on Rs. 20 to Rs. 30 a month? He should be placed in the same position as the teachers of other subjects.

Having said this I trust the Council will give the matter its sympathetic consideration."

The Hon'ble Khan Sahib Mirza Ikram Ullah:—"I support the resolution."

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Ram Sarn Das:—"Your Honour.—Before any discussion takes place on this resolution, I beg to make just a little amend-

[*Rai Bahadur Ram Sarn Das ; Pandit Jowahir Lal, Bhargava ;
Mr. Richey.*]

ment. I find from the latest reports on the progress of education in the Punjab that there are 31 High Schools for boys and 4 for girls maintained by the Government. Taking that each of these schools employs at least three teachers for classical languages, Sanskrit, Arabic and Persian, there cannot be in the Province less than 100 teachers of this class. The proposal to raise the pay of 10 of them I think is too little. I, therefore, propose that the word thirty be substituted for ten in the resolution. If the Hon'ble Mover of the resolution accepts this amendment that would make the lot of teachers of oriental languages somewhat better. Your Honour, the Punjab University is pre-eminently an oriental University. It was originally established for encouraging the study of oriental literature. It is, therefore, a great pity that in this University of all others the teachers of oriental languages should be so lowly paid. I hope the Hon'ble Mr. Fazl-i-Hussain will amend his resolution as suggested by me. The object of this resolution has my hearty support."

The Hon'ble Pandit Jowahir Lal Bhargava:—"I support the amendment."

The Hon'ble Mr. Richey:—"I sympathise with the object underlying this resolution. I do feel that the pay of oriental teachers is too low, but I would give one or two figures that would make the matter clearer. There are 33 teachers now in the Rs. 20—30 grade, there are 72 teachers in the Rs. 35—50 grade, and there are 26 teachers in the higher grades. Therefore, the majority of teachers are at present in the Rs. 35—50 grade. Still the recruitment is in the grade of Rs. 20—30. There is no doubt about that.

"I must repudiate the spiderlike character which the Hon'ble Mover of the resolution attributed to me. He accused me of luring these men (I think he used the words enticing the men) into the department and then sucking their brains. They come readily enough. We had during the last two years 28 applications, and of these 6 men were appointed. In ordinary years there are 3 vacancies on the average, and there are 14 applicants to fill them. You ask me why they will come for such little pay. The answer is very simple. Their education has cost them little or nothing. The majority of the teachers whom we get as oriental teachers in our schools have passed their examinations privately after education in pathshalas or in makhtabs. I do not quite know what that costs them in the maktab. The cost of education in our vernacular middle schools is much higher, and the products of these schools are prepared to come on Rs. 15. While they have paid more for education than the oriental scholars, these gentlemen who are appointed oriental teachers get much better pay. Therefore, from the economic point of view there is not a very strong case for raising their salaries. There is no comparison between the cost of their education and of that of an ordinary Junior Anglo-Vernacular. But I quite agree with the Hon'ble Member that in the school they must have enough to dress well in order to be respected by their pupils and to be able to hold their own with other teachers who are drawing very much higher salaries. For that reason I certainly think that the pay of oriental teachers is too low.

"Mr. Godley admitted as you say last year that their pay was low. He drew up a scheme for the revision of the Subordinate Educational Service. He completed it before he left. I discussed it with him, and we agreed, and our proposals were approved by Government, that it was better to postpone the matter, as we understood the Government of India were addressing the Local Government in regard to the Educational Service. Our supposition was correct. As you know a letter was received from the Government of India last month. It is true that the letter expressly excludes the Subordinate Service, but it is impossible to deal with it unless the

[Mr. Richey; Mr. Fazl-i-Hussain; His Honour the President.]

case of the Provincial Educational Service is decided. When we are drawing up a scheme for the Provincial Service, we will not presumably leave out of account the emoluments of the humbler members of the service. I hope that we shall be able to draw up a scheme when we know what the orders of the Government of India are about the Provincial Educational Service. It should be more or less complete by that time. For that reason our proposals for the revision of the subordinate establishment to some extent depend on the orders of the Government of India as regards the Provincial Service. I think I may say at once that the oriental teachers should gain very considerably in any such change. And as I gather from the letter of the Government of India the whole question is going to be dealt with shortly, the Hon'ble Mover will agree with me that the resolution will be covered by the action that the Local Government proposes to take, and that it is not necessary to press it. I might say that the revision of the Educational Service will also cover the proposals of the Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Ram Saru Das. I may say that if the Hon'ble Mover of this resolution presses his resolution as it stands possibly I may be able to present some sort of scheme for the Subordinate service by the time the Council next meets."

The Hon'ble Mr. Fazl-i-Husain :—" Your Honour, I am exceedingly grateful for the sympathy shown again by the Hon'ble Member in charge, but this has always been extended to these poor people. The question however is

تا وقتیک از عراق، آرد، شکر، از دزدان، دزد

By the time the medicine is brought from Irak the man bitton by the snake will die. Although I am not in a position to see my way to withdrawing my resolution I certainly agree that the discussion on the resolution be postponed till the next meeting of Council when the Hon'ble Member will be able to give us a scheme."

His Honour the President :—" I do not think the Council is entitled to ask to consider the details of the scheme. We cannot undertake to discuss the Education Department's scheme in Council. To that extent the Hon'ble Member in charge went further than his brief."

The Hon'ble Mr. Fazl-i-Husain :—" Would it be possible for us to know not exactly but approximately within a year or two years the time when we may expect the enforcement of the new scheme."

His Honour the President :—" If the Hon'ble Member accepts the assurance of the Director of Public Instruction, he might withdraw his resolution, and if he has any doubts about the matter, he can put a question at the next meeting of Council."

The Hon'ble Mr. Fazl-i-Husain :—" I accept that."

His Honour the President :—" We are all very keen on pushing on the case and the assurance now given will serve the purpose which the Hon'ble Mover has in view."

I understand then that the Hon'ble Mover withdraws his resolution.

The resolution was withdrawn.

ADJOURNMENT.

The Council adjourned *sine die*.

LAKHORE:

The 6th November 1917.

S. W. GRACEY,

Secretary, Legislative Council, Punjab.

APPENDIX A--(SEE ANSWER TO QUESTION 11).

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY.

Simla, the 12th October 1917.

PRESS COMMUNIQUE.

In January 1917, the Government of India, in view of the increasing demands for coal both for war purposes and for the industrial needs of the country, and of the comparative shortness of supplies, appointed a Committee in Calcutta under the chairmanship of Sir Robert Hight to regulate the distribution of coal supplies. The duties of the Committee were to ensure that due precedence was given to the demands of the military and naval authorities and the needs of important industries and that the demands of ordinary commercial consumers were met as fully and as economically as possible. Requisitions for purposes connected with the war were effected by Mr. Church, Mining Engineer to the Railway Board, working under the orders of the Board. The local agencies to assist the Committee by furnishing certificates of the relative urgency of the demands of the different consumers were until recently the Chambers of Commerce in most cases; but considerable help was also obtained in one or two instances by the Committee from other sources. The position, however, became more difficult owing to the falling off of output during the monsoon months and, for this reason and in the interests of general efficiency, the Government of India, at the request of the Committee, replaced the Chambers as certificating authorities by local officials in every Province, except Madras, where the Chamber still continue to exercise their original functions. This has resulted in increased economy and promptitude and demands have so far been met, although sometimes, only with difficulty. More recently, however, demands have increased still further, while the output of coal is not likely to reach its maximum until after the end of the year.

The Government of India are of opinion that it is necessary to co-ordinate still more closely the work of requisition and of distribution, while eliminating the delays hitherto necessitated by references between the Committee and the Railway Board's Mining Engineer at Calcutta on the one hand and the Government of India and the Railway Board on the other. They have accordingly decided to entrust the control of all arrangements for the requisitioning and supply of coal for purposes connected with the war, for distribution, where necessary, among important consumers, and for the disposal of complaints regarding short supplies or requisitions to a single authority representing the Government of India in Calcutta in respect of its powers for requisitioning and distributing coal. Mr. G. C. Godfrey, Member of the Railway Board, has been selected to exercise the above functions under the title of Coal Controller. Mr. Church will continue to work as requisitioning officer under the orders of Mr. Godfrey with the title of Deputy Coal Controller. The Government of India hope that the members of the Committee will continue for the present to place their advice and assistance at the disposal of the Coal Controller. The Government of India desire to take this opportunity of expressing their appreciation of the valuable services of the Committee and of their Chairman, Sir Robert Hight, not only in controlling the distribution of coal, but in working out the preliminary organization and the collection of data.

The Government of India propose that the new arrangements should come into force on the 1st November next.

APPENDIX B—(SEE ANSWER TO QUESTION 27.)

Statement showing the number of Hindu, Sikh, Muhammadan, and other students under training in the Central Training College, Lahore, Normal Schools, and other Training Institutions for Men in the Punjab.

No.	Institution.	SCHOLARS.					REMARKS.
		Hindus.	Sikhs.	Muham- madians.	Others.	Total.	
1	Central Training College, Lahore ...	128	43	100	13	284	
2	Junior Anglo-Vernacular Class, Islamia College, Lahore.	6	...	25	...	31	
3	English Training Class, Ludhiana ...	11	0	6	1	24	
4	Ditto Rawalpindi...	6	5	6	...	17	
5	Normal School, Delhi ...	62	1	21	...	84	
6	Ditto Karnal ...	62	5	16	1	84	
7	Ditto Jullundur ...	53	8	40	3	104	
8	Mission School, Dharamsala ...	29	...	...	...	29	
9	Normal School, Lahore ...	45	5	40	6	96	
10	Ditto Gurdaspur ...	34	14	37	...	85	
11	Ditto Lyallpur ...	37	8	33	...	78	
12	Ditto Multan ...	43	...	29	...	72	
13	Ditto Rawalpindi ...	12	14	38	2	66	
14	Ditto Sargodha ...	18	1	51	...	70	
	Total ...	546	110	442	26	1,124	

Statement showing the number of Hindu, Sikh, Muhammadan, and other students under training in the Training Institutions for Women in the Punjab.

No.	Institution.	SCHOLARS.					REMARKS.
		Hindus.	Sikhs.	Muham- madians.	Others.	Total.	
1	J. A. V. Class, Kiernard High School, Lahore.	...	...	...	10	10	
2	Normal School for Women, Lahore ...	74	9	35	11	129	
3	M. B. Girls' School, Gujranwala ...	5	4	2	...	11	
4	Christian Girls' Middle School, Amrit- sart.	...	...	...	11	11	
5	M. B. Girls' School, Ludhiana ...	19	5	31	2	57	
6	A. P. Mission Boarding Girls' School, Ambala.	...	...	...	7	7	
7	A. P. Mission Boarding Girls' School, Sialkot.	...	...	...	9	9	
8	Mission Girls' School, Cis-kabed ...	...	...	...	6	6	
9	M. B. Girls' School, Rawalpindi ...	7	2	...	...	16	
10	Sikh Kanya Mahavidyalaya, Ferozepore	...	5	...	...	5	
11	M. B. Girls' School, Multan ...	11	...	...	...	11	
12	Ditto Sialkot ...	6	5	14	1	26	
13	Ditto Amritsar ...	4	1	2	...	7	
	Total ...	126	33	84	67	306	

APPENDIX C—(SEE ANSWER TO QUESTION 61.)

The following municipalities have got non-official Presidents (figures taken from the returns for 1916-17):—

Hodal, Faridabad, Jagadhri, Burya, Raekot, Kartarpur, Banga, Jalalpur Jattan, Kunjah, Khushab, Gojra, Khangarh, Alipur and Batala.

APPENDIX D—(SEE ANSWER TO QUESTION 62).

(Thousands.)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
District	District.	Grants recovered from Boards abolished.	Government grants withdrawn.	Difference between columns 3 and 4.	Consolidated grant.	Difference between columns 5 and 6. + Better, - Worse.	REMARKS.
AMBALA	Hissa	2	31	29	10	-19	
	Rehtak	1	55	54	26	-28	
	Gang on	1	50	49	52	+3	
	Karnal	1-1	44-1	43	34	-9	
	Ambala	1-1	59-1	58	53	-5	
	Simsa	N/A	2-0	2-0	3-4	+5	
	Total	6-2	2,42-1	2,35-9	1,78-4	-57-5	
JULIANP. DIST.	Kargra	1-7	23-7	22	60	+58	
	Frshironr	1-1	45-5	44-7	30	-14-7	
	Jullundur	1	56-1	55-1	45	-10-1	
	Ludhiana	1-5	45-4	43-9	20	-23-9	
	Perozepore	2-6	44-1	41-5	2	-39-5	
		Total	7-9	2,15-1	2,07-2	1,57	-59-2
LABOOR	Labore	1-4	42	40-6	35	-5-6	
	Amritsar	1-2	33-5	32-3	50	+17-7	
	Gurdaspur	2-1	26-3	24-2	30	+5-8	
	Sialkot	2-1	41-5	39-4	25	-14-4	
	Gojranwala	3-4	55-4	52	30	-22	
		Total	10-2	198-7	1,88-5	70	-18-5
RAWALPINDI	Gujrat	1-3	23-7	22-4	30	+7-6	
	Shalpur	1-4	27-8	26-4	23	-4-4	
	Jhelum	1	23-7	22-7	18	-4-7	
	Rawalpindi	1	15-3	14-8	12	-2-8	
	Attock	1	22-7	21-7	25	+4-3	
	Mianwali	1	15-4	14-4	25	+11-6	
	Total	6-7	1,29-1	1,23-4	1,34	+11-6	
MURAN.	Montgomery	4	17-6	17-2	35	+17-8	
	Lysalpur	1-9	15-9	14	...	-1-4	
	Jiang	1-4	27	25-0	25	-5-6	
	Multan	1-2	33-2	32	...	-5-2	
	Muzaffargarh	2-3	24-5	22-2	20	-2-2	
	Dera Ghazi Khan	3-4	36-1	32-7	53	+22-3	
	Total	10-6	1,54-3	1,43-7	1,35	-8-7	
	GRAND TOTAL	41-9	9,39-3	8,97-7	7,74-4	1,23-3	

APPENDIX E—(SEE ANSWER TO QUESTION 65).

Division.	District.	1915-16.			1916-17.			Grants made from Provincial.		Consolidated Grant.
		Income.	Expenditure.	Difference + Surplus — Deficit.	Income.	Expenditure.	Difference + Surplus — Deficit.	1915-16.	1916-17.	
		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
AFKALA.	Hisar	...	...	...	2,16,905	2,53,099	-36,194	...	58,076	10,000
	Rohtak	...	...	...	3,34,675	2,95,653	+39,022	...	65,909	26,000
	Gurgaon	...	...	...	2,65,722	2,40,160	+25,562	...	69,918	62,000
	Karnal	...	...	...	3,02,414	2,90,170	+12,244	...	68,561	31,000
	Ambala	...	...	...	2,57,731	2,53,881	+3,850	...	1,00,341	63,000
	Simla	...	...	...	16,816	15,446	+1,370	...	14,693	3,400
	Total	...	...	...	13,91,236	13,51,409	+39,827	...	4,27,498	1,78,400
JESLWAL.	Kangra	...	...	...	2,05,743	2,40,072	-34,329	...	89,550	60,000
	Hoshiarpur	...	...	...	4,04,628	3,79,195	+25,433	...	1,29,729	30,600
	Jullunder	...	...	...	3,48,647	3,44,696	+3,951	...	1,70,567	45,000
	Ludhiana	...	...	...	2,67,817	2,45,959	+21,858	...	87,134	20,000
	Ferozapore	...	...	...	3,75,304	4,19,582	-44,278	...	94,478	2,000
	Total	...	...	...	16,92,139	16,29,704	+62,435	...	5,61,478	1,67,000
LAHORE.	Lahore	...	...	...	2,49,690	2,37,222	+12,468	...	84,524	85,000
	Amritsar	...	...	...	3,05,671	3,03,658	+2,013	...	91,251	50,000
	Gurdaspur	...	...	...	3,44,960	3,29,548	+15,412	...	99,738	30,000
	Sialkot	...	...	...	5,00,323	4,74,521	+25,802	...	1,30,689	25,000
	Gujranwala	...	...	...	4,30,422	4,33,717	-3,295	...	97,216	30,000
	Total	...	...	...	18,31,076	17,78,176	+52,900	...	5,92,437	1,70,000
RAWALPINDI.	Gejrat	2,35,031	1,70,652	+64,379	...	...	...	1,22,650	...	30,000
	Shahpur	3,65,565	3,49,131	+16,434	...	...	...	68,218	...	22,000
	Jhelum	1,95,672	2,23,611	-27,939	...	...	...	55,899	...	18,000
	Rawalpindi	1,56,674	1,76,825	-20,151	...	...	...	68,531	...	12,000
	Attock	1,35,530	1,66,985	-31,455	...	...	...	45,556	...	25,000
	Mianwali	1,31,451	1,50,000	-18,549	...	...	...	63,520	...	25,000
	Total	11,55,672	12,47,315	-91,643	...	...	...	4,14,376	...	1,34,000
MURREE.	Montgomery	...	...	...	2,55,379	3,26,874	-71,495	...	1,45,971	35,000
	Lyalpur	...	...	...	5,98,145	5,43,469	+54,676	...	59,495	...
	Jhang	...	...	...	1,63,219	1,74,768	-11,549	...	59,611	25,000
	Multan	...	...	...	3,72,591	3,37,877	+34,714	...	1,02,612	...
	Muzaffargarh	...	...	...	2,66,237	1,78,418	+87,819	...	62,939	20,000
	Dera Ghazi Khan	...	...	...	1,58,576	1,29,500	+29,076	...	91,432	55,000
	Total	...	...	...	17,58,147	16,77,890	+80,257	...	6,31,299	1,51,000

APPENDIX F—(SEE ANSWER TO QUESTION 75.)

Grants to Local Bodies in the Punjab for the extension of Vernacular Education (Provincial and Imperial Grants.)

No.	District.	GRANT PAID DURING THE LAST YEAR OF OLD SYSTEM ON SALARY BASIS, i.e., 1916-16, TO			GRANT PAID IN 1916-17 UNDER THE NEW SCHEME TO			GRANT PAID IN 1917-18 UNDER THE NEW SCHEME TO			REMARKS.
		District Boards.	Municipal Com-mittees.	Total.	District Boards.	Municipal Com-mittees.	Total.	District Boards.	Municipal Com-mittees.	Total.	
		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
1	Hissar ...	28,852	4,129	32,481	28,298	4,407	32,705	28,259	4,483	32,741	
2	Rohtak ...	44,864	6,657	51,021	47,240	7,640	54,880	47,465	7,077	56,822	
3	Gurgaon ...	80,487	9,900	40,396	31,402	10,461	41,863	31,878	10,456	42,361	
4	Karnal ...	22,251	8,766	31,007	22,705	9,142	31,847	22,611	9,617	32,128	
5	Ambala ...	35,276	6,283	41,558	41,740	6,609	48,349	41,968	6,670	48,478	
6	Simla ...	11,305	2,241	13,546	11,353	2,292	13,645	11,855	2,832	14,687	
	Total Ambala Division.	1,72,034	37,975	2,10,009	1,82,738	40,561	2,23,299	1,81,163	41,564	2,22,717	† Excludes a grants for opening new schools which have not been claimed yet by Local Bodies.
7	Kangra ...	45,878	678	46,156	48,561	564	49,125	50,795	597	51,392	
8	Hoshiarpur ...	71,612	2,913	74,425	74,369	2,770	77,139	76,985	2,935	78,920	
9	Jullundur ...	67,933	1,974	69,907	71,470	1,922	73,392	73,074	2,317	74,891	
10	Ludhiana ...	45,646	3,991	49,637	49,933	5,696	52,634	47,803	5,919	53,812	
11	Ferozapore ...	39,543	5,678	45,221	46,214	6,171	52,385	45,988	6,488	52,476	
	Total Jullundur Division.	2,70,212	16,134	2,85,346	2,87,552	17,123	3,04,675	2,92,735	18,250	3,10,991	
	Lahore ...	31,949	19,365	51,314	45,506	25,911	71,416	45,780	24,301	70,081	
12	Amritsar ...	45,951	20,879	66,830	46,024	22,345	68,369	47,931	25,224	72,855	
13	Gurdaspur ...	52,675	3,077	55,752	65,464	4,160	69,614	67,003	4,332	71,335	
14	Sialkot ...	71,625	6,619	78,384	78,778	9,189	87,967	81,161	12,028	93,189	
15	Gujranwala ...	49,622	6,643	56,165	56,588	6,374	62,962	61,921	11,115	63,036	
16	Total Lahore Division.	2,61,922	66,523	3,08,445	2,86,359	67,960	3,54,318	2,93,496	77,010	3,70,506	
	Cojrat ...	41,261	1,762	43,023	46,422	2,776	49,198	44,510	2,682	47,192	
17	Shahpur ...	41,822	4,471	45,793	41,561	4,359	45,920	41,337	4,147	45,484	
18	Jhelum ...	33,811	2,661	36,472	35,407	2,422	37,829	34,266	2,446	36,712	
19	Rawalpindi ...	31,467	4,134	35,601	34,294	2,772	37,066	34,210	2,818	37,023	* Excludes a special grant of Rs. 3,000.
20	Attock ...	22,114	2,509	24,623	22,254	3,132	25,386	21,069	3,741	24,810	
21	Mianwali ...	24,900	6,521	31,421	29,163	6,934	36,037	28,716	6,899	35,615	
22	Total Rawalpindi Division.	1,91,876	22,353	2,17,233	2,06,041	22,396	2,31,436	2,04,108	22,728	2,26,836	
23	Montgomery ...	27,255	1,743	28,998	28,970	1,551	30,521	...	...	...
24	Lyallpur ...	46,162	2,693	48,755	51,337	2,690	53,997	...	...	...
25	Jhang ...	32,233	7,879	40,112	34,641	8,271	42,912	...	...	...
26	Multan ...	29,383	11,179	40,562	31,893	12,466	44,349	...	...	...
27	Muzaffargarh ...	30,948	1,759	32,707	32,880	1,811	34,700	...	...	...
28	Dera Ghazi Khan ...	31,689	4,253	35,343	31,967	4,883	36,549	...	...	...
	Total Multan Division.	1,97,670	29,409	2,26,476	2,11,387	31,932	2,43,919	...	...	...
	GRAND TOTAL ...	10,56,113 (a)	1,61,396	12,47,669 (a) and (c)	11,77,677 (b)	1,70,670	13,56,747 (b) and (d)	...	...	...

(a) Excludes Rs. 17,000 on account of special grants to educationally backward districts:—

Rawalpindi ...	Rs. 5,000
Mianwali ...	7,500
Dera Ghazi Khan ...	4,500
(Grant for 1914-15).	
Total	17,000

(b) Includes Rs. 44,999 on account of grants for new expenditure incurred in 1915-16 and excludes Rs. 32,000 on account of special grants to educationally backward districts:—

Muzaffargarh ...	Rs. 7,500
Attock ...	7,500
Mianwali ...	7,500
Rawalpindi ...	5,660
Dera Ghazi Khan (1915-16)	4,500
Total	32,000

(c) Includes Rs. 10,43,660 from Imperial revenues.

(d) Includes Rs. 9,36,460 from Imperial revenues.

Abstract of Proceedings of the Council of the Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab assembled for the purpose of making Laws and Regulations under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1915.

THE Council met at Government House, Lahore, at 10-30 A.M. on Friday, the 21st December 1917.

PRESENT:

His Honour Sir MICHAEL FRANCIS O'DWYER, G.C.I.E., K.C.S.I., I.C.S.,
Lieutenant-Governor, *Presiding.*

The Hon'ble Mr. JOHN PERRONET THOMPSON, I.C.S.

The Hon'ble Mr. JAMES ALEXANDER RICHEY.

The Hon'ble Mr. HERBERT JOHN MAYNARD, C.S.I., I.C.S.

The Hon'ble Mr. OSWALD FARQUHAR LUMSDEN, I.C.S.

The Hon'ble Sardar Bahadur Sardar GAJJAN SINGH.

The Hon'ble Chaudhri LAL CHAND.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Sayid MEHDI SHAH.

The Hon'ble Pandit JAWAHAR LAL, BHARGAVA.

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur RAM SARAN DAS, C.I.E.

The Hon'ble Mr. DAVID WANN AIKMAN, C.I.E.

The Hon'ble Mr. JAMES CURRIE.

The Hon'ble Raizada BHAGAT RAM.

The Hon'ble Sayad MAKHDUM RAJAN SHAH. —

The Hon'ble Mr. CREWE ARMAND HAMILTON TOWNSEND, I.C.S.

The Hon'ble Mr. PATRICK JAMES FAGAN, I.C.S.

The Hon'ble Khan Sahib Mirza MUHAMMAD IKRAM ULLAH KHAN.

The Hon'ble Mr. EDWIN WOODALL PARKER.

The Hon'ble Mr. HENRY DUFFIELD CRAIK, I.C.S.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Malik MUHAMMAD AMIN KHAN.

The Hon'ble Colonel HAROLD HENDLEY, M.D., I.M.S.

The Hon'ble Mr. STEPHEN WILLIAM GRACEY, I.C.S.

The Hon'ble Sardar Bahadur Risaldar PARTAP SINGH.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Mian FAZAL-I-HUSSAIN.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE.

1. Report of the Conference held to consider the distribution of Educational grants to local bodies.

(See answer to Question No. 6.)

2. Administration Report of the Buildings and Roads Branch, Public Works Department, for 1909-10.

3. Administration Report of the Buildings and Roads Branch, Public Works Department, for 1915-16.

4. Report on the working of the District Boards in the Punjab during the year 1915-16.

(See answer to Question No. 11.)

5. Report on the Excise Administration of the Punjab for the years 1912-13, 1913-14, 1914-15, 1915-16 and 1916-17.

(See answer to Question No. 24.)

[Rai Bahadur Ram Saran Das ; Mr. Lumsden.]

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Ram Saran Das asked :—

Stoppage of
grain com-
pensation
allowance.

1. (a) Will the Government kindly state whether it is a fact that from 1st April 1916 very little grain compensation has been granted by the Government ?

(b) Is the Government aware that the price of wheat, the common staple food-grain throughout the province, has during the last two years been most of the time dearer than 12 seers or 10 seers per rupee, the limit fixed in article 72 of the Civil Account Code ?

(c) Is it a fact that in 1913, 1914 and 1915 when the average prices of wheat for the Punjab as a whole were Rs. 3.514, Rs. 3.82 and Rs. 4.545 per maund which is equal to 11.4, 10.5 and 8.8 seers per rupee, grain compensation was granted for different establishments ?

(d) Is the Government aware that the prices of wheat ruling in the province since 1st April 1916 are not lower than those prevailing in the years 1913, 1914 and 1915 ?

(e) Will the Government kindly state whether this stoppage in the grant of grain compensation allowance is due to a sudden change in the method of calculation rather than a fall in the prices of wheat ?

(f) Will the Government kindly inform this Council whether during the last two years in taking the average of prices the price of wheat alone has been taken into consideration or whether the prices of some inferior grains, like jowar, bajra, gram, etc., which are not the food-grains of this province, have also been taken into consideration ? The exact method of calculation may kindly be described.

(g) Is the Government aware that in these days of war-prices of almost every commodity the stoppage of grain compensation allowance is causing great hardship to the low-paid servants of the Crown ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Lumsden replied :—

"As regards (a) and (b) the answer is in the affirmative.

(c) Grain compensation allowance was sanctioned with effect from 1st September 1914 and was continued until the 30th June 1916. It was not granted in 1913.

(d) The Hon'ble Member's question is too vague to admit of a definite reply as the price of wheat in the Punjab has varied considerably since 1st April 1916. The price has, however, always been, and still is, considerably lower than the high figure reached in February 1915.

(e) and (f) The Hon'ble Member has doubtless seen the press *communiqué* issued on December 7th, 1917, on the subject of grain compensation allowance which explains the position. The present system of calculating the average price of food-grains described therein was introduced with effect from 1st November 1915 and the stoppage of the concession was not, as is apparent from the answer given in connection with clause (c) of this question, due to the change of system.

(g) Government fully realises that the rise in the prices of a large number of commodities is bound to occasion a certain amount of hardship to the poorer classes and it is with a view to affording some-relief to them that

[*Rai Bahadur Ram Saran Das ; Mr. Richey ;
Mr. Thompson.*]

local bodies have been encouraged to open shops for the retail sale of some of the necessaries of life at reasonable rates. Government has on its part sanctioned the grant of grain compensation allowance with effect from 1st November 1917 in all districts where, it is admissible under the rules while the Government of India have agreed at the request of this Government to abandon for the present all wheat purchases for export in this province and have also prohibited the railway booking of wheat and flour to places outside the limits of this province and the Delhi Administration except under special license.

"I might also point out that the rise in the prices of necessaries in the Punjab since the outbreak of war has been considerably less than in Great Britain and allied countries."

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Ram Saran Das asked :—

2. "Will the Government kindly state for the information of the public how the Imperial grant of Rs. 1,75,000 made in the current year for the improvement of pay and training of teachers been spent or proposed to be spent?"

Imperial grant for improving pay of teachers.

The Hon'ble Mr. Richey replied :—

"Pending the preparation of detailed schemes for the annual expenditure of the Imperial grant of Rs. 1,75,000 it was decided to spend the first year's allotment on buildings for Normal Schools at Rohtak, Ghakar and Karnal. It is as yet uncertain how much of the grant will be utilised by the Public Works Department this year, but the balance of the grant will be available for these projects next year."

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Ram Saran Das asked :—

3. "(a) Will the Government kindly state how far the scheme for improvement in pay of the low-paid clerks of the Government has progressed?"

Grant of temporary war allowance to low-paid clerks of Government.

"(b) Will the Government kindly consider whether or not it is desirable in these days of war-prices to grant to these clerks a temporary war allowance till the schemes for permanent improvement of pay are finally matured?"

The Hon'ble Mr. Thompson replied :—

"(a) Detailed consideration of the scheme for the reorganisation of ministerial establishments in district offices, to which it is presumed the Hon'ble Member refers, was postponed for some time owing to the restrictions placed by the Government of India on fresh expenditure during the war. The Local Government hopes, however, to address the Government of India on the subject shortly, but it is impossible to give any undertaking that sanction will be accorded to the introduction of the scheme, which involves fresh recurring expenditure exceeding Rs. 50,000 per annum, before the termination of the war.

"(b) All Government servants drawing Rs. 30 and less per mensem are entitled with the sanction of the Local Government to grain compensation allowance when the price of the staple food-grains exceeds certain defined limits and Government has sanctioned the grant of such allowance where the conditions are fulfilled with effect from 1st November. In present financial conditions it is improbable that any suggestion for a further allowance would be sanctioned, as obviously any such allowance could not be confined to a single province. The Punjab Government is well aware of the hardship

[Rai Bahadur Ramsaran Das ; Mr. Richey.]

caused by the present high prices of certain necessaries and is taking such measures as are possible to prevent any further enhancement, for example, by providing local bodies with facilities for the sale at cheap rates of food-grains, fuel and salt. Moreover, at the instance of the Local Government purchase of food-grains for export overseas or to other provinces has for the time being been prohibited by the Government of India."

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Ramsaran Das asked :—

Provincial grants for the improvement of primary education.

4. "In view of the fact that schools for primary education have increased considerably in numbers, and that provincial revenues are also growing, will the Government kindly state, for the information of the public, whether or not it is under contemplation to increase the provincial grants to local bodies for primary education?"

The Hon'ble Mr. Richey replied :—

"An extra sum of one lakh for the expansion and improvement of primary education and of one lakh for vernacular school buildings has been entered provisionally in the schedule for next year."

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Ramsaran Das asked :—

Provincial grants to local bodies for vernacular education.

5. "Is it a fact that the provincial grants to local bodies, apart from what is allotted out of Imperial grants for primary education, has for a number of years stood at two lakhs of rupees?"

The Hon'ble Mr. Richey replied :—

"The provincial grant for vernacular education was fixed at Rs. 1,20,000 in 1908. It was raised to Rs. 2,00,000 in 1911-12. The expenditure from provincial revenues during the last five years is as follows:—

				Rs.
During 1912-13	...	...	...	2,01,200
" 1913-14	...	...	...	2,01,200
" 1914-15	...	...	...	2,26,243
" 1915-16	...	...	...	2,20,975
" 1916-17	...	...	...	4,55,287

The Hon'ble Member will see that in spite of financial restrictions due to the war the expenditure has been doubled within the last year and a further increase of 2 lakhs is proposed for the coming year."

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Ram Saran Das asked :—

Conference for distribution of educational grants to local bodies.

6. "Will the Government kindly lay on the table of this Council a report of the Conference recently held to consider the distribution of educational grants to local bodies?"

The Hon'ble Mr. Richey replied :—

"Copies of the report are laid on the table."

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Ramsaran Das asked :—

Total produce and export of wheat from the Punjab during 1917.

7. "Will the Government kindly state, for the information of this Council, the total produce of wheat in the Province in the last Rabi and the total exports up to date of wheat from this province during the current year?"

[Mr. Townsend ; Rai Bahadur Ram Saran Das.]

The Hon'ble Mr. Townsend replied :—

"The total produce of wheat in the Punjab (including Native States) last harvest was estimated at 2,937,212 tons : and the total amount of wheat exported between April 1st and September 30th (after which date figures are not yet available) after deducting imports, was 738,361 tons. From 30th September it is believed that purchases for export have been inconsiderable, and they have now wholly ceased."

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Ram Saran Das asked :—

8. "Will Government kindly state what has been the amount of wheat remaining in this Province for internal consumption after deducting the amount exported, and adding the amount imported during each of the last five years? Will they also kindly furnish an estimate of such figures for the current year?"

Balance of wheat for consumption in the Province after deducting exports.

The Hon'ble Mr. Townsend replied :—

"The figures required are as under :—

		Production.	Net exports (exports minus imports).	Balance remaining in the Province for consumption.
		Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
1912	...	3,830,453	1,129,238	2,701,215
1913	...	3,242,575	900,002	2,342,573
1914	...	3,188,537	957,202	2,231,245
1915	...	3,725,000	641,426	3,083,574
1916	...	2,481,296	808,163	1,673,133
1917	...	2,937,212	738,561	2,198,851

"I would, however, point out to the Hon'ble Member that the figures given for the production each year which are the foundation on which all these figures rest are and can be only an estimate.

"The figures given for 1917 represent, as explained in my reply to question 7, the position on September 30th. But it is very improbable that the figure of export for the complete year 1917-18, ending on March 31 next, will show a figure much in excess of that : as this Government is taking all possible measures in its power to prevent any more wheat leaving the Province till the next crop comes into the market.

"Finally, I would assure the Hon'ble Member that Government is just as anxious as he is that the amount of wheat exported from the Province should not be excessive, and fully realises the paramount importance of retaining a sufficient amount of wheat for internal consumption. But it must be borne in mind that the present world-wide war has caused a deficiency of food stuffs and freights, and consequently a rise in prices, in most countries, and it cannot be expected that the Punjab will entirely escape the effects of this movement."

[*Rai Bahadur Ram Saran Das ; Mr. Richey ; Mr. Fagan.*]

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Ram Saran Das asked :—

Assignment
of Imperial
recurring
grant to
primary
education.

9. " Will the Government kindly state, for the information of the public, how much of the Rs. 8,38,000 Imperial recurring grant to this Province for education was meant for the extension of primary education ? "

The Hon'ble Mr. Richey replied :—

" Rs. 4,86,000 was actually assigned to primary education by the Government of India, but in making the Imperial grants the Government of India specifically stated that the distribution of the money between the different heads—collegiate, secondary, primary, industrial, etc.—was left largely to the discretion of the Local Government. "

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Ram Saran Das asked :—

Amount of
expenditure
on certain
Public Works
schemes.

10. " Will the Government kindly state, for the information of the public, what expenditure is likely to be incurred during the current year and what expenditure is contemplated during the next year on the following Public Works schemes :—

- (a) Residences of officers at Lahore
- (b) Residences of officers at Simla
- (c) Residences of officers at other places
- (d) Simla improvement
- (e) Jail Works
- (f) Revenue Department Works.
- (g) Educational Works
- (h) Sanitary Works ? "

The Hon'ble Mr. Fagan replying for the Hon'ble Mr. Aikman replied :—

" It is understood that the enquiry relates to Original Works only. The budget figures which will approximate to the probable expenditure are as follows :—

Works.	Budget	Proposed
	grant, 1917-18.	grant, 1918-19.
	Rs.	Rs.
(a) Residences of officers at Lahore ...	1,08,000	2,00,000
(b) Residences of officers at Simla ...	1,61,000	...
(c) Residences of officers at other places ...	1,08,000	1,31,000
(It may be noted that expenditure under all these heads is productive, the rent charged including interest on original cost as well as provision for repairs.)		
(d) Works connected with the Simla improvements are not being carried out by the Punjab Public Works Department and no information is available.		
	Rs.	Rs.
(e) Jail Works ...	1,15,000	75,000
(f) Revenue Department Works ...	4,27,000	4,50,000
(g) Educational Works ...	5,48,000	4,87,000

(The grant for 1918-19 for Educational Works excludes Rs. 1,00,000 sanctioned by the Financial Department direct to local boards for Primary School buildings.)

[Mr. Fagan ; Rai Bahadur Ram Saran Das ; Mr. Lumsden.]

- (A) The Secretary, Sanitary Board, Punjab, has reported that it is estimated that grants-in-aid to the extent of Rs. 4 lakhs will be made to local bodies this year, and a similar amount next year ; but it is unlikely that the full amount will be spent on account of the difficulties being experienced in obtaining materials and labour. No information is available showing what has been spent up to date on the works under construction, and the figures could only be obtained by addressing local bodies."

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Ram Saran Das asked :—

11. "Will the Government kindly furnish a statement showing for each district :—

Amount of money spent on metalled roads by the Public Works Department and District Boards.

"(a) The actual total amount of money spent on metalled roads by the Public Works Department in each of the years 1909-10 and 1915-16, together with the total mileage of such roads maintained by the Department in these years.

"(b) The actual total amount of money spent on metalled roads by the District Boards in the year 1915-16 together with the total mileage of such roads maintained by them in that year.

"(c) The maintenance rate per mile of metalled roads now fixed by Government in calculating the fixed consolidated grants under the new scheme."

The Hon'ble Mr. Fagan replying for the Hon'ble Mr. Aikman replied :—

"(a) Such information as is available on the subject will be found at pages 5 and 14 to 20 of the Administration Report of the Buildings and Roads Branch, Public Works Department, for 1909-10, and pages 13 and 19 to 21 of the same Administration Report for 1915-16.

"(b) Such information as is available on the subject will be found at page 5, statement No. III of the Report on the Working of the District Boards in the Punjab during the year 1915-16.

"Copies of the Reports in question are probably already in possession of Hon'ble Members, but for facility of reference are placed on the table.

"(c) The information is given in the statement placed on the table." "

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Ram Saran Das asked :—

12. "Will the Government kindly state what District Boards have raised objections against this new scheme. The nature of these objections and the way in which they are proposed to be met may kindly be stated."

Objections by District Boards regarding new scheme of consolidated grants.

The Hon'ble Mr. Lumsden replied :—

"Up to the present Government has received no objections from any District Board in respect of the new scheme of consolidated grants. Such information as Government is in possession of goes to show that most of the Boards realise they have been treated with considerable and even unexpected liberality by Government."

[Rai Bahadur Ram Saran Das ; Mr. Lumsden ; Mr. Craik.]

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Ram Saran Das asked :—

Substitution
of a fixed share
of Provincial
Revenues
for consolidated
fixed grants
for District
Boards'
expenditure.

13. "In view of the fact that the expenditure of the District Boards under various heads is developing while consolidated grants from Provincial Revenues to District Boards are fixed, will the Government kindly state whether, in order to provide growing revenues for growing expenditure, it is under contemplation to substitute for consolidated fixed grants a fixed share of certain of the growing heads of Provincial Revenues, as was done by the Imperial Government in the case of the Provincial Governments in 1882 ? "

The Hon'ble Mr. Lumsden replied :—

"The answer is in the negative. The Hon'ble Member's question incorrectly assumes that the consolidated grants are permanently fixed whereas, as I explained at the last meeting of Council in answer to a series of questions put by the Hon'ble Member, the present grants are subject to revision at the end of 5 years. I might also point out that the Boards under existing arrangements enjoy, by means of the local rate, their chief source of income, direct benefit from every expansion of provincial revenues due to the periodic land revenue settlements. I might add that the position of the boards *qua* the Provincial Government is by no means strictly analogous to that of this Government, as compared with the Imperial Government. Strictly speaking, it is the duty of the Boards themselves to provide by local taxation funds for the growing expenditure referred to by the Hon'ble Member and on services for which they are responsible, and that is a principle which must be more steadily enforced if Local Self-Government is to be established on a really sound basis."

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Ram Saran Das asked :—

Application of
Civil Service
Regulations
retirement
rules to Sub-
Registrars
aged 55 or 60
years.

14. "(a) Will the Government be pleased to furnish a statement showing therein a list of Sub-Registrars of the Registration Department in the Province who have attained the age of 55 and 60.

"(b) Will the Government be pleased to state whether the Civil Service Rules regarding retirement do not apply to these officers of the Crown."

The Hon'ble Mr. Craik replied :—

"(a) Two lists* giving the information, so far as it is available, are laid on the table. As regards 25 Sub-Registrars not included in these lists there is no record of their date of birth but enquiries are being made.

"(b) A distinction is made between :—

- (i) Departmental Sub-Registrars, who are Government servants, and
- (ii) Honorary Sub-Registrars and such Departmental Sub-Registrars as are pensioners and not Government servants.

The former retire at the age of 55, but their service may be extended up to the age of 65, if they are efficient. The latter who are frequently appointed after the age of 55, ordinarily retain their appointments until they are 65.

"Full information will be found at pages 47 and 48 of the 1910 edition of the Punjab Registration Manual."

*See Appendices B and C.

[Sardar Bahadur Sardar Gajjan Singh ;
Mr. Thompson.]

The Hon'ble Sardar Bahadur Sardar Gajjan Singh on behalf of Khan Bahadur Khwaja Yusuf Shah asked :—

15. "With regard to the measures adopted by Government to stamp out bribery and corruption among the public servants, will Government be pleased to consider the desirability of further supplementing these measures by adopting the following suggestions :—

Measures to stamp out bribery.

- "(a) That in all branches of the Public Service, more especially in the Provincial Civil and Provincial Police Services, all grade promotions from the lowest to the highest should invariably be subject to the reputation for honesty enjoyed by the member concerned.
- "(b) That the existing system of awarding special promotions only from Rs. 400 grade to Rs. 500 grade may be extended to all grades of the Provincial Services.
- "(c) That the promotion of an officer to a higher rank must solely depend on his honest and efficient work irrespective of his position in the seniority list."

The Hon'ble Mr. Thompson replied :—

"As regards the Provincial Civil Service Government reserves to itself the right to make promotions to the superior grades without regard to seniority, and as a matter of fact any man whose reputation for honesty is seriously tainted is passed over for promotion. The same rule is in practice followed in the Provincial Police Service.

"I understand that the second part of the Hon'ble Member's question is intended to convey a suggestion that all promotions in all branches of the Provincial Service should be by selection with a view to the exclusion from the higher grades of men who are reputed to be corrupt. The suggestion is based on the analogy of the existing rule that promotions from the 6th to the 4th grade of the Provincial Civil Service should be by selection. The analogy is not altogether exact, as the considerations which govern promotion to the 4th grade of the Provincial Civil Service include capacity as well as character, but Government does in fact take into account the reputation of those whose claims have to be considered.

"What I have already stated will have shown to the Hon'ble Member the extent to which a man's reputation for the honesty or the reverse influences his grade promotion.

"As regards efficiency, the Government always has power to pass over a man for bad work, and in the lower grades of the Provincial Service the Lieutenant-Governor thinks that this is probably all that is required. There is an obvious risk in applying a rigorous system of selection to officers during the earlier years of their service. Opportunities come to some men earlier than to others, and the selection for promotion of junior men who have distinguished themselves may be unfair to men of equal merits who have not had the same opportunities. It is only when men have reached a stage in their service at which it may fairly be assumed that they all have had sufficient opportunities of showing their merits that it is possible to select for promotion without running the risk of injustice. Promotion by selection in the earlier stages would often be a matter of luck rather than of merit, and if a sense of this became general, the services might suffer, and young men of sterling worth might be discouraged from taking up employment under Government by the feeling that they might be left hopelessly behind through no fault of their own before they had had time to show their mettle at all."

[*Khan Sahib Mirza Muhammad Ikram Ullah Khan; Mr. Fagan.*]

The Hon'ble Khan Sahib Mirza Muhammad Ikram Ullah Khan asked:—

Damage caused by the obstructed waters of the Aik Nallah.

16. "In reply to my question No. 2 (b) in the last meeting of this Council on 6th November 1917 the Hon'ble Mr. Aikman was pleased to reply that the Government was not aware that the obstruction has had the effect stated in the question, will the Government kindly state if they have since made enquiries, and if it is a fact that every year since the construction of the canals the area complained of has been overflowed and damage caused by the obstructed waters of the Aik Nallah?"

The Hon'ble Mr. Fagan replying for the Hon'ble Mr. Aikman replied:—

"Full enquiries were made previous to the report submitted on 26th October 1917, and it is stated therein, in reply to question 2 (b), that a large number of houses were demolished; but it was not and cannot be admitted that the damage was caused by floods diverted by canal works. As explained, a large number of houses would have been demolished if no canal works existed.

"It is not a fact that every year since the construction of the Canals the area complained of has been overflowed and damage caused by the obstructed waters of the Aik Nallah.

"The Ghakhar Distributary—the canal in question, and the only canal that could possibly obstruct—was constructed in 1914. In 1913, 1914 and 1915 no flood water from the Aik Nallah reached the Distributary. In 1916 some local damage was caused to crops and full compensation amounting to Rs. 681 was paid. Previous to 1913 there is no record of floods, but the inhabitants of Nizamabad say that their dwelling houses used to be flooded in years of heavy rainfall."

The Hon'ble Khan Sahib Mirza Muhammad Ikram Ullah Khan asked:—

Pay of Kanungos.

17. "Will the Government be pleased to lay on the Council table the statement promised in reply to my question No. 3 (d) in the last meeting of the Council?"

The Hon'ble Mr. Fagan replied:—

"Some of the figures required to make the statement complete have not yet been received. It is hoped that the complete statement will be laid on the table at the next meeting of the Council."

Insanitary condition of certain land at Wazirabad.

The Hon'ble Khan Sahib Mirza Muhammad Ikram Ullah Khan asked:—

18. "With reference to my question No. 6 in the last meeting of the Council will the Government be pleased to call from the Deputy Commissioner, Gujranwala, the case file concerning the insanitary land at Wazirabad and state—

- "(a) Is it a fact that the actions of the Municipal Committee of Wazirabad are controlled by the Government and its officers?"
- "(b) When was the question first brought to the notice of the Municipal Committee and to that of the Deputy Commissioner?"
- "(c) For how many years has this question of improvement of sanitation been pending?"
- "(d) Has the memorial been since brought to the notice of the Government and has anything been done?"

[Mr. Lumsden; Khan Sahib Mirza Muhammad Ikram Ullah Khan; Mr. Maynard; Mr. Townsend.]

The Hon'ble Mr. Lumsden replied:—

“(a) Government and its officers exercise over the Municipal Committee of Wazirabad the powers of control vested in them under the Punjab Municipal Act, 1911 (vide sections 14, 16, 35, 71, 231-236 and 238).

“(b) Government sees no reason to call for the file or remove a matter of local sanitation from the hands of the Municipal Committee or of the local officers, who can be asked to exercise their statutory powers if the Municipal Committee fails to take action. If a reference to Government is made on a matter requiring the intervention of Government it will be duly considered.

“(c) is answered by (b). The Provincial Government cannot take the initiative in a matter of local sanitation.

“(d) Government is not cognizant of any such memorial. If any such memorial or representation is received, it will be forwarded to the local officers for disposal.”

The Hon'ble Khan Sahib Mirza Muhammad Ikram Ullah Khan asked:—

19. “(a) With reference to my question No. 8 in the last meeting of the Council, will the Government be pleased to state if the information has since been received from other districts and, if so, how many prosecutions under the Income Tax Act have been lodged this year in each district and particularly in the Gujranwala District ?

Prosecutions in respect of returns under the Income Tax Act, 1917.

“(b) How many of those prosecuted under section 177 of the Indian Penal Code regarding Income Tax have been acquitted ?”

The Hon'ble Mr. Maynard replied:—

“Replies have been received from all districts. There have been 62 prosecutions—24 under section 177, Indian Penal Code, and 38 under section 34 of the Income Tax Act. Out of these 45 have been in the Gujranwala District—22 under section 177, Indian Penal Code, and 23 under section 34 of the Income Tax Act.”

The Hon'ble Khan Sahib Mirza Muhammad Ikram Ullah Khan asked:—

20 “(a) With reference to my question No. 11 in the last meeting of the Council, is the Government aware of the notice issued by the Coal Controller on 5th November 1917 that the Punjab Chamber of Commerce at Delhi will continue to certify indents of coal consumers in the Punjab ?

Regulation of coal supplies.

“(b) Will the Government be pleased to state under what law the fee of Rs. 10 for each indent is being charged by the Punjab Chamber of Commerce ?

“(c) In the interests of various industries in the Punjab will the Government be pleased to recommend to the Coal Controller that the certifying authority for the Punjab should be located at Lahore or some other central place within the Province ?”

The Hon'ble Mr. Townsend replied:—

“(a) The reply is in the affirmative to the first part of the question.

“(b) The charge referred to is meant to reimburse the Chamber of Commerce for the not inconsiderable amount of trouble it is put to in verifying the indents sent to it by consumers. It should be regarded as part of the price of the coal.

[Mr. Townsend ; Khan Sahib Mirza Ikram Ullah Khan ; Mr. Thompson ;
Pandit Jawahar Lal, Bhargava ;
Mr. Lumsden.]

"(c) Government is not prepared to take action in the direction indicated by the Hon'ble Member. Recent enquiries made into the matter at Delhi by the Director of Industries indicate that all reasonable expedition is shown by the Chamber in dealing with the indents sent to it : and the one detailed complaint that he has received of delay on the part of the Chamber in certifying an indent proved on examination to be baseless, the delay complained of being due to the inaccurate statements made by the consumer in his indents. There is reason to think that many applicants for coal make in their indents to the Chamber statements, especially with regard to the stocks of coal they hold, and the amount annually consumed, which are incorrect. And naturally much more time is taken by the Chamber of Commerce in verifying indents where this is the case than would otherwise be required."

The Hon'ble Khan Sahib Mirza Ikram Ullah Khan asked :—

Relief to survivors of Indian soldiers and officers.

21. " Will the Government be pleased to state what relief, if any, has been made since the commencement of the war to the survivors of the Indian soldiers and officers who have been killed in action or who have been disabled from further work ? "

The Hon'ble Mr. Thompson replied :—

" Relief to the families of Indian officers and soldiers who have fallen in the war is disbursed by Committees appointed for each Brigade Area under the orders of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief. Where necessary, these committees consult the Deputy Commissioner and local district committees in order to ascertain the circumstances of the dependents of those who have fallen.

" In March 1917 the Joint Honorary Secretary, Imperial Relief Fund informed the Local Government that in order to tide over the period before pensions are actually paid, a sum of Rs 50 is given to the family of each Indian soldier and Rs. 100 to the family of each Indian Officer who has been killed or has died on active service. The Punjab Government has no knowledge of the amount actually disbursed by way of relief. All Indian officers and soldiers who have been disabled on active service receive a Government pension. The families of those who have fallen in the war also receive a pension from Government."

The Hon'ble Pandit Jawahar Lal, Bhargava asked :—

Grant of grain compensation allowance to persons drawing salaries up to Rs. 50.

22. "(a) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the article under the heading 'High prices and Government employes,' published on page 1 of the *Tribune* of the 25th November 1917 ?

"(b) In view of the severe pinch felt by the Government employes due to high and increasing prices of necessities, will the Government be pleased to consider the advisability of granting suitable allowances to persons drawing salaries of Rs. 50 and below ?"

The Hon'ble Mr. Lumsden replied :—

"(a) The answer is in the affirmative.

"(b) As the Hon'ble Member is probably now aware, the Government has sanctioned the grant of grain compensation allowance, subject to the usual conditions, with effect from the 1st of November 1917. The concession does not apply to servants drawing more than Rs. 30 a month. The grant of grain compensation allowance to such employes is not within the powers of sanction of the Local Government."

[*Pandit Jawahar Lal, Bhargava ; Mr. Richey ;
Mr. Maynard.*]

The Hon'ble Pandit Jawahar Lal, Bhargava, asked:—

23. "Will the Government be pleased to state—

- (a) if any amount has been spent out of the grant of Rs. 1,75,000 from the Imperial revenues for the improvement of pay and training of teachers ;
- (b) if so, what amount has been utilised for the improvement of pay, and what for the training of teachers ;
- (c) how it is proposed to spend the balance."

The Hon'ble Mr. Richey replied:—

"(a) A sum of Rs. 40,000 has been transferred to the Public Works Department for expenditure on Normal School buildings.

"(b) The present year's grant is being wholly devoted to buildings for the training of teachers.

"(c) In future years it is proposed to utilise the expenditure on the following projects—

- (i) the strengthening of the Training College staff including the provision of classes for the training of Oriental teachers ;
- (ii) the opening of four Normal Schools for women at centres outside Lahore ;
- (iii) the encouragement by special grants of the institution of provident funds ;
- (iv) the revision of the Subordinate Educational Service.

Detailed proposals for the first two projects are under the consideration of Government. The third project will be complete before next financial year.

"The fourth project is to some extent dependent on the decision of the Government of India as to the revision of the Provincial Educational Service, and cannot be carried into effect until this decision is known."

The Hon'ble Pandit Jawahar Lal, Bhargava, asked:—

24. "With reference to the reply to my question relating to the values of the foreign and country liquors consumed in the Province asked at the meeting of the Council held on 24th April 1917, will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement about both the wholesale and retail prices of foreign liquor (including the excise duties) and country liquor (including the still-head duties) for the last five years for each district separately."

The Hon'ble Mr. Maynard replied:—

"So far as country spirit is concerned all the required particulars will be found in columns 1 to 6 of Provincial Statement D attached to the Provincial Excise Report. The Excise Reports for the last five years, which contain this statement, are laid upon the table.

"So far as foreign liquor is concerned, there are wide variations according to the brand and quality. If the Hon'ble Member will make it plain whether he means (1) imported spirit or (2) spirits of the kinds made in India but classed and taxed as foreign because of their imitation of foreign brands: and also whether the quality which he refers to is the quality ordinarily sold on bazar licenses and therefore likely to enter into competition with country spirit, an attempt will be made to meet his wishes."

Utilisation
of the Im-
perial grant
Rs. 1,75,000
for improve-
ment of pay
and training
of teachers.

Wholesale
and retail
prices of
foreign and
country
liquors.

[Pandit Jawahar Lal, Bhargava ; Mr. Craik ;
Mr. Thompson.]

The Hon'ble Pandit Jawahar Lal, Bhargava, asked :—

Statement showing number of convictions under the Insolvency Act.

25. " Will the Government be pleased to state the number of cases for each district in the Province during the last five years in which the insolvents have been convicted, under section 43 (2) of the Provincial Insolvency Act III of 1907. "

The Hon'ble Mr. Craik replied :—

" The statement* is laid on the table."

The Hon'ble Pandit Jawahar Lal, Bhargava, asked :—

Statement showing the realisation of decretal monies.

26. " Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing for the last 12 years—

" (a) the amount of the decretal money for which applications for execution were made ;

" (b) the amount realised in pursuance of such applications."

The Hon'ble Mr. Craik replied :—

" The Hon'ble Member will find the information required in statement No. VI appended to the Annual Reports on the Administration of Civil Justice."

The Hon'ble Mr. Thompson said :—

" With reference to question No. 117 asked by the Hon'ble Chaudhri Lal Chand at the meeting of the Punjab Legislative Council, held on the 6th November and my intermediate reply in regard to the number of Sikhs serving under the Punjab Government in posts carrying a salary of Rs. 150 or upwards, I now note for the Hon'ble Member's information that from information received from Commissioners and Heads of Departments it appears that there are in all 47 Jat-Sikhs and 115 non-Jat Sikhs, making a total of 162, who are employed in the various departments in the province."

THE RESTRICTION OF HABITUAL OFFENDERS (PUNJAB) BILL.

The Hon'ble Mr. Craik :—" Your Honour, the Bill which I ask for leave to introduce in Council to-day provides a special procedure for dealing with what are termed habitual offenders. We are, I think, justified in demanding that in the Punjab there should be a special form of control over such offenders, because there is not the slightest doubt that in this Province a very large proportion of crime is committed by persons for whom crime is a profession. We have in this Province over 100,000 people whose hereditary and sole occupation is theft in some form or other, quite apart from these, there is a considerable section of the community to whom crime is the principal means of subsistence. Their activities are not confined to crime against property. In certain parts of this Province it is still, I regret to say, possible to hire competent professional assassins to dispose of your enemy on rates of about Rs. 20 or Rs. 30 a head. I can quote several cases of that kind from my own experience.

" As regards the amount of crime that is committed by professional criminals the most experienced police officers are of opinion that it amounts to more than half the total reported crime. That is a point which is rather difficult to prove, but of the total detected crime 10 per cent. is definitely traced to professional criminals, while of the total amount of what is

* See Appendix D.

known as reported crime 54 per cent. is not traced at all, and it is perfectly fair to assume that most of this is the work of professional criminals who are clever enough to leave no traces. The view that professional criminals are responsible for the greater part of the crime in the Province is supported by some remarkable figures which I would quote to show the decline in crime during the first ten months of the present year as compared with the first ten months of last year. Hon'ble Members will remember that it is only since the beginning of the present year that we have taken special measures to control the movements of the criminal tribes, the majority of whom are professional thieves. Since about the beginning of January this year the wandering criminal tribes, who total I think somewhere between 7 and 10 thousand persons, have all been restricted in their movements to the jurisdiction of the police stations in which they happened to be at that date, and of the settled criminal tribes a large proportion of the worst characters have been drafted into settlements where they are subject to strict control and whence it is difficult for them to escape. In the first ten months of 1916 the cases of reported crime amounted to 33,838. In the same period of the present year they amounted to 28,126. This shows a decline of 5,682 or very nearly 17 per cent. I think the Hon'ble Members will agree that these are remarkable figures. The decrease in burglaries alone was 2,751. Of course there are other causes at work besides the restriction of the criminal tribes, as, for example, the absence of a great many of the more adventurous spirits on service in the army, but, broadly speaking, I think it fair to assume that the restrictive measures adopted in regard to criminal tribes are mainly responsible for the very remarkable decline in crime, and that fact is the best possible justification for adopting similar measures in regard to other professional criminals who do not happen to be classed among criminal tribes. It may be urged that we have already in the security sections of the Criminal Procedure Code an efficient weapon for dealing with the habitual criminal. In regard to this point I would refer the Hon'ble Members to what is said in the Statement of Objects and Reasons attached to this Bill regarding the bankruptcy of the security procedure as an effective method of control of professional criminal. I would also like to quote a sentence from a letter which the Local Government addressed to the Government of India in asking for permission to introduce this Bill. The letter says:—

'Experience has shown that a man of criminal tendencies, if himself influential or if as more frequently happens, he has influential supporters, experiences little difficulty in finding sureties when an order to furnish security is passed against him under section 118 of the Code. The sureties as a rule know perfectly well that the man for whose good behaviour they are vouching has no intention of abandoning a life of crime, but they accept the risk in the knowledge that the law provides many means of evading the forfeiture of their bonds, and in some cases with a secret understanding that they are to be indemnified from loss out of the proceeds of future crimes. On the other hand, the poor or friendless man, who may possibly have been driven to crime by stress of circumstances, can have little hope of finding sureties for his good behaviour, even though he may be genuinely desirous of leading an honest life and must therefore be sent to jail in default.'

'I would amplify that point by referring very briefly to one or two rulings of the Chief Court on the question of security proceedings. In a judgment of 1900 the Hon'ble Judges reduced the amount of security demanded from Rs. 200 to Rs. 100. The judgment observes:—'The public welfare on the one hand requires that legitimate precautionary measures should be taken to lessen the chances of such a person committing a crime, but ordinary justice, on the other hand, equally demands that, provided that the interests of the public can be otherwise adequately safeguarded, a person who is innocent of the commission of any offence shall not be punished as a felon.' I hope the Council

[Mr. Craik.]

understands that I do not for a moment desire to criticize the view of the law taken by the Hon'ble Judges : all I wish to point out is that taking that view of the law to be absolutely correct, then the law is defective in providing the administration with a means of controlling the persons whose profession it is to prey upon their neighbours. It can hardly be argued that a man who has deposited a petty sum of Rs. 100 will be thereby deterred, if it is his profession or pastime to commit burglary, when he gets a promising chance. Similarly, in a judgment of 1901 the amount of security was reduced from Rs. 500 to Rs. 200. Then again we have various rulings dealing with the question of the sureties to be accepted. In a judgment of 1905 the Chief Court ruled that it was illegal for a magistrate to order fresh security to be furnished once a surety has been offered and accepted. In that case the magistrate who demanded security accepted as sureties two people who lived nowhere near the residence of the accused person and had no effective means of controlling him. The District Magistrate directed the accused to furnish as sureties two respectable men living in the same town as himself. The Chief Court held that it was illegal, and that the two original sureties having been accepted no others should be demanded. Then in a judgment of 1906 it was held that the magistrate was not entitled to delegate to any other person or agency the duty of enquiring into the sufficiency and status of the sureties offered. That, of course, is a very serious handicap on the efficiency of the security proceedings. Suppose a busy magistrate orders an accused person to produce two sureties. It is very easy to bring into court a number of witnesses to swear that those two sureties are good for the amount of security demanded. The magistrate under this ruling is bound himself to make the enquiries into the status and means of the suggested sureties. He is not allowed to delegate that duty to a Tahsildar or to a Police or any other officer. In practice that means, of course, that his work is very much handicapped. The same judgment incidentally ruled that the District Magistrate's order prohibiting the acceptance as sureties of lambardars, inamkhwars or chowkidars, was illegal. In a later case of 1914 a District Magistrate refused to take as sureties the relations of a very notorious *ladmash*. One of those relations was a minor. The Chief Court ruled that the Magistrate was not justified in refusing to accept as sureties the persons offered merely because they were relations of the accused person.

"Then there is another point. When a man has once furnished security and commits a breach of good behaviour there is often considerable difficulty in enforcing the forfeiture of the amount deposited. The Chief Court has ruled that a man placed on security for good behaviour, who was convicted of an offence under section 326 of the Indian Penal Code, was not thereby liable to have his security forfeited.

"As a final instance of the inadequacy of the security procedure I should like to quote a case of a wandering tribe, the Pernas. I am not sure whether it is a criminal tribe. This tribe lived, and possibly still lives, a nomad life on the borders of Jammu and Gurdaspur. They had no ostensible means of subsistence, but lived by making raids into British territory, burning and cutting crops of entire villages at night and then bolting across the border into Jammu territory. The villagers naturally got tired of this kind of thing and appealed to the police for organized measures against these raiders. The Gurdaspur police organized a big drive and succeeded in capturing a large number of members of the tribe including 80 males. Of those a certain number were boys and old men. About 50 or 60 were prosecuted under the security sections. Heavy security was demanded but in every case the men produced as sureties,

[*Mr. Craik.*]

people who lived in Amritsar and Lahore, people who had no connection with them and who could in no way be responsible for their behaviour. It was notorious that the Parnas themselves supplied their sureties with the sums required out of the proceeds of their raids.

"That sort of procedure is an absolute mockery, and it is obvious that it provides no effective control over the movements of persons whom it is designed to control. Now what we propose to do in this Bill is to substitute for the security procedure an order controlling the movements of the habitual criminal to a certain area to be specified in the order. That area would ordinarily be his village, but in the Bill the definition of the area is left to the discretion of the magistrate. Such experience as we have gained with the criminal tribes has shown us that local control of this kind is most effective in restricting the criminal activities of the persons controlled. I have already quoted the figures showing the decline of crime since the special measures against the criminal tribes were initiated.

"I would also refer to the success which has attended the restriction to their villages of the large number of returned emigrants who returned to this country in 1915 and 1916. Several thousands of them—I think over 3,000—were restricted to their villages by orders under the Ingress into India Ordinance and the headmen of the villages were made responsible for seeing that they did not leave their villages. That system has worked with very great success. Very few of the men broke the order of restriction. The lambardars were found to be genuinely anxious to co-operate in making the orders effective. In a large number of cases the orders of restriction have now been withdrawn, and the men have been allowed to go free. A certain number of them have enlisted in the army. The number who committed any offence after the order of restriction is so small as to be almost negligible. I think the Hon'ble Members will agree with me that this is a practical test of the efficiency of the procedure that we now propose to introduce as regards the habitual criminal as an alternative to the security proceedings.

"The Bill which I ask for leave to introduce has been the subject of very careful consideration on the part of Government. It was originally drafted two years ago, and was widely circulated for opinion in the Province both to officials and non-officials. Speaking generally, the principle of the Bill was accepted almost unanimously as sound. I think there are only two non-official members of this Council who opposed the principle of the Bill, and their opposition was really founded on the misapprehension that the Bill would place a new engine of oppression in the hands of the police. That, as I shall explain shortly, is not the case. We have provided safeguards against that. On points of detail a number of very useful and pertinent criticisms were received. As a result of those, the Bill was redrafted and circulated again in 1915 in the Province. It was then received with what I may term a chorus of approval, and practically every official and non-official consulted, with very few exceptions, agreed both as regards the principle and as regards the details of the measure. It was submitted about a year ago for the approval of the Government of India and amended in certain respects in deference to their criticisms. I will now run through the actual provisions of the Bill itself.

"Clause 1 gives the title of the Bill, and in that connection I would refer the Hon'ble Members to sections 109 and 110 of the Criminal Procedure Code, where the people whom we refer to as 'habitual offenders' are defined. I do not think it is necessary for me to read those sections.

"Clause 2 describes what the order of restriction is, i.e., the magistrate may restrict the person to the area stated in the order which would ordinarily

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be his village or in exceptional cases, where the village is too small to provide a means of livelihood, to two or three contiguous villages, and the order may also require the person to report himself at the time and places prescribed in the order.

" Clause 3 says that in any case in which a magistrate may demand security, he may (under this Bill) in lieu of or in addition to demanding security require the accused to show cause why an order of restriction should not be made against him, or an order requiring him to report himself at any place prescribed in the order.

" Clause 4 deals with the procedure, which will be the same as in the case of security proceedings under the Criminal Procedure Code.

" Clause 5 provides for the issue of warrants in lieu of, or in addition to, summons, as in section 90 of the Criminal Procedure Code.

" Clause 6 is also taken from the Criminal Procedure Code.

" Clause 7 provides for the making of orders, and the proviso to that section makes it impossible for the magistrate to make at the same time an order of restriction and an order demanding security. The magistrate must define in the order the place to which the person is restricted, and in this respect the order must conform to the rules made by the Local Government under clause 16. At this stage it may be convenient to explain that we have given a definite undertaking to the Government of India that under clause 16 the Local Government will make a rule that the person restricted is to report himself not to the police or at the police station, but always to his village officer, i.e., the headman of the village, save in very exceptional circumstances. That disposes of the objection that the Bill puts a new weapon of oppression in the hands of the police. Broadly speaking, the police will have nothing to do with the working of the Act. The working will be entrusted to village officers. Clause 7 also provides that the order of restriction shall not be for more than three years. It is taken from the similar provision in the code as regards security orders. Clause 3 provides that when a person has been ordered to furnish security exceeding one year and has been unable to find it, and under section 123 of the Criminal Procedure Code the proceedings have been forwarded to the Sessions Judge for confirmation, the Sessions Judge may cancel the order of security and substitute an order of restriction. It is a humane provision designed to guard against persons genuinely anxious to lead honest lives being committed to jail for long periods in default of finding security. The second sub-clause of clause 8 empowers the magistrate, when the person is convicted and liable to an order under section 565, to pass an order of restriction in lieu of directing that the convict must report his residence to the police for a term of years after he has served his sentence.

" Clause 9 provides that no order shall be made restricting any person to any area unless the court or magistrate making the order is satisfied that such person has adequate means of earning his livelihood within the area of restriction. Ordinarily the magistrate will be able to satisfy himself by putting questions to the people of the neighbourhood in court whether the person who is restricted can earn his livelihood in his own village. But as a general rule under existing economic conditions everybody is able to earn an honest livelihood within his own village. There may be exceptions in the case of very small villages. The demand for agricultural labour is now so keen that a man's restriction to his village should not ordinarily prevent him from earning his livelihood.

" Clause 10 gives the District Magistrate power to cancel any order of restriction passed by any court having jurisdiction in his district. That includes the Sessions Judge, that is to say, if the Sessions Judge has passed an

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order of restriction under clause 8 the District Magistrate may cancel it. That again is a clause arising out of the dictates of humanity. The District Magistrate would not ordinarily cancel an order unless he is satisfied that the necessity of the order has ceased to exist, that is to say, the man was doing his best to earn an honest livelihood and had abandoned the profession of crime. In such a case the District Magistrate would be the best judge whether the order could safely be withdrawn, and he should be able to act without reference to the Sessions Judge.

" Clause 11 provides the District Magistrate with power to change the area to which a person is restricted, but such a change can only be made when the person concerned has had an opportunity of showing cause against it.

" Clause 12 gives the District Magistrate power to substitute an order of restriction for an order requiring security provided that the period of the order of restriction shall not exceed the unexpired period of security. The wording of this clause is faulty, and will require amendment in Select Committee. The principle is, I think, clear. That power would ordinarily be exercised when any inexperienced subordinate magistrate had passed an order demanding security, when the District Magistrate considered that it was a case for restriction. Also, where a person has been committed to jail in default of providing security and the District Magistrate considers the order harsh, he may substitute for it an order of restriction.

" Clause 13 provides for appeal or revision exactly as provided by the Code of Criminal Procedure in the case of security proceedings.

" Clause 14 deals with the point of limitation as regards appeals and petitions of revision.

" Clause 15 gives the power of arrest in respect of any person who has been restricted and is found in any place beyond the area of restriction, to any police officer, zaildar, inandar, village headman or village watchman.

" Clause 16 is the rule-making section. As I have already said, the Local Government intends to make a rule under sub-clause (ii) that the report required of a person restricted shall, save in very exceptional circumstances, be made to the village officer and not to the police. Though I can give no definite undertaking at present, it should be possible to arrange that persons requiring passes for temporary absence should apply not to the police but either to the zaildar or to the lambardar.

" Clause 17 provides penalties for breach of the order of restriction. Those penalties are the same as are provided by Act III of 1911 in the case of criminal tribes. In the event of any person violating an order of restriction the court is bound to pass a sentence of imprisonment, the option of fine has not been provided. Government carefully considered this point, but came to the conclusion that there was no case for treating these habitual criminals more leniently than the persons belonging to criminal tribes.

" I have now gone through the Bill and have explained its more important provisions. The Bill will, of course, be examined in detail by the Select Committee, but its main principles will, I trust, require little if any alteration. I hope the Council will agree that the measure is likely to secure its object and to reduce the amount of crime.

" Your Honour, I beg for leave to introduce the Bill."

The motion was put and agreed to.

The Hon'ble Mr. Craik:—" Your Honour, I now introduce the Bill and move that it be referred to a Select Committee consisting of the Hon'ble Mr. Fagan, the Hon'ble Mr. Gracey, the Hon'ble Sardar Bahadur Gajjan Singh, the Hon'ble Lala Lal Chaud, the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Sayad Mehdi Shah and myself."

The motion was put and agreed to.

THE SIMLA HOUSE ACCOMMODATION BILL.

The Hon'ble Mr. Lumsden.—“ Your Honour, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to regulate the rents and occupation of houses in Simla during the period of the war. I have to express regret that it has been necessary in order to make this motion to summon members at a time which, may not be convenient to many, it being so near the holidays. I had hoped to have the Bill ready for introduction at the last meeting of the Council, but circumstances over which I had no control prevented this and we have endeavoured to minimize the inconvenience as much as possible by sandwiching this meeting between the meeting of the Finance Committee that took place yesterday and the Convocation of the Punjab University which occurs to-morrow. For the Bill itself I offer no apology. It is wholly a war measure; intended primarily for the benefit of officers on duty at Army Head-quarters in consequence of the war. There has been a considerable increase in the number of officers stationed at Simla and this increase, as I shall show by figures, is entirely due to Army requirements. Of the total increase in the number of officers 99 per cent. is due to Army Head-quarters; in the case of European Clerks 106 per cent. of the increase is similarly due, the margin over the cent. per cent. being accounted for by the fact that there is a slight decrease in the number of European Clerks employed by the Government of India and the Government of the Punjab. In the case of Indian Clerks the increase to be credited to Army Head quarters is 82 per cent. It will be seen that practically the whole increase in the number of officers is directly due to the war. Now the conditions of Simla are somewhat peculiar. Prior to the war it will be admitted that the station was full, if not crowded. Houses suited to stand the rigorous Simla climate cannot be put up in a single day and moreover at the present time building materials of all kinds are extremely difficult to obtain. Apart from this—and this is a very cogent factor in the situation—building sites are practically exhausted; the result is that there has been no way of meeting this increasing pressure of accommodation. I do not think I need labour this point, because Hon'ble Members are well aware that one of the main reasons for holding no meeting of the Council in Simla during the past summer was the difficulty of obtaining accommodation. I think, if I remember right, one member who came up the previous year could only find shelter in the gloomy precincts of the railway station. In any case the situation is certainly not improving. Only the other day we received an official representation from the Civil Surgeon of Simla East to the effect that he could not find a house in Simla suited to his requirements. Now the Civil Surgeon of Simla is stationed there the whole year; he is on the spot and in the best position to get any house that may become available and yet he has to apply for assistance to the Local Government. That will give some idea of the present situation and it is safe to say that matters have reached a stage when some sort of interference on the part of the State has become absolutely necessary. The Bill, I admit, is open to criticism on one point and that is its extreme, or as some will say, its excessive, moderation. It would have been quite legitimate for instance to take as our starting point pre-war rents, *i.e.*, those of 1914 but though there has been a very considerable enhancement since then, we are allowing landlords the benefit of the whole of this increase and are only taking as our basis the rents of 1917. Similarly, I think also that it would have been only natural to have excluded from Simla at a time of crisis like the present, what might be termed pleasure tenants—visitors who come to Simla because of the attraction and amenities of the station, but who have no business or duty there. I think you will readily admit that officers on duty have a prior claim; but we have not gone even as far as to insist on this claim and have exempted all tenants who

held houses in 1917, whether they were there on duty or not. I quite admit that this is a weak point in the Bill; but I would ask those who are disappointed with its very modest provisions to take into consideration the fact that we are doing our utmost to disarm criticism, and if they are disappointed, at least there is no room on the other side for adverse comment.

"The Bill naturally divides itself into two parts - the first deals with the regulation of rents and the second with the powers of requisition. Now rents are subject to the economic laws of demand and supply just like ordinary marketable commodities. In ordinary times the rules of supply and demand govern prices by means of the elastic balance. When the demand for an article is in excess of supply either the producers increase their output or other persons unconnected with the particular article are tempted by the profits made to commence its manufacture; the result is that the supply very soon more than equals the demand and prices fall. Similarly, if the demand falls producers restrict their output or branch off into some more lucrative form of business. Under normal conditions the prices of articles thus move within fairly well-defined limits, but when abnormal conditions supervene the elasticity of the balance may be interrupted or destroyed. This may occur even in times of peace; for example the cornering of a world staple by a particular Syndicate might affect the comfort of the community in such a way that it would be necessary for the State to intervene. In times of war this danger of interference with the ordinary laws is of course greater. You have only to consider for instance a case where a consumer and producer do not live in the same country, but are separated by the sea. If the war puts a stop to maritime commerce the whole system at once breaks down. In a war of such magnitude as the present it has naturally been necessary to take action. Even in this country it has been found essential to exercise State control in cases where previously matters were left to the ordinary rules of commerce. We have, for example, imposed maximum prices for wheat, we have an Ordinance under which certain articles can be commandeered and there is a large amount of restriction on exports and imports. All this means a fundamental interference with the ordinary laws of demand and supply. In Great Britain, which is nearer the heart of things, State control has gone much further; in fact maximum prices are there the rule rather than the exception. The rules too are most rigorously enforced; only two or three months ago a farmer, who sold his potatoes at prices exceeding those fixed by Government during the scarcity, was fined £5,500, almost the equivalent of one lakh of rupees. Control too seems to have gone much further than the mere fixing of prices. The State demands that every man shall co-operate to the best of his ability in producing things that the State requires. I read in the *Times* the other day that a farmer had been fined £20 simply because he failed to cultivate a field to the satisfaction of the authorities though it was proved at the trial that the failure to produce satisfactory results was not due to deliberate intent but simply to lack of care and bad management. That instance is not exactly relevant to the point under consideration, but I mention it to show how far State control has gone in Great Britain, where it is popularly supposed that the individual enjoys a greater amount of liberty than in any other country in the world. At a recent discussion on labour in the House of Lords, Lord St. Davids laid down the principle that no man was entitled to make any profit out of the war unless such profits were directly earned by his own extra work. The fact that such a sweeping declaration was well received by the Press shows with what feelings men are regarded who take advantage of the needs of Govern-

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ment in order to feather their own nests. Such men have this in common with those unhappy creatures who endeavour to evade their military obligations on the score of conscientious objections: they subordinate the common weal to their own selfish interests. I have enlarged on the point of State interference to show, and if I can, to satisfy, Hon'ble Members that there is nothing unusual or unnatural in the proposed limitation of war profits. I have already shown by the figures I have quoted that the increased pressure on Simla accommodation is directly due to the war. I propose to quote one or two instances to prove that action is now imperatively needed. I do not intend to weary the Council by figures showing the increase between the rents of 1914 and 1917 because our Bill takes the 1917 rents as the basis, but I wish the Council clearly to understand that the landlords of Simla are not satisfied with the large enhancement of rents they already enjoy but are desirous of still further increasing their war profits. Some of you may have seen in a recent issue of the "Pioneer" a signed letter written by a well-known officer. There is not the slightest reason to doubt the accuracy of the statements made in it, which can easily be confirmed. This officer explains that he made enquiries about four houses in Simla for next year. In one case the landlord asked for an advance of Rs. 350 on the rent of the previous year, in the second case the landlord asked for an increase of Rs. 400: in each of the last two cases the landlord demanded an extra Rs. 500, all this despite the inflated rents of the previous year. In another case brought officially to my notice a landlord, who had raised the rent by no less than 20 per cent. in 1917, threatened eviction unless the tenant was ready to pay a further large increase for 1918. Such instances could be multiplied, and in such circumstances we can hardly be surprised at the language used by the writer of the letter when he characterises the demands of the landlords as 'rapacity naked and unashamed.' I do not wish to call the landlords of Simla any ugly names, human nature being what it is; I certainly would not desire to be the first to cast a stone, and I do not suppose any Hon'ble Member would care to take up that unpleasant duty. But there are three questions I should like to put to the landlords: the first is—can they deny that they enjoy, and for years past have been enjoying, a practical monopoly owing to the fact that Simla has no room for expansion; secondly, can they honestly assert that the large demands they have been making for increased rent are justified in any way by any extra exertions on their part; and, thirdly, can they affirm that the increased pressure of accommodation in Simla is not directly due to the war? If they cannot meet these questions,—and I do not think they can on the facts before us,—then I submit there is an unanswerable case for immediate Government interference.

"But apart altogether from these strictly general principles, there is a further point in the case of the Simla landlords. Simla owes its existence to the fact that Government selected this place as their summer head-quarters. Further Simla derives its present popularity from the fact that it is the head-quarters of the Government of India, of Army head-quarters and last, but perhaps not least, of the Punjab Government. The attractions of the place are mainly due to the fact that these Governments are stationed there, and that great amenities have been provided at Government expense. I do not know whether the landlords of Simla are arrayed like Solomon in all his glory, though judging by the profits they have been making they should be well able to afford this luxury, but they certainly resemble the lilies of the field in that they 'toil not neither do they spin.' They have simply to sit with folded hands while Government adds lakhs of rupees to the value of their property. In these circumstances surely Government has a very special claim on these landlords, and if these landlords take advantage of a time of great emergency to bleed the servants of Government they surely of all the people in the world have the least cause to complain if Government at length steps in and issues a mandate 'Thus far shalt thou go and no further'

[*Mr. Lumsden ; Mr. Fazl-i-Husain.*]

"The question of requisitioning need not detain us—the exemptions we have made are so numerous that it is easier to quote the rule rather than explain the exceptions. The only people that will be affected by this power of requisition are those who were not tenants in Simla during 1917 and who are not obliged to be there on duty or business, and even they may, if there should be any spare houses, occupy them with the written permission of the House Accommodation Committee. I am sure members will agree that there is no reason why such people should go to Simla. There are other hill stations available for them; they can go to Murree, to Dalhousie or to Kashmir; and they should not be allowed to add to the extreme inconvenience caused by the pressure on accommodation in Simla.

"Both as regards the regulation of rents therefore and the requisitioning of houses, I claim, with some degree of confidence, that the Bill is fully justified."

The Hon'ble Mr. Fazl-i-Husain.—"Your Honour, at this stage of the Bill I do not intend to make any remarks. The Bill purports to be a war measure specially brought forward with the object of securing accommodation for officers of the Army head-quarters and of the Munitions Board, and as such it cannot but be sympathetically considered by this Council. I fully recognise that to provide accommodation for the officers of the Army Head-quarters and Munitions Board is just as rendering help in the cause of the war as consists in sending soldiers to the Front. It is absolutely necessary that we should provide accommodation, and also accommodation at reasonable rents.

"Recognising all these facts it must be conceded that there is a sort of misapprehension in the minds not only of Simla landlords, but also of people outside. What is it due to? I can assure Your Honour that it is not due to the fact that this Bill is being put forward as a war measure, but, on the other hand, it is due, may be reasonable or unreasonable apprehension, to certain apprehension in the minds of the landlords against certain measures of the Government, and the reason for making these observations lies in certain of the remarks which have fallen from the lips of the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Bill. Simla has been the summer seat of the Imperial Government for a long term of years and similarly of this Government. No doubt Simla house sites are limited in number, but they have not become limited now. I presume the sites available now are just the same as they were 30 years ago. Why was it that neither the Imperial Government nor the Local Government took no opportunity 15 years ago of securing sites in order to afford accommodation for their officers. Any business firm would have done the same, but neither the Imperial Government nor the Local Government invested a small amount of money in those sites in order to build houses for their officers.

"What the Simla landlords apprehend is that this measure may pave the way for a similar measure on the part of Government to secure accommodation in normal times for their officers. An assurance given in this Council by Your Honour to the effect that it is a war measure will remove these apprehensions altogether. I have not the slightest doubt that it is a war measure, and as such it should receive cordial recognition in this Council as well as outside.

"In regard to the question of limited supply and the action of the law on supply and demand, the landlords of Simla assert:—We had no other business, we invested our money hoping that Simla was going to be a prosper-

[*Mr. Fazl-i-Hussain ; Mr. Lumsden.*]

ous rising place. We saw that Government was bringing in railways and providing all sorts of facilities for people who come to Simla. No doubt it is the seat of the Imperial Government and of the Local Government, but then Government officers want people other than Government officers to talk to. As the Government has not been wise enough to secure building sites for their officers, we are now entitled, if they want to secure our houses, to make profit.

"I have no doubt that there is no intention whatsoever in this Bill to raise these questions. It is a matter which is to be settled on its own merits. That is all I wish to say."

The motion for leave to introduce the Bill was put and agreed to.

The Hon'ble Mr. Lumsden.—"Your Honour, I now move that the Bill be taken into consideration. As I have already explained the measure is a war measure of limited duration, and it is also one of extreme urgency. A reference to section 9 will show that a requisition for a house can only be issued before the 15th of February. It will be seen that there is very little time to make arrangements for the issue of this notice. The Bill, if passed by this Council, has to receive the assent of Your Honour and has then to be submitted for the assent of the Governor-General; the House Accommodation Committee has to be selected and rules made to provide for the election of members who will represent the house-owners in Simla. All this will take time, and only by treating the whole case as one of the utmost urgency will it be possible to derive any benefit from the Bill next season.

"The Bill itself is of a simple character, and I may briefly run through the various clauses though they do not call for detailed remarks:—Clause 1—Hon'ble Members will agree that the period, namely, the duration of the war and one year thereafter, is not excessive. The work of demobilisation cannot be carried out in a week.

"In clause 2 the figure of Rs. 300 has been entered as a tentative limit below which it is not considered necessary to go. We have fixed this figure in terms of the annual value, that being a definite unit; under the Municipal Act, I may, however, say at once that we have no preference for this particular limit; if any Hon'ble Member considers that it should be raised or lowered we are quite ready to consider the suggestion. We have taken a wide view of the word 'owner'; it will save trouble in the end to have a comprehensive definition. Clause 3 provides for the appointment of a House Accommodation Committee which is to consist of 5 members—its duties are multifarious. It will issue notices, fix rents in cases where the rents on the 1917 basis are not available, settle all disputes, and its decisions will be final. Clause 5 allows for an increase of rent in certain special circumstances. Clause 6 deals with the appropriation of houses, and clause 7 explains the procedure to be adopted. Clause 8 gives a long list of exceptions which, I think, is fairly comprehensive in view of the fact that the 1917 tenants are not to be disturbed. We have not specifically included religious institutions and other institutions of a public character because we considered that such inclusion was not necessary. As a rule, the premises occupied by such are not houses suitable for residence, while, on the other hand, they are taken in the name of a particular body and it is not likely that the name of that body will be changed. Should any Hon'ble Member be of opinion that any further safeguard is necessary we shall be willing to consider the point. Clause 9 states that the notice shall not be

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issued after the 15th of February, which is a suitable date. If any person receives a notice by the 15th of February that the house is requisitioned it is quite easy to make other arrangements before the hot weather commences. Clause 10 deals with special cases where there is a change of tenancy; it provides that if a house is not let by the 15th of February, or if a change in tenancy takes place after that date, the notice may be issued at any time during that year. Clause 11 provides for the recovery of rent from a Government tenant by a process which should be speedier than the ordinary procedure of the civil courts. The use of this section is optional, and if the owner does not avail himself of it he can bring a suit in the civil court in the ordinary way; there is nothing in section 14 to prevent that. Section 14 merely conveys the ordinary safeguards to *bond fide* action taken under the Act, and I do not think that that would in any way bar a suit. Clause 12 explains what is to be done in case of refusal to give up a house. It is of a very mild nature, and there is no penalty. The District Magistrate can, on the application of the House Accommodation Committee, enter on and enforce the surrender of the house. Clause 13 lays down that the decision of the House Accommodation Committee will be final. Clause 14 is a safeguarding clause moulded on the lines of the Cantonment House Accommodation Act.

"It is difficult to realise that this is a war measure, and I think I can claim with some confidence that no war measure of so mild a character has ever been conceived. At the second reading of the Licensing Bill in the House of Commons an irate member of the Opposition addressed the Government to the following effect:—The highway men of old were content to demand the money or the life of their victims, but Government is seeking to take both the money and the life of the poor publican. I do not think that any charge of that kind can be brought against this Bill. If this Bill is passed, and I hope it will be passed unanimously, I think the Simla landlords will not require to apply for the assistance of the Poor House authorities or summon the undertaker. As a matter of fact landlords will continue to enjoy profits which if not equal to their wildest dreams, will at least exceed all reasonable expectations, while if any speculator presuming on the necessities of Government at a time of great emergency gets his fingers burnt in consequence of the Bill that need not cause any regret, and I do not think we need waste any sympathy over cases of this kind. With these brief remarks I propose that the Bill be now taken into consideration."

His Honour the President put the motion that the Bill to regulate the rents and occupation of houses in Simla during the period of the war be taken into consideration. The motion was carried.

The Hon'ble Mr. Lumsden—"Your Honour, no Hon'ble Member has given notice of any amendment. Rule 37 of the rules for the conduct of business at meetings of this Legislative Council lays down that should any member wish to move an amendment; the Secretary to the Council should receive an intimation of his intention three days before the meeting. Consequently, strictly speaking, no amendments except those of a purely verbal character can now be discussed. I recognise, however, that this Bill is somewhat exceptional, and, therefore, in order to allow of any amendments, which the non-official members may desire to make, being put forward, I would ask you, Sir, to suspend the Rules of Business."

[The President; Rai Bahadur Ram Saran Das; Rai Bahadur Pandit Sheo Narain; Raizada Bhagat Ram; Mr. Lumsden.]

His Honour the President.—“ I suspend the Rules of Business.”

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Ram Saran Das.—“ Your Honour, with Your Honour's permission I beg to move the following amendment, that in clause 2 the words ' the annual value of which is not less than Rs. 300 ' from the definition of ' house ' be omitted. The Bill is meant to remove any difficulty that may arise in securing accommodation for Government servants employed in Simla. The Bill in its present shape, however, does not remove the difficulty in case of those clerks and employees of Government offices who cannot afford to rent a house of the annual value of more than Rs. 300. In their case I submit the difficulty would still remain unsolved if my amendment were not accepted. The amendment that I propose is quite in harmony with the provisions of the Bill proposed, and I am confident that Your Honour, who has always at heart the interests of the poor and hardworked clerks of the Government, in order to extend the benefits of proposed legislation, will readily accept this amendment.”

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Pandit Sheo Narain.—“ I beg to second the amendment.”

The Hon'ble Raizada Bhagat Ram.—“ I beg to support the amendment.”

The Hon'ble Mr. Lumsden :—“ I have already said in my speech introducing the Bill that this figure of Rs. 300 was a tentative figure, and that we are quite prepared to reconsider it. If there is a general feeling on the part of Hon'ble Members that it is necessary to lower that figure, I am quite prepared to accept that view and delete the words. As a consequential change the clause regarding annual value will be unnecessary. The object of the change is, I understand, to enable the less highly paid clerks of Government to share in the benefit. I can assure the Council that there was no intention to neglect their interests. We considered that a limit of Rs. 300 would probably cover most of the houses in connection with which there was undue pressure. If that view is thought to be incorrect I am willing to alter it. The change will add somewhat to the work of the House Accommodation Committee, but as I shall not be a member I need not I think raise any objection on that score.”

The amendment was put and carried.

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Pandit Sheo Narain :—“ Your Honour, I beg to propose three amendments.

“ The first is that in clause 5 I propose to add a clause to the effect ' and the decision of the House Accommodation Committee shall not be liable to be questioned in any court.' It is by way of a protection in case any proceedings of the House Accommodation Committee or any other similar matter is taken to court.”

His Honour the President :—“ Perhaps the Hon'ble Member will take up each amendment separately.”

The Hon'ble Mr. Lumsden :—“ With regard to this amendment I would refer to clause 13. I think that that clause meets the case.”

The amendment was by permission withdrawn.

[*Rai Bahadur Pandit Sheo Narain ; His Honour the President ; Mr. Lumsden ; Mr. Gracey ; Raizada Bhagat Ram ; Mr. Fazl-i-Husain.*]

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Pandit Sheo Narain :—"In clause 14 I would add the word *bona fide* or 'in good faith' in both places. It would then read as follows :—"No suit or other legal proceeding shall lie against any person for anything in good faith done or intended to be done, etc."

His Honour the President :—"It is an obvious improvement on the wording and need not be criticised."

The amendment was put and agreed to.

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Pandit Sheo Narain :—"In clause 7 for the last two lines 'and require the existing occupier, if any, to vacate the same within a period of one month,' I would substitute 'and require the existing occupier, if any, to vacate within a reasonable time at least one month.' My reason is this. Sometimes it becomes very difficult to vacate the house and get accommodation elsewhere. It should be so regulated that the occupier may have time which the committee thinks reasonable, but not necessarily to be limited to a period of one month. The committee may allow 2 months or 2½ months or somewhere about it. The shortest period to be allowed should be one month. As the clause stands the tenant must leave within one month."

The Hon'ble Mr. Lumsden :—"I hardly think this amendment is necessary. The only houses that are likely to be required are those that are occupied by tenants who have no duty or business in Simla, and if such a tenant receives a notice to vacate the house on or before the 15th of February he should vacate the house within one month. The tenants who go to Simla on pleasure do not generally spend the winter there, and consequently there will be no difficulty in giving up houses not actually occupied. The object of the Bill may be partially defeated if the houses are not vacated within a month."

The Hon'ble Mr. Gracey :—"The same period was fixed in the Cantonments (House Accommodation) Act"

His Honour the President :—"Does the Hon'ble Member wish to press this amendment?"

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Pandit Sheo Narain :—"If the rest of the Members support it."

The Hon'ble Raizada Bhagat Ram :—"I beg to support it."

The amendment was put and negatived.

The Hon'ble Mr. Fazl-i-Husain :—"As the Hon'ble Member in charge has stated in his speech in introducing the Bill the object is that the 1917 rents should be the basis of rents, that is to say, the House Accommodation Committee will not fix the rent of a house at a figure lower than that of 1917. I understand that this is the policy of the Bill, but there is no express provision in the Bill at present to the effect that the House Accommodation Committee has not the power to reduce the rent of a house lower than the rent that the house was getting in 1917. In order to make this matter clear I suggest that in section 7 of the Bill after the word 'servant' in the last but three lines of that section the words 'on a rental not lower than that for 1917' be added. There is an express provision in the Bill that the rent cannot exceed the rent paid in 1917. The amendment will make it clear that they cannot go lower than the rent paid in 1917"

The Hon'ble Mr. Lumsden :—"I am quite prepared to accept an amendment of this kind. The idea of the Bill was certainly that the 1917 rent should form the basis of rents. If the Hon'ble Member wishes to make the point clear, I have no objection."

[Mr. Parker ; Mr. Fazl-i-Hussain ; His Honour the President ; Mr. Lumsden ;
Mr. Maynard ; Mr. Fagan ; Mr. Gracey ; Mr. Thompson.]

The Hon'ble Mr. Parker :—“ I think section 4 of the Bill already provides this.”

The Hon'ble Mr. Fazl-i-Hussain :—“ The reason why I should like to have it made clear is that in section 4 it is clearly provided ‘ shall not exceed the annual or monthly rent payable for that house for the calendar year 1917.’ There is no mention that it shall not be less than that.”

His Honour the President :—“ Do you see any objection to the wording ? ”

The Hon'ble Mr. Lumsden :—“ I see no objection.”

The Hon'ble Mr. Maynard :—“ If I may say so, Sir, I am not quite sure that the real meaning is quite understood. We do not require to take the houses on a rent lower than the rent paid in 1917. We require them at a rent not higher than that rent. It would be unusual to put the words suggested.”

The Hon'ble Mr. Fazl-i-Hussain :—“ I quite see the point of the Hon'ble Member. But in clause 4 of the Bill it is expressly provided that ‘ the annual or monthly rent of any house within the limits of the Simla Municipality shall not exceed the annual or monthly rent payable for that house for the calendar year 1917.’ It is clear that the 1917 rent cannot be exceeded. Now the next thing to do is to make it clear that the owner of the house cannot be required to part with it in favour of a Government or Municipal servant for a rent which is less than the rent paid in 1917.”

The Hon'ble Mr. Fagan :—“ I would suggest a proviso at the end of section 7: ‘ Provided that in such a case the rent fixed shall not be less than that of 1917.’ ”

The Hon'ble Mr. Gracey :—“ There is no power in this clause to fix a rent. The rent is determined by the other clauses of the Bill.”

The Hon'ble Mr. Fazl-i-Hussain :—“ May I suggest—Clause 4 may read as follows :—

‘ Except as is hereinafter provided the annual or monthly rent of any house within the limits of the Simla Municipality shall not exceed or be less than the annual or monthly rent payable for that house for the calendar year 1917.’ ”

The Hon'ble Mr. Gracey :—“ Why should not the landlord be allowed to fix a lower rent ? ”

The Hon'ble Mr. Thompson :—“ The question is whether we are to take legislative power to compel the landlord to take more rent than they ask for.”

His Honour the President :—“ It may be taken for granted that the landlords will demand all they can. The question is what they can get.”

The Hon'ble Mr. Lumsden :—“ The 1917 rent.”

The Hon'ble Mr. Fazl-i-Hussain :—“ So far as I can see it seems to me that it is very necessary that we should specify the power of the House Accommodation Committee with reference to their power to require houses for officers of Government. If those powers are not specified distinctly, it would

[*Raizada Bhagat Ram ; His Honour the President ; Mr. Thompson ;
Mr. Lumsden ; Mr. Gracey.*]

lead to all sorts of complaints being made against that Committee. It will increase the work of the Committee and lead to complaints being made that the House Accommodation Committee was practically cutting the rent to any figure. My submission is that the object of the Bill should be made clear. I venture to submit that in clause 7 the words I have suggested be added after the words 'Municipal servant.' The objection taken to that is that section 7 does not purport to lay down functions of the House Accommodation Committee. With due deference I submit that though the objection is good, it does not say that if the power of the House Accommodation Committee with reference to the fixing of rent is included in that clause, there would be any difficulty in the way of doing it. My submission is that the fact should be made clear that the House Accommodation Committee is not to go lower than the rent of 1917. If, of course, the house owner is a very obliging fellow and willing to accept a lower rent, there is nothing to prevent him doing so, but where he is not an obliging fellow and he is unwilling to accept a lower rent, in that case the house rent should not be cut down to a figure lower than that of 1917."

The Hon'ble Raizada Bhagat Ram:—"So far as the fixing of rent is concerned, section 4 of this Bill gives some power to the House Accommodation Committee, and that power can only be exercised if the house was not rented in 1917. I do not understand, Your Honour, if the clause, as suggested by my learned friend is added, and the house was not rented in 1917, how are we to know what the rent of the house was. I was also of the same opinion when I got this Bill, but my submission is that no amendment to this section is necessary."

The amendment was put and negatived.

The Hon'ble Raizada Bhagat Ram :—" I beg leave to propose that in clause 8 after the word 'school' in sub-clause (e) may be added the words 'buildings used for a religious purpose or other institutions of a public nature.' The learned Member in charge of the Bill says that the list is comprehensive enough, but my submission is that it would be necessary that these buildings should be included. There is absolutely no harm in doing that, and there is no reason why an alarm should be created in the minds of those who are in charge of these religious or public institutions."

His Honour the President :—" The amendment of the Hon'ble Member then amounts to this that he wishes to add the words institutions of a public or quasi-public character."

The Hon'ble Mr. Thompson :—" Would not the words 'buildings used for religious purposes' enable a Missionary to claim exemption on the ground that he held prayer meetings in his drawing room ? "

The Hon'ble Raizada Bhagat Ram :—" No, I think not. Only if the building is open to purposes of that kind. It is absolutely necessary that exemptions should be made for buildings."

The Hon'ble Mr. Lumsden :—" I have no objection to the addition of these words. I understand the Hon'ble Member's objection is due to the fact that as we have made so many specific exemptions we should carry the principle to its logical conclusion."

His Honour the President :—" After all if there is a tendency to abuse this exemption, the decision of the House Accommodation Committee is final in the matter."

The Hon'ble Mr. Gracey :—" The wording was taken from the House Accommodation Act, and no harm has arisen from the working of that Act."

[His Honour the President ; Raizada Bhagat Ram ; Mr. Lumsden ;
Pandit Jowahir Lal.]

His Honour the President :—“ There is no harm in accepting the proposed amendment. Then the amendment is that in sub-clause (e) of clause 8 after the word ‘school’ should be added “ for religious purposes and institutions of a public or quasi-public character.”

The Hon'ble Raizada Bhagat Ram :—“ I would say clause (e) should run—‘ which is used primarily as a hospital, bank, hotel, shop, or school or for public or religious purposes, and has been so used during the season of 1917.’ ”

The amendment was put and agreed to.

The Hon'ble Mr. Lumsden :—“ I beg to move two small amendments. The first is in consequence of the amendment proposed by the Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Ram Sara Das and accepted. The definition of ‘annual value’ should be expunged from the Bill. It was only required in connection with the limit fixed in the definition of the word house. As this limit has now been omitted, the definition of ‘annual value’ is unnecessary and should be deleted.”

The amendment was put and agreed to.

The Hon'ble Mr. Lumsden :—“ The second is to add at the end of clause 3 the words : ‘Three members shall form a quorum.’ We have not provided in the Bill for a quorum, and I think some question might be raised as to the legality of the procedure at a meeting if all members were not present. We should therefore make a definite provision regarding a quorum.”

His Honour the President :—“ Of whom one should be a house-owner. The house-owners may say that something had been rushed through in their absence.”

The Hon'ble Mr. Lumsden :—“ Should a house-owner absent himself, there could be no business.”

The Hon'ble Pandit Jowahir Lal :—“ I would propose ‘and in a case of a difference of opinion, the decision of the majority shall be accepted.’ ”

The Hon'ble Mr. Lumsden :—“ I accept this amendment.”

The amendment.—“ That at the end of clause 3 the words should be added : ‘Three members shall form a quorum, and in case of difference of opinion, the decision will follow the decision of the majority’—was put and agreed to.”

The Hon'ble Mr. Lumsden :—“ Your Honour, I beg to move that the Bill as amended be now passed.

“ I am much obliged to the Hon'ble Members who have made suggestions to improve the Bill.”

His Honour the President :—“ Before putting the motion to the Council I should like to give the assurance that Mr. Fazl-i-Hussain asked for—that this Bill is entirely a war measure and that it is not in any way calculated to interfere with the arrangements in force after the war, nor is it intended to be the thin end of the wedge which would enable Government in any way to appropriate houses in Simla otherwise than by the provisions of the ordinary law. I am glad to see that the Council recognises that the measure is one of real urgency and has facilitated its discussion to-day ; it has been considerably improved in its passage through the Council by the amendments proposed, and I am glad to say that the Government have been able to accept most of those amendments.

[His Honour the President; Makhdum Sayad-Rajan Shah.]

I may mention, as showing the urgency of the measure, that during the last two years so difficult has the situation become that it has been necessary for Government to appeal to the generosity of private house-owners in Simla such as the Ruling Princes and Chiefs to lend their houses for the term of the war in order to accommodate the various branches of the Army and the Munitions Board. I may say that the Ruling Princes and Chiefs have responded with the public spirit and magnanimity which might be expected of them. At the same time it is obviously wrong that Government should be forced into this position and it is only right that this burden should be borne by the public and the house-owners of Simla. I think it has been made clear that pecuniarily they will not suffer owing to the fact that the rents of 1917 will be taken as the standard. Rents have been enhanced during the war as we all know. As the Hon'ble Member in charge has explained, the measure is a very mild one and there is no reason to assume that it is intended to pave the way for any sterner or harsher measures after the war or when peace is signed. If Government has to take any permanent measures to safeguard the interests of its officers it will do so under the ordinary law and will not have recourse to an emergency measure of this kind. I think it is well that there should be no misapprehension in regard to this Bill.

"I now move that the Bill to regulate the rents and occupation of houses in Simla during the period of the war be passed into law, as amended."

The motion was carried.

RESOLUTION RE AMENDMENT OF RULE 7 OF THE GENERAL
RULES FOR THE CONDUCT OF BUSINESS AT THE PUNJAB
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETINGS BY SUBSTITU-
TING THE WORD "URDU" FOR "ENGLISH"
IN THE FIRST SENTENCE AND VICE VERSA
IN THE SECOND SENTENCE.

The Hon'ble Makhdum Sayad Rajan Shah :—

The following is a translation in English of the speech delivered in Urdu by the Hon'ble Makhdum Sayad Rajan Shah at the meeting of the Punjab Legislative Council held on the 21st December 1917 :—

"YOUR HONOUR, I beg to move the following Resolution standing in my name :—

"This Council recommends to His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab that His Honour, under the powers vested in him under section 83 (clause (2)) of the Government of India Act, 1915, may be pleased to so amend Rule No. 7 included in the "General rules for the conduct of the business at meetings of the Legislative Council of the Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab" (published under notification No. 33 of the Punjab Govern-

[*Makhdam Sayad Rajan Shah.*]

ment, Home Department, Legislative, dated 22nd March 1910; that in the first sentence of the said rule the word 'Urdu' be substituted for 'English' and in the second sentence of the said rule the word 'English' be substituted for 'Urdu' and that His Honour may further be pleased to recommend His Excellency the Governor-General in Council to allow the said alteration.

"Before the object of the resolution is explained it is necessary to point out that Rule 7 runs as follows:—

"(7) Any member may speak at the request and on behalf of another member who is unable to express himself in English. With the permission of the President any member may speak in Urdu."

"According to the amendment which I propose, this rule will be altered as follows:—

"Any member may speak at the request and on behalf of another member who is unable to express himself in Urdu. With the permission of the President any member may speak in English."

"In other words, under the above rule generally the proceedings of the Council are conducted in English language, Urdu speeches being also allowed in exceptional circumstances. My object in moving this Resolution is that the Council proceedings be conducted generally in Urdu language, and English speeches be also allowed in special cases.

"My grounds in favour of the Resolution are:—

"Firstly, representatives of the country who are appointed to make Rules and Regulations for millions of their countrymen should use a language which their countrymen could understand and not the one which 98 per cent. of the people are not able to understand."

"Secondly, the public should have as far as possible a free hand in the selection of their representatives who make the Laws and Regulations which strongly affect them. They should not be forced to select only men who know English.

"The people are very surprised to see that on the one hand some of the authorities complain that English educated Indians, who are not the real representatives of the inhabitants of the country, want to usurp the authority by setting up a monopoly in the Legislative Council; far more than the real proportion are the numbers of the English educated community, and Councils are practically being overcrowded by the members of the Bar. And, on the other hand, the Rules for conducting the business of the Council are so framed that the best learned Scholars of Oriental language and the ablest men of the country belonging to other than English educated classes are permanently ousted from the Council.

"Although the present Rule in question does not directly force the public to select English knowing representatives yet it indirectly announces that the language in general use in Council is English, and their representative who will not know English will not be able to understand a very good deal of the Council's discussions and thus will not be able to serve them like their English-knowing colleagues, but rather their status will be lower than the latter. This can be fully explained. If any non-English knowing member wishes to ask a question in the Council he has to get it translated into English. However careful he may be, he will be in doubt lest the real meaning of the question may have been left out while

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translating it. When the question is replied to in the Council, a non-English knowing member's position is practically that of a deaf person who cannot understand the reply that has been given. Consequently he is deprived of the right of asking a supplementary question, if necessary. Similarly, if a non-English knowing member moves a resolution, he is to face similar difficulties in getting the resolution and his speech translated as explained above. And under the rule in question there are two ways for it, either he should, after getting it translated, request one of his colleagues to read it out for him in the meeting or he should himself make his speech in Urdu and sit down to listen to the eloquent speeches in English of his colleagues during the discussion like a deaf person without knowing what they are saying. And as he cannot at all understand those speeches he is naturally deprived of the right of objecting to any part of the speeches on the score of their being irrelevant or out of order. It is true that according to Rules of the Council a mover of a resolution has the right of reply after the conclusion of all the speeches, but is it possible for him to reply to such speeches a single word of which he could not understand?

" In short, the present rule proportionately lowers the position of a non-English knowing Member and deprives him of such rights as he is apparently entitled to have equally with English-knowing Members, and in many cases this rule debars him from discharging his duties fully in the interests of the public. Your Honour will excuse me for saying that it is a sort of punishment for every non-English knowing Member and his electors, and I most respectfully request that such punishments to such members and their electors would have been rightly inflicted had they been guilty of any offence. Is it an offence not to know English? Is the English language such a chemical prescription of producing wisdom that without it no Punjabi can help in making Laws and Regulations and submit the requirement of his country before Your Honour's Council? If the Government had taken this view of the question they would not have nominated such renowned Indians as Nawab Sir Niwazish Ali Khan, Sir Sayad Ahmed Khan and Sir Baba Khem Singh Bedi to the Imperial Council, and the Honourable Nawab Sir Behram Khan and Nawab Malik Mubarez Khan to the Provincial Council. In my humble opinion, it is necessary for the purpose of making Laws of a country that one should be in contact with the public and should have ability to understand their needs, feel their difficulties and think out preventive plans. If these facts are not dependent on a knowledge of English, I can dare say none of the non-English knowing members can be liable to the punishment alluded to above. On the other hand, I may be excused if I say that an ignorance of the language generally used in the Province, is not only a sort of defect for the membership of this Council but for every administrative Department of this Province. And this is why the Supreme Government has made it compulsory for all the British Officers to learn the respective languages of different Provinces in India in which they are posted.

" Her Majesty Queen Victoria, the late Empress of India, whose esteemed memory is still alive in our hearts, did also learn the Urdu language for the sake of Her Indian Loyal subjects, and the Viceroys of India and the Governors and the Lieutenant-Governors of different Provinces, who have held their respective posts from time to time and felt their administrative responsibilities, considered Urdu a compulsory language for them: Those non-English knowing gentlemen who have had the honour of interviews with Your Honour or have a chance of hearing Your Honour's Urdu speeches on occasions of public gatherings, know fully well how excellently Your Honour speaks Urdu for hours continually and how well Your Honour expresses yourself in Urdu. Besides Your Honour there are in this Council (1), European Members, (2)

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English-knowing Indian Members and (3) non-English knowing members. All the European members of this Council can speak and understand Urdu well. Especially such distinguished jewels of the Civil Service, as the Hon'ble Mr. Maynard, the Hon'ble Mr. Fagan and the Hon'ble Mr. Thompson, who adorn the Council, are gentlemen of whose Urdu knowledge many of our Indian brethren might feel jealous.

" Besides the official members we find among our colleagues gentlemen like the Hon'ble Mr. Parker whose Urdu knowledge is well known throughout the Province and who can most fluently speak in Urdu. In short, there is no such European member in this Council who is not acquainted with the Urdu language and none of the European members will be ready to say that they would feel such a difficulty in understanding and speaking Urdu as the non-English knowing members would feel in the case of English; because the latter are practically dumb in speaking and deaf in hearing English.

" Now let us see the case of English knowing Indian members. In this connection there is no need of arguing at any great length as none of them (be he superior, moderate or inferior in English knowledge) will be ready to say that he feels more convenience in speaking English than in speaking Urdu. A few days ago His Honour Sir James Meston, the popular and learned Lieutenant-Governor of the United Provinces, complained publicly that certain Hon'ble Members who were not well acquainted with the English language used to get their speeches written in English by other English knowing men and read them out in the Council. He also fully explained the defects arising from such a practice.

" This is the view of a British statesman, but it might be submitted that the leaders of the English knowing Indian community also admit that even highly English educated gentlemen fail to properly express themselves in a foreign language.

" A short time ago the Hon'ble Sir Dinshaw Edulji Wacha, member of the Imperial Council, complained that some of his colleagues in the Imperial Council made irrelevant lengthy speeches in English. In reply the Hon'ble Pandit Madan Mohan Malviya, who is considered to be one of the most eloquent Indian speakers in English, admitted in clear words that it was hard on his Indian colleagues to expect them to speak effectively in a foreign tongue not their mother tongue. The defects pointed out by Sir Dinshaw were due to the fact that it was difficult for not only an Indian but for each and every body in the world to express himself fully and most effectively in a foreign language.

" Not only in the Punjab but throughout India, the general view of sensible English knowing gentlemen is that in the Indian Councils a vernacular language should be used rather than English. For instance, Mr. V. P. Madho Rao, C.I.E., one of the foremost leaders of the Indian English knowing gentlemen in the Southern India, whose high abilities in English are admitted on all hands, laid a great stress in his speech recently delivered at Cuddalore on the point that vernacular languages should be used in the courts and Legislative Councils. In that speech he said that—

" In order that we may have real popular Government, it is essential that the proceedings of the Council and Courts should be in the vernacular of the country. What we have in British India is an unnatural state of things. We should make a departure from this state of affairs. Where would the Japanese be if the authors of the new Era had compelled the people to use a foreign language, say German, French, or English in their Courts, Administrative Offices or Legislative Councils? "

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"This is the opinion of Mr. Rao, but I would venture to ask that if the members of the British Parliament were ordinarily be required to speak in Urdu, how uncomfortable and inconvenient the members of the great assembly will feel there? As Mr. Rao has been on high posts in the Indian States, he, on the basis of his experience, expressed in that very speech that non-English knowing gentlemen always proved their high abilities while discussing public matters in their vernaculars. The *Tribune* which is considered a representative of the English knowing Hindu community in this Province, in discussing the subject in its issue of the 4th April 1917, wrote as follows:—

"Is there any political assembly in the world where popular representatives are required to make their influence felt upon Government by delivering speeches in a foreign language? Yet what is the objection to speaking in the vernacular such as Urdu, Hindi, Bengali, Marathi and Tamil in the Provinces where these languages are naturally understood by Indians and are learnt by officials?

"I believe this will be the first step of reform that will have to be taken in really nationalising the Government and making the Government feel that the Government is their very own. The great mass of the people will be able to follow the speeches in the Council whose business will acquire added importance. It is not impossible to express oneself in any of the developed vernacular languages of India on any subject, if English words and phrases are used to convey thoughts and sentiments that cannot well be expressed otherwise. The Punjab Council has always had a couple of members who preferred to speak in the vernacular, but this system has yet to be recognised and developed."

"Only about eight months ago the *Tribune* published the above note in support of the views of the Hon'ble Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya but to our great surprise, the same *Tribune* in the issue of day before yesterday (the 19th December 1917), tries to exasperate my Hon'ble colleague in the Council against my present Resolution. This is what the paper now says:—

"The Hon'ble Sayyad Makhdum Rajan Shah will move a Resolution to the effect that the language of the proceedings in the Punjab Legislative Council shall be Urdu, but that any member desiring to address the Council in English might be permitted to do so. This is the proposal which in the interests of the efficiency of the Council itself should be strenuously resisted. With due deference to such of the members as do not know English or cannot conduct proceedings in that language, it must be said in the larger interest of the Province that a non-English knowing member at best constitutes an anachronism and the sooner the existing state of things is remedied the better. The Resolution if accepted can only lower the standard of qualification demanded in a Legislator itself. It is as unjust to the interest of the Province to provide for the larger introduction of such men as cannot in the nature of things be in touch with the fountains of constitutional law or follow in an intelligent manner the working of the Imperial and the Provincial Councils of other parts of the country, much less of the Legislative Assembly in Great Britain and other advanced countries. We trust the Council will not make itself a party to such a retrograde proposal."

"Thus the said paper controverts its own former views by writing what is wholly inconsistent and diametrically opposed to its former views. As the paper in question has not even referred to its previous opinion on the subject and it has not given any reason whatsoever for a change in its former views, it is very difficult to say whether it has on account of weakness in its memory forgotten all its former views, or whether the change is due to some extraordinary improvement in its common sense or experience, or whether the change comes in because on the previous occasions the paper

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thought itself in bound to support a proposal which emanated from Pandit (Hon'ble Mr. Malaviya) and on the present occasion when the same proposal was expressed not by a Pandit but by a Sayyad the paper thought itself in duty bound to oppose it. If the last reason may be true, then I have no hesitation in saying that this special sort of English knowledge which produces this effect that on the one hand there are sermons for establishing Home Rule ; there are fascinating songs of the highest sympathy with non-English knowing masses of the countrymen, there are charming tunes for creating unity among Hindus and Muhammadans and there are plausible lessons to the countrymen to maintain consistency in their opinions to such a degree that the smallest change in the view of a public man is publicly ridiculed ; and on the other hand there is such an open declaration of narrow-mindedness in discriminating between Hindus and Muhammadans that it is considered expedient to openly bid good-bye to the high quality of consistency, to hold the absence of English knowledge as a crime to mention non-English knowing members of the Council (whether elected by the people or nominated by the Government) in terms of greatest hatred and insult to give solemn promises that English educated community is never anxious to monopolise the whole power and authority when vested with the boon of Home Rule and in the same breath to preach that non-English knowing Indians be ousted even from the Legislative Council, and that they may be deprived of the privileges which they enjoy on the present constitution. If these are the admirable effects of a special sort of English education in some of our countrymen, then I will at once say that the sooner this sort of education is ousted from our country the better.

"In any case, I hope, that our Council room will not be, in the least, affected by the mischievous propaganda preached by the *Tribune* in this matter.

"I do not like to make my speech lengthy with selections and abstracts, what I mean to say is that the general view of the English knowing community of not only the Punjab Province but throughout Indian Councils, is that the English language should not be used. There is no necessity for arguing on the self-evident fact that non-English knowing Indian gentlemen are naturally in favour of my proposal and the members of this class of people have so much preponderance in the population of this Province that the English knowing population has really no comparison with them in numbers.

"I hope that there will be no attempt to defeat my proposal on the basis of such a trifling and insignificant objection that there is no Shorthand-writing in Urdu and that consequently there will be some difficulty in reporting the Urdu speeches. In the first place the objection is very insignificant and in the second place the system of Urdu Shorthand-writing has already been invented and it can be improved in a very short time by a little encouragement. In any case, I am not going to waste the time of the Council by fully replying to such insignificant objection. To summarise the above I think I have fully proved that—

- ' (1) The amendment in the rule under discussion is not only necessary but quite essential in the interests of the non-English knowing members of the Council.
- ' (2) The real effect of this rule as it stands is, that it forces electors against their conscience to hesitate in selecting the non-English knowing Punjabis as their representatives howsoever they like them and consider them fit as Councillors.
- ' (3) As a matter of principle, all the members of this Council have equal rights, but the present rule curtails a good deal of the rights of non-English knowing members.

[*Makhdum Sayad Rajan Shah ; Khan Sahib Ikramulla Khan ; Mr. Thompson.*]

- (4) My proposal will prove a source of convenience to all the English knowing members whether they be more highly or less educated in English.
- (5) It will not cause any inconvenience to the present European members of this Council.
- (6) If under any special circumstances, a European member comes in the Council who cannot speak and understand Urdu, he can speak in English as well under the amendment proposed by me.
- (7) My proposal contemplates to amend a rule, which has never, on principle, been recognised nor it can ever be expected to be recognised, in any Legislative Council of the world out of India.
- (8) The amendment of this rule proposed by me is in accordance with the general view of the Punjab public.
- The consensus of the opinion of the sensible educated English knowing gentlemen of this or other provinces of India, who have expressed their opinion on this subject, is generally in favour of my resolution.
- The adoption of the amendment proposed by me will result in the admission of the real representatives of the Province in abundance and will make the proceedings of this Council most popular among the Punjab public.

“ Your Honour, in the courts of this Province Urdu is used generally, and only recently Your Honour has given an active proof of your foresightedness by maintaining Urdu as the Court language for the Sessions Court of Lahore in supersession of a previous Government notification.

“ If Urdu is preferably being maintained in Courts, the department which makes Laws for these Courts should necessarily have Urdu as its language.

“ I have moved this Resolution with the belief that it will receive a general support all round in the Council. In case this Resolution is accepted, the Punjab will prove to be a leader in offering a helping hand in the present war under Your Honour's patronage and the change proposed by me will be the greatest historical memory of Your Honour's *regime*.

“ In the end, may I expect the favour or concession from Your Honour and the Hon'ble Members of the Council, that the discussions on this Resolution in to-day's meeting of the Council, may take place in Urdu, so that non-English knowing members also be benefited by following it ?”

The Hon'ble Khan Sahib Ikramulla Khan spoke in Urdu a translation of which is as follows :—

“ I strongly support the resolution which has been moved by my Hon'ble friend Sayad Rajan Shah. He has dealt with it so ably and eloquently that there is nothing left for me to add. The remarks made by the *Tribune* in its issues of the 19th and 21st are such as one would not expect of it.

“ The Hon'ble mover has put the case very strongly, and I heartily support the resolution.”

The Hon'ble Mr. Thompson :—“ Your Honour,—I must begin by thanking the Hon'ble Member for the very generous but wholly undeserved compliment which he has paid to me personally. It makes me all the more painfully

[Mr. Thompson.]

conscious that it would have been more courteous if I had replied to his arguments in Urdu, but I must ask him to accept my apologies. My reason simply is that it would take me very much more time to put my thoughts into Urdu than to express them in my own mother tongue. Time is a commodity of which I have very little to spare at present.

"The Hon'ble Member has spoken with a great deal of feeling, and he has put forward a very good case from certain points of view for the amendment which he advocates. But I do not think that he has put forward anything which we can say removes his suggestion from the category of counsels of perfection. At the same time I am glad to be able to announce with the authority of His Honour that in future when questions are asked by Hon'ble Members who do not know English and are not in the habit of addressing this Council in English, answers will as far as possible be given in Urdu.

"But, Sir, we have to consider this resolution on wider grounds, and first I must make it quite clear what this resolution means. The rule, as it at present stands, runs as follows :—

'Any member may speak at the request and on behalf of another member who is unable to express himself in English. With the permission of the President any member may speak in Urdu.'

"The proposal is that in this rule the words 'English' and 'Urdu' should change places. That would mean that any Hon'ble Member who wishes to address the Council in English would have to obtain the permission of the President to do so. It means also that any Hon'ble Member who felt himself unequal to the task of expressing himself in Urdu might ask another Hon'ble Member to help him out of his difficulty and to speak for him. Now I quite see that there might be advantages in this. For instance if I had to prove with convincing logic the necessity for raising the income-tax to 8 annas in the rupee I could call on my friend the Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Lala Ram Saran Das to convince the Council on my behalf. Similarly if I had to advocate the confiscation of a press or to point out the pernicious character of the Home Rule propaganda I could count on the assistance of my friend Mr. Fazl-i-Hussain. If these results could be looked for, I think there are many of us who would be disposed to vote in favour of the resolution if only as a means of brightening the debates. But, Sir, in practice what would be the result? I believe myself that the result would be nothing at all. At the same time I feel that it is necessary to argue this resolution on the assumption that the Hon'ble Member will be successful in attaining the object he seeks. His object, no doubt, as he has explained to us in unequivocal terms, is to increase the number of speeches that are delivered in Urdu in this Council. Let us suppose that the resolution has been accepted and the rule amended, and that we have a very large increase in the number of Urdu speeches delivered in Council. Now, Sir, we have to preserve a record of those speeches. How is that to be done? A number of those speeches will be delivered *ex tempore*, and it is impossible to preserve a record of *ex tempore* speeches without the assistance of Shorthand writers. The Hon'ble Member has brushed aside the argument which he anticipated, and he tells us that he understands that a system of Shorthand in Urdu has been devised. All I can say, Sir, is that not very long ago enquiries were made in connection with the question of reporting evidence in courts as to whether such a system had been invented, and the answer was in the negative. I do not deny that there may be a few eccentric persons who have devised systems of Urdu Shorthand, but there is no recognised school and until there is one on which we can always count for the supply of Urdu Shorthand writers for the Council, it seems to me that it would be premature to consider this resolution. I therefore feel that this, at any rate, is a very solid reason for refusing to accept this resolution.

[Mr. Thompson.]

" If we have more Urdu speeches than we have at present we must face the certainty that we should have a record which at the very best would be but fragmentary and incomplete. It seems to me, Sir, that this reason in itself would be sufficient to justify me in asking the Council to reject this resolution. But this is not the only ground on which I base my request.

" If speeches are to be made in Urdu we have got to remember that the records of our proceedings are followed with interest in other provinces as well, and it is necessary for us to provide the leaders and politicians in other provinces with a record of the proceedings of our Council which they can follow. For that purpose it is necessary that the proceedings should be in English. Consequently the Urdu speeches must be translated. Who is to undertake this task? Is the Hon'ble Member who delivered the speech himself? That I think would be placing on him a burden which in many cases he would be unwilling, and in some cases unable to discharge. You may say we should have a special staff of translators. I agree. But the speeches must be translated well, and they must be given a literary form which will be worthy of the original. Translators who can produce work of that kind are few in number, and their charges are very high. You will hardly find them outside the ranks of those Indians who have received part, at any rate, of their education in England, and even with the best staff of translators in the world I believe that the result would in many cases be jejune and unsatisfactory. The rendering would tend to take on one hue and one style, and the speeches would be reduced to one dead level. The humour of my Hon'ble friend the Pandit would lose its sparkle and the eloquence of the representative of the University its charm. It would be like reading the speeches of Cicero in a Bohn translation. The result will be even in the most favourable circumstances unsatisfactory. It will be something which is neither English nor Urdu, something which it would be impossible to read with pleasure or to throw aside without relief.

" So far, Sir, I feel I have been on fairly firm ground in opposing this resolution. I have spoken of practical difficulties which make it almost impossible under existing circumstances for Government to contemplate the amendment which the Hon'ble Member proposes. But I should be very curious to know how the resolution strikes those Indian Members, and I think they are in a very considerable majority, who are able to express themselves in fluent and idiomatic English without difficulty. I have certain data to go upon in forecasting that their views will not be altogether favourable. I remember some years ago when I was a Judicial officer I made it a rule that all arguments in my court should be conducted in Urdu. The rule was not a popular one with the pleaders. They found it easier to conduct a legal argument in English than in Urdu. In fact in law English was their mother tongue and not Urdu. From their very earliest days in the Law College, at the law moots, at the Inns of Court and in Debating Societies at Home, everything from the A B C of Law onwards, had been studied, debated, talked about and thought about in English and not in Urdu, and I believe that it is the same in politics. The education of the young Indian to-day in politics is conducted on very much the same lines as are followed in England. The Indian student studies liberty in the works of John Stuart Mill. He endeavours with the assistance of Herbert Spencer to define the limits of State interference. He imbibes the doctrines of Hobbes in the language in which Hobbes wrote, and even foreign works are studied by him in the same translations as are read by his English fellow-students. Among his contemporaries in India those to whom he turns for his political instruction and guidance are men like Gokhale and Shastri whose works are accessible to him only through the medium of English, and if I were to ask the Hon'ble Member to name half a dozen original political works in Urdu I think he would find some difficulty in completing the list.

[Mr. Thompson ; R. B. Pandit Sheo Narain ; President.]

" In these circumstances it seems to me small wonder that educated Indian gentlemen should prefer to express themselves on political subjects in the language in which they have received their training and in which the conceptions find ready expression, rather than in Urdu in which even the very terminology of politics is hardly yet settled.

" There are other indications, Sir, of the feeling that exists among the English educated portion of the community on the resolution that is now before us. The Hon'ble Member has himself referred to and deplored an article that has recently appeared in the *Tribune*. But if the Hon'ble gentleman will reflect, he will find that there is hardly a political meeting in this country in which the bulk of the speeches are not delivered in English, and the experience of our own Council will help us to show what the popular view on the subject is. I have been a Member of this Council now for nearly five years. During all that time the rule has been as it stands in our Council Manual to-day. During all that time I have never heard a request for permission to speak in Urdu refused, and I have never yet heard a request for such permission made except by the Hon'ble Member and the Mazari Nawab who do not know English at all. That, Sir, does not look as though those Indian Members of this Council who find no difficulty in expressing themselves in English would agree to accept and act on the amendment which the Hon'ble Member has proposed.

" But, Sir, though I feel it incumbent on me to oppose this resolution, and in so doing I am speaking in the name of Government, the Hon'ble Member and a very small number of others who like him are unable to follow speeches in English have my very deepest sympathy. They attend Council, meeting after meeting, and sit through each session hour after hour, and I often think that they must feel like blind men at a cinema show. The noise tells them that the machine is still working, but all films to them are as one. They may be spared something, but they lose infinitely more, and to them there is no difference except in length between the most momentous pronouncement from the chair and the dullest dose of statistics ever administered in answer to a question.

" As I have said there are certain advantages which would accrue from the adoption of this amendment. It would enable certain of the Members of this Council to take a more prominent part in the debates than they do at present without any feeling of awkwardness. I quite recognise that it would give us great pleasure to hear them express themselves well in their own native tongue. Eloquence is still common among Indians. Amongst Englishmen it has generally speaking been strangled by the social conditions under which we exist. At the same time we retain our admiration for eloquence, and it would give us very keen artistic pleasure to listen to eloquent speeches in that copious and flexible medium of which the Hon'ble Member has shown himself a master. It is not without regret that Government has come to the conclusion on practical grounds that it must oppose this resolution. At the same time I have given reasons which appear to me to be conclusive. I have shown that there are practical objections which would render nugatory the amendment which the Hon'ble Member proposes, and I believe that even if it were accepted, it would remain a dead letter, and would make no difference in what I may call the linguistic co-efficient of our speeches. For these reasons I must ask the Council to reject the resolution.

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Pandit Sheo Narain :—" Will Your Honour permit me to address the Council in vernacular ? "

His Honour the President :—" Yes. "

[*Rai Bahadur Pandit Sheo Narain; Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Hussain.*]

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Pandit Sheo Narain then spoke in Urdu a translation of which is as follows :—

"Your Honour has been pleased to grant me permission and I would say a few words in regard to this resolution. The arguments put forward by the Hon'ble Sayad Sahib are very weighty and strong. As I am going to oppose the resolution I should like to explain that my opposition does not arise out of the fact that I, as a Hindu, have any bias against Urdu—in fact the Hon'ble Member probably knows that I am very fond of Urdu and whenever I get an opportunity I read Urdu literature.

"As the Hon'ble Mr. Thompson has explained there are practical difficulties in the way of accepting this resolution. I would even go further in pointing out the difficulties. I would be very glad when His Highness the Nizam's Urdu University would be established in his dominions when all necessary books would be translated, and we shall be able to express ourselves fully in Urdu, and the British Officers cultivate better taste for the vernaculars, which at present is declining. Then I shall be the first man to propose this resolution, and I would even go further and say that all the Acts should be passed in Urdu and that all the discussion on them should be in Urdu. At present all Acts are passed in English, and often there are discussions over the interpretation of every word. I do not know how one will be able to get over this difficulty when all Acts are passed in English.

"I would submit further that proficiency in Urdu now-a-days is not the same as it was before. It is very difficult for an English educated young man to prepare a correct speech in Urdu. Even those who do not know English try to put in as many words of English in their conversation as they can. There are very few men who can properly express themselves in idiomatic Urdu.

"Take for instance the case of the Irrigation Department. All the vocabulary relating thereto is in English, and you cannot properly express your ideas in Urdu without introducing English words in your speech. Similarly technical terms relating to medicine are such as cannot be found in any standard Urdu work.

"Another controversy that may follow in two or three years time, if the resolution is passed, is that some people will say that their mother tongue is not Urdu, but Punjabi, as they represent Punjabi-speaking population. They will want all the proceedings to be conducted and published in Gurmukhi. Similarly the Hindi-speaking men will want Hindi.

"English is now-a-days the medium of speech every where, in the Chief Court, the Councils and other meetings. I submit that English has now become essential and must remain so until by means of translations in Urdu both Englishmen and Indians became fully conversant with it.

"I would repeat again that I have very great sympathy for Urdu prose and poetry, and it is only in view of the difficulties that I have pointed out that I oppose the resolution."

The Hon'ble K. B. Mian Fazl-i-Husain :—"Your Honour,—The subject I believe, is of very great interest indeed not only from the literary point of view but also from a political point of view. It seems to me that the arguments that have been advanced by the Hon'ble mover with reference to his resolution have not been yet met at all. What he claims is this that Councils exist for the purpose of framing laws to be used in the Province. He further contends that the local legislature as at present constituted has a number of elected members, and that the only reason why the principle of

[K. B. Mian Fazl-i-Hussain.]

election has been introduced is that there should be real representation of the people. His third plea is that inasmuch as members are returned by their constituencies to represent them in Council they should be able to do so. Unless the rules are modified, a member who does not know English is unable to represent his constituency. A particular constituency has great faith in a Punjabi who does not know English and therefore returns that Punjabi. Why should the rules be so framed, as to prevent his taking part in the deliberations of the Council and render it impossible for him efficiently and effectively to represent his constituency. That I understand is the amount of logic involved in the plea in support of the resolution.

"I do not think the speech of the Hon'ble Mr. Thompson has tried to meet this aspect of the case.

"The second point taken by the Hon'ble mover is to the effect that it is often alleged by the officials that the English-knowing Indians are not the real representatives of the people and that they, on account of their training, their education and probably on account of their profession, take a particular view of political questions that come before the Council; while it is quite conceivable that the representatives of the non-English-knowing Punjabis entertain different views. Why should the rules be so framed as not to permit that section of the Punjabis being adequately represented in the Council? The Hon'ble Member who does not know English has no chance of taking part in the debates, he has no chance of making himself heard and he has no chance of hearing arguments. It comes practically to this that although the law allows the people to return a non-English knowing man whom they trust, the regulations of this Council do not allow that member to do his duty by his electorates. I think this is a very strong point and the members who have taken part in the debate have not tried to show where the mistake lies in the logic of the argument.

"Another point the Hon'ble mover makes is that the present regulations tend to create a gulf between the people of this Province and the educated Panjabees. There are no doubt a large number of us in the Punjab who have got English education more or less of the same sort as members of other provinces of India. This educated class of Indians tends to develop a particular school of thought. His point is—on the one hand Government takes up the position that the educated people are not representative of all classes of the people, and yet has made regulations which tend to give prominence to the English-knowing class. I think this position is absolutely sound, and the attitude taken by Government with reference to this particular resolution, if I may say so, is not at all consistent.

"Now with reference to the question that has been put on behalf of Government to the English-knowing Indians, I for one strongly support the resolution. I fully realise that the political development of India as a whole demands that there should be a *lingua franca*—English—for the whole of India, but I do not go any further, and I think the Hon'ble Mr. Thompson's patriotism for this province is not sufficiently strong if he says that in order to render our proceedings to be accessible to the people of Madras or Bombay, we should sacrifice the interests of the Punjab and not allow our vernacular speeches to go from the Punjab in their original humour and beauty. Why not let us make speeches in our own vernacular and let them go to the people and see how they are appreciated. Let the people thus educate themselves so that they may come to our way of thinking and improve themselves. If we find that we are talking above their heads, we may come to their level. I think in this way the Hon'ble Mr. Thompson might revise his position, and state whether he prefers that we should speak in English so that the Bengalis and Madrasis may admire us or whether we should speak in our own language so that the people of our own province may appreciate us.

[K. B. Mian Fazl-i-Hussain.]

"As to a particular disinclination to speak in our own language, I think there is a misunderstanding in the minds of our English friends. It is true that whenever a European officer, especially a judicial officer, tries to hear the arguments in the vernacular, there is a sort of feeling among the members of the Bar against the order, but I believe that that feeling is very largely due to misapprehension. They think that the idea of the presiding officer is that they do not know enough English to argue their cases well in that language. They feel very sore about it. They say that they have spent about 15 years or so in studying the language, and yet the presiding officer thinks so little of it that he would not allow them to speak it in court. Whenever the position has been made clear to the members of the Bar that the object of the presiding officers is not so much to discourage their arguing their cases in English, as to acquaint themselves better with the language of the country, they realise the position and take it in good part. Moreover, sometimes they fear that when the presiding officer is trying to familiarize himself with the language of the province, he may not at all be following their arguments. In that case some very good points that have been made in support of the claim may not be followed by the presiding officer at all. It is purely a personal sentiment that they are not considered to know English enough to argue their cases in English that explains the soreness, which is exhibited whenever a presiding officer tries to conduct the proceedings of his court in vernacular.

"As regards the difficulty of keeping records of speeches in vernacular is concerned, I think no one knows better than the Hon'ble Mr. Thompson that Urdu writing is shorthand by itself. Swift Urdu writers can take down speeches delivered in Urdu quite as fast as an English Shorthand-writer. I do not think that he will meet with any practical difficulty in regard to that. As to the work of translating our speeches into English I do not think it would be necessary either to trouble the members of Council or to maintain a translating department. Now-a-days the Vernacular Press is not slow to translate English speeches into vernacular and publish them broadcast. Why should we assume that the English Press will not be able to afford translators to translate our speeches into English and circulate them broadcast. I do not think we should be particularly anxious to save the English Press this trouble. I think it will be a very great help to the Vernacular Press, that is to say they will be able to publish our speeches at once to the masses who know the vernacular only. The English papers will have to maintain a translating department for the convenience of the non-vernacular-knowing classes.

"As to the difficulty about the proceedings of this Council so far as the European members are concerned, I can assure this Council that practice makes perfect. I have not the slightest doubt that if this resolution is carried, not only the members who have already been mentioned as particularly good at the vernacular, but also others will be able to make their speeches in vernacular quite as well as they are doing at present, and I have not the slightest doubt that the speeches of the Hon'ble Mr. Lumsden will lose nothing in charm and humour if he were to address the Council in vernacular. He will be able to do it quite as efficiently as he has been doing in English. Then it should be remembered that the non-official members are responsible to their constituencies and have to take part in the discussion a great deal, while the duties of official members are not as onerous at all. As a matter of fact, the official members have not got to make very lengthy speeches on resolutions while opposing or accepting them, and there is no reason to suppose that their power of speech is likely to be taxed very much. I understand that under the regulations of the Council as they exist at present the official members have no option in the matter of personal views, that is to say they do not make speeches in order to express their individual and personal views on any question. As a rule they have to express the settled views

[K. B. Mian Fazl-i-Hussain ; Mr. Thompson.]

of the Government. If this is correct, all they have to say is to give expression to the Government's views in their speeches and need not say anything more. Some people think that as a matter of routine the existence of official members in very many cases is meant for nothing more than actually for voting for or against a particular measure. That does not require a very great use of language. So I think on the whole it is necessary for this Council to take into consideration the fact that non-official members have to represent a very large number of people, and they cannot possibly do it efficiently unless the proceedings are conducted in the language they know well.

"I have no doubt that most of us, irrespective of religion or caste or creed, take the general question whether it is feasible and practicable to introduce the vernacular of the province as a medium of *speeches* or not. The word *speeches* I specially emphasize. Whatever our disputes may be as to the characters in which those speeches are to be written, when it comes to speaking I claim that there is no real difference. Whether we call it Punjabi or Hindi or Urdu, speech-making is the same, the difference is only as to the script, whether it is to be Gurmukhi, Hindi or Urdu. As to actual speaking, whether it is the Hon'ble Pandit Jowahir Lal from the south-eastern districts or Pandit Shco Narain who comes from the central districts or Malik Muhammad Amin or Diwan Daulat Rai who come from Rawalpindi, they will make speeches more or less in the same language, that is the language will be one which will be understood by all easily. The question of the rival claims of Punjabi, Hindi and Urdu is not really relevant to the matter under discussion, and that need not worry the Council at all now or in future.

"Then as to the use of English words in vernacular speeches, that no doubt has been and is the tendency, and I agree with my Hon'ble friend that it is deplorable, yet there is nothing like trying and there is no reason why we should not try to get over this difficulty.

"There is another argument advanced, and that is that the Acts will have to be in vernacular. So far as I know all the Bills that are introduced into this Council are translated into vernacular and published in the *Punjab Gazette* in vernacular. So I really do not see any very great difficulty in the way of this resolution. If there were need, there is no reason to suppose that men like Maulvi Nazir Ahmad or Shamsul-ul-Ulma, Zaka Ullah would not be available to do their duty, and translate the very best things from the European literature into the literature of the country.

"For these reasons, Your Honour, I support the resolution which is now before the Council."

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Hussain.—"The Hon'ble Sayad Rajan Shah asked me to reply on his behalf. As no Hon'ble Member has made a speech after mine, I have nothing to add."

The Hon'ble Mr. Thompson.—"May I make a small explanation, Sir? Mr. Fazl-i-Hussain has said that I have made no attempt to meet the strong points advanced by the Hon'ble mover. I think I have made it clear that I fully admit the force of a great many of his arguments. What I said was that in spite of the fact that he had made out a good case for the resolution as a counsel of perfection, there were practical difficulties in the way of our accepting it. Mr. Fazl-i-Hussain says that there is already in existence a system of shorthand in Urdu, that is to say that Urdu *shikasta* is a system of shorthand. This is an argument which I have often heard advanced, but never by anybody who has put it to the test. I do not believe that it is possible to write *shikasta* faster than 60 words a minute. An ordinary speaker speaks at the rate of 120 words a minute, and an efficient shorthand writer can take down up to 200 words a minute.

[Mr. Thompson ; Mr. Fazl-i-Hussain ; President.]

"The Hon'ble Member has also said that the English press, including the vernacular press, would do all it could in order to provide the public with good translations of the speeches. This again is not the point. The point is that Government must itself for the purposes of its own record maintain a translating department. Versions which get into the public press of speeches even in the language in which they have been delivered are not by any means always as perfect as they should be. It is too much to expect, I think, of the press under existing circumstances that it should undertake the work of producing a correct version of vernacular speeches."

The Hon'ble Mr. Fazl-i-Hussain.—"Your Honour, I rise to a point of order. Is the Hon'ble Member making a second speech?"

The Hon'ble Mr. Thompson.—"I was under the impression that I had a right of reply. But I may be wrong."

His Honour the President.—"The Hon'ble Member is in order."

The Hon'ble Mr. Thompson.—"I have made my meaning clear. I do not propose to add anything more to what I have said."

The resolution was put to the vote and negatived by 16 to 6.

ADJOURNMENT.

The Council adjourned *sine die*.

LAHORE :

The 21st December 1917. }

S. W. GRACEY,

Secretary, Legislative Council, Punjab.

APPENDIX A.

(SEE ANSWER TO QUESTION 71 (c).)

Statement of maintenance rate per mile of metalled roads fixed by Government
in calculating the consolidated grants to District Boards.

Division.	District.	Sanctioned by Government.	REMARKS.
Ambala ...	Hissar ...	Ra. 500	
	Rohtak ...	425	
	Gurgaon ...	400	
	Karnal ...	(c) 425	(a) Kankar.
	Ambala ...	(b) 725	(b) Stone metal.
	Simla ...	700	
Jullundur, ...	Kangra ...	...	No District Board roads in Simla.
	Hoshiarpur ...	...	No metalled roads in Kangra.
	Jullundur ...	750	
	Ludhiana ...	700	
	Ferozepore ...	500	
Lahore ...	Lahore ...	550	
	Amritsar ...	1,100	
	Gurdaspur ...	720	
	Sialkot ...	720	
	Gujranwala ...	650	
Rawalpindi ...	Gujrat ...	520	
	Sbahpur ...	467	
	Jhelum ...	500	
	Rawalpindi ...	350	
	Attock ...	350	
	Mianwali ...	400	
Multan ...	Montgomery ...	200	
	Lyallpur ...	...
	Jhang ...	1,000	
	Multan ...	500	
	Muzaffargarh ...	300	
	Dera Ghazi Khan ...	300	

APPENDIX B.

(SEE ANSWER TO QUESTION 14.)

List of Sub-Registrars who have attained the age of 55 and are below 60.

Serial No.	District.	Station.	Name.	Date of birth.	Whether Honorary or Departmental.
1	Bissar	Sirsa	Rai Sahib Ram Gopal	November 1862	Departmental.
2	Rohtak	Jhajjar	Resaldar Ram Singh	10th January 1860.	Ditto.
3	Ditto	Gohana	Khan Sahib Zulfkar Khan	15th January 1860.	Ditto.
4	Kangra	Nadaun	Raja Narinder Chand	January 1860	Honorary.
5	Hoshiarpur	Hoshiarpur	Sh. Manj-ud-din	1st November 1861.	Departmental.
6	Ferozepore	Mukhtar	Sardar Bhagat Singh	9th May 1861	Ditto.
7	Ditto	Fazilka	Sodhi Diwan Singh	20th December 1861.	Ditto.
8	Lahore	Canton	Sodhi Karam Singh	1st April 1862	Ditto.
9	Gurdaspur	Batala	Resaldar Mahbob Ali Shah	12th August 1862	Ditto.
10	Gujranwala	Wazirabad	Sardar Charanjit Singh	16th December 1867.	Ditto.
11	Jhelum	Chakwal	M. Nadir Ali Shah	December 1859.	Ditto.
12	Bawalpindi	Bawalpindi	Sh. Khan Muhammad	5th February 1860.	Ditto.
13	Ditto	Gujjar Khan	K. Begh Ali	24th January 1860.	Ditto.
14	Attock	Attock	S. Muhammad Shah	1860	Ditto.

APPENDIX C.

(SEE ANSWER TO QUESTION 14.)

List of Sub-Registrars over 60 years of age.

Serial No.	District.	Station.	Name.	Date of birth.	Whether Honorary or Departmental.
1	Gurgaon	Gurgaon	M. Sayad Muhammad	12th August 1852	Honorary.
2	Ditto	Rewari	Lala Makhan Lal	11th October 1855.	Departmental.
3	Ditto	Feridabad	S. Mustafa Hussian	1st April 1853	Ditto.
4	Karnal	Panipat	Colonel Mohammad Akram Khan	1866	Ditto.
5	Ambala	Kharrar	Sardar Bahadur Harman Singh	1857.	Honorary.
6	Kangra	Kulcheh	Raja Ram Pal	22nd November 1849.	Ditto.
7	Ditto	Indoura	Ch. Mulla Singh	8th March 1854	Ditto.
8	Ferozepore	Zira	Lala Jowala Pershad	28th February 1852.	Departmental.
9	Jhang	Garb Maharaja	Mr. A. Broadway	22nd July 1854	Honorary.
10	Montgomery	Pakpattan	Lala Ganga Ram	19th January 1860.	Ditto.
11	Gurdaspur	Gurdaspur	S. Major Alla Baksh	17th July 1857	Departmental.

APPENDIX D.

(SEE ANSWER TO QUESTION NO. 25.)

Statement showing the number of cases for each district in the Province in which the insolvents were convicted under section 43 (2) of the Provincial Insolvency Act, III of 1907.

District.	1912.	1913.	1914.	1915.	1916.
Ambala	1	3
Simla
Karnal
Rohatak
Ludhiana	7	...	...
Jullundur	1	...	2	...
Hoshiarpur
Kangra	1
Kulu
Amritsar	1
Gurdaspur	3	2	...
Sialkot	1	...	...
Gujranwala	1	1	...	...
Gujrat	1	...	...	...	...
Montgomery	4	...	...
Lahore	1	...	5	...
Ferozepore	3	2
Hissar	2
Gurgaon	1	...	...
Multan	1	...	...	...	...
Muzaffargarh
Dera Ghazi Khan
Jhelum	9
Rawalpindi	3	...	...	3	...
Attock	2	...	...	...
Mianwali	1	...	...
Shahpur
Jhang (civil)	2	...	...
Lyallpur	3	3	1	...
Jhang (criminal)
Total	5	8	23	17	18