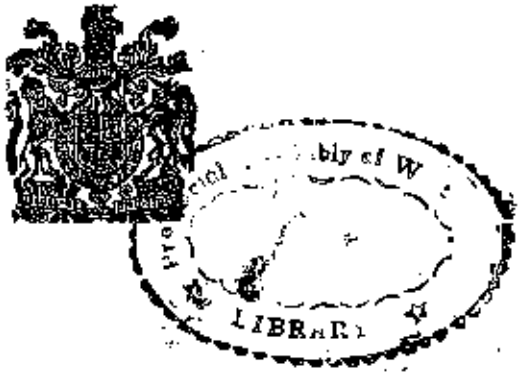
THE
Punjab Legislative Council Debates.

From 26th November 1928 to 5th March 1929

Vol. XII

Part-I

OFFICIAL REPORT.



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1929.

PRINCIPAL OFFICERS OF THE PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

President.

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Shaikh Abdul Qadir, Bar.-at-Law.

Deputy President.

Sardar Mohindar Singh, Bar.-at-Law.

Secretary to the Council; Sardar Abnasha Singh.

Assistant Secretary to the Council; Hakim Ahmad Shujaa.

PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

LIST OF MEMBERS.

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS AND MINISTERS.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain, Kt., Revenue Member to Government, Punjab.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. M. Stow, O. B. E., I. C. S., Finance Member to Government, Punjab.

The Hon'ble Sardar Sir Jogendra Singh, Minister for Agriculture (Sikh), Landholders.

The Hon'ble Mr. Manohar Lal, M. A., Minister for Education (Punjab University).

The Hon'ble Malik Firoz Khan Noon, Minister for Local Self-Government, Shahpur East (Muhammadan), Rural.

I.—OFFICIALS NOMINATED.

Astbury, Mr. A. R., C. I. E., M. I. C. E., Secretary to Government, Punjab, Public Works Department (Buildings and Roads Branch).

Beazley, Mr. J. G., C. I. E., I. C. S., Offg. Chief Secretary to Government, Punjab.

Cowan, Mr. H. M., I. C. S., Home Secretary to Government, Punjab.

Craik, Mr. H. D., C. S. I., I. C. S., Financial Commissioner and Secretary to Government, Punjab, Development Department.

Gill, Colonel C. A., D. P. H., I. M. S., Director of Public Health, Punjab.

Mitchell, Mr. Alan, I. C. S., Offg. Secretary to Government, Punjab, Transferred Departments.

Muzaffar Khan, Khan Bahadur Nawab, Director of Information Bureau, Punjab.

Penny, Mr. J. D., I. C. S., Secretary to Government, Punjab, Finance Department.

Sale, Mr. S. L., I. C. S., Legal Remembrancer and Secretary to Government, Punjab, Legislative Department.

Sanderson, Mr. R., I. E. S., Director of Public Instruction, Punjab.

Smith, Mr. J. B. G., C. I. E., Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, Irrigation Branch.

Townsend, Mr. C. A. H., C. I. E., I. C. S., Financial Commissioner, Punjab.

Wilson, Mr. W. R., I. C. S., Revenue Secretary to Government, Punjab.

II.—NON-OFFICIALS NOMINATED.

Abdul Qadir, Khan Bahadur Sheikh, Sir, Kt., Representative, General Interests.

Dalpat Singh, Honorary Captain, Sardar Bahadur, I.O.M., M. V. O., Representative of the Punjab Officers and Soldiers of His Majesty's Indian Forces.

Ghani, Mr. M. A., Representative of the Labouring Classes.

Maya Das, Mr. Ernest, B. A., Representative of the Indian Christians.

Hattan Chand, Rai Bahadur Lala, O. B. E., Representative, General Interests.

Roberts, Mr. Owen, Representative of the European and Anglo-Indian Communities.

Shave, Dr. (Mrs.) M. C. Representative of the European and Anglo-Indian Communities.

Sheo Narayan Singh, Sardar Bahadur Sardar, C. I. E., Representative, General Interests.

III.—ELECTED.

Afzal Haq, Chaudhri, Hoshiarpur-*cum*-Ludhiana (Muhammadan), Rural.

Ahmad Yar Khan, Daultana, Mian, Multan East (Muhammadan), Rural.

Akbar Ali, Pir, B. A., LL. B., Ferozepore (Muhammadan), Rural.

Ali Ahmad, Chaudhri, Gujranwala (Muhammadan), Rural.

Balbir Singh, Rao Bahadur, Captain, Rao, O.B.E., Gurgaon (Non-Muhammadan), Rural.

Baldev Singh, Chaudhri, B.A., B.T., North-West Rohtak (Non-Muhammadan), Rural.

Bishan Singh, Sardar, Sialkot-*cum*-Gurdaspur (Sikh), Rural.

Bodh Raj, Lala, M.A., LL.B., West Punjab Towns (Non-Muhammadan), Urban.

Buta Singh, Sardar, B.A., LL.B., Multan Division and Sheikhupura (Sikh), Rural.

Chhajju Ram, Chaudhri, C.I.E., Hissar (Non-Muhammadan), Rural.

Chhottu Ram, Rai Sahib, Chaudhri, B.A., LL.B., South-East Rohtak (Non-Muhammadan), Rural.

Daulat Ram, Kalia, Rai Bahadur Pandit, M.B.E., East and West Central Towns (Non-Muhammadan), Urban.

Dhanpat Rai, Rai Bahadur, Lala, Punjab Industries.

Din Muhammad, Mr. M.A., LL.B., East and West Central Towns (Muhammadan), Urban.

Duli Chand, Chaudhri, Karnal (Non-Muhammadan), Rural.

Faiz Muhammad, Shaikh, B.A., LL.B., Dera Ghazi Khan (Muhammadan), Rural.

Fateh Singh, Sardar Sahib Sardar, Ferozepore (Sikh), Rural.

Fazl Ali, Khan Bahadur Chaudhri, M.B.E., O.B.E., Gujrat East (Muhammadan), Urban.

Firoz-ud-Din Khan, Rana, B.A., LL.B., South-East Towns (Muhammadan), Urban.

Ganga Ram, Rai Sahib Lala, Ambala-*cum*-Simla (Non-Muhammadan), Rural.

Gokul Chand, Narang, Dr. M.A., Ph.D., North-West Towns (Non-Muhammadan), Urban.

Gopal Das, Lala, Lahore and Ferozepore-*cum*-Sheikhupura (Non-Muhammadan), Rural.

Gopi Chand, Bhargava, Dr., M.B., B.S., Lahore City (Non-Muhammadan), Urban.

Gray, Mr. V. F., Punjab Chamber of Commerce and Trades Association Commerce.

Habib Ullah, Khan Bahadur, Sardar, Lahore (Muhammadan), Rural.

Harbakhsh Singh, Sardar, B.A., Hoshiarpur and Kangra (Sikh), Rural.

Hari Singh, Sardar, Ambala Division (Sikh), Rural.

Hira Singh, Narli, Sardar, Lahore (Sikh), Rural.

Joti Parshad, Lala, South-East Towns (Non-Muhammadan), Urban.

Kartar Singh, Bedi, Baba, Lyallpur (Sikh), Rural.

Kesar Singh, Chaudhri, Amritsar-*cum*-Gurdaspur (Non-Muhammadan), Rural.

Kesho Ram, Sekhri, Lala, B.A., LL.B., Amritsar City (Non-Muhammadan), Urban.

Khan Muhammad Khan, Wagha, Malik, Sheikhupura (Muhammadan), Rural.

Labh Singh, Mr., M.A., LL.B., (Cantab.), Rawalpindi Division and Lahore Division North (Non-Muhammadan), Rural.

Maqbool Mahmood, Mir, B.A., B. Lit., Amritsar (Muhammadan), Rural.

Mehar Chand, Pandit, B.A., Jullundur-*cum*-Ludhiana (Non-Muhammadan), Rural.

Mohan Lal, Rai Bahadur, Lala, B.A., LL.B., North-East Towns (Non-Muhammadan), Urban.

Mohindar Singh, Sardar, Ludhiana (Sikh), Rural.

Mubarik Ali Shah, Sayad, Jhang (Muhammadan), Rural.

Muhammad Abdullah Khan, Khan, Muzaffargarh (Muhammadan), Rural.

Muhammadan Abdul Rahman Khan, Chaudhri, Jullundur (Muhammadan), Rural.

Muhammad Alam, Dr. Shaikh, West Punjab Towns (Muhammadan), Urban.

Muhammad Amin Khan, Khan Bahadur, Malik, O.B.E., Attock (Muhammadan), Rural.

Muhammad Hayat, Qureshi, Khan Bahadur Mian, C.I.E., Shahpur West (Muhammadan), Rural.

Muhammad Husain, Sayad, Montgomery (Muhammadan), Rural.

Muhammad Iqbal, Dr. Sir, M.A., Ph.D., Lahore City (Muhammadan), Urban.

Muhammad Jamal Khan, Leghari, Khan Bahadur, Nawab, Baloch Tumandars (Landholders).

Muhammad Raza Shah, Gilani, Makhdumzada, Sayad, Multan West (Muhammadan), Rural.

Muhammad Sadiq, Shaikh, Amritsar City (Muhammadan), Urban.

Muhammad Saif Ullah Khan, Khan Sahib Khan, Mianwali (Muhammadan), Rural.

Nanak Chand, Pandit, M.A., Hoshiarpur (Non-Muhammadan), Rural.

Narain Singh, Sardar, B.A., LL.B., Rawalpindi Division and Gujranwala (Sikh), Rural.

Narendra Nath, Diwan Bahadur Raja, M.A., Punjab Landholders (General).

Nur Khan, Risaldar Bahadur, Rawalpindi (Muhammadan), Rural.

Partap Singh, Sardar, Jullundur (Sikh), Rural.

Raghbir Singh, Honorary Lieut., Sardar, O.B.E., Amritsar (Sikh), Rural.

Rahim Bakhsh, Maulvi Sir, K.C.I.E., Ambala Division, North-East (Muhammadan), Rural.

Ram Singh, Chaudhri, Kangra (Non-Muhammadan), Rural.

Sadullah Khan, Mian, Lyallpur South (Muhammadan), Rural.

Sewak Ram, Rai Bahadur, Lala, Multan Division (Non-Muhammadan), Rural.

Shahadat Khan, Rai, Lyallpur North (Muhammadan), Rural.

Sikandar Hyat Khan, Captain Sirdar, K.B., M.B.E., (Muhammadan), Landholders.

Talib Mehdi Khan, Malik, Nawab Major, Jhelum (Muhammadan), Rural.

Ujjal Singh, Sardar, M.A., Sikh (Urban).

Umar Hayat, Chaudhri, Gujrat West (Muhammadan), Rural.

Yasin Khan, Chaudhri, B.A., LL.B., Gurgaon-*cum*-Hissar, (Muhammadan), Rural.

Zafrullah Khan, Chaudhri, B.A., LL.B., Sialkot (Muhammadan), Rural.

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PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Monday, the 26th November 1928.

ADDRESS BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR.

His Excellency the Governor arrived in procession with the officers of the Council and his personal staff at 2 P.M. and took his seat on the throne.

His Excellency the Governor then addressed the Council as follows:—

BEFORE I proceed to dwell on other topics, I have an obligation to discharge. His Excellency Sir Malcolm Hailey was greatly distressed that circumstances compelled him to depart from the Province without leaving time, before his departure, for an opportunity for a final meeting with the Members of the Punjab Legislative Council, and for bidding farewell to them. In consequence, he has asked me to convey the following message from him to the President and Members of the Punjab Legislative Council, which I gladly proceed to do:—

"I deeply regret that circumstances have prevented me from meeting the Members of the Punjab Legislative Council before my departure, and taking a formal farewell of them. My regret does not lie merely in the fact that I have not had the opportunity of reviewing with them the events of years which will, I am convinced, be acknowledged to have been of great importance in the history of the Punjab; nor even in the fact that I have been unable to pay a final tribute to the spirit of co-operation and responsibility which has been shown by the Council in dealing with the problems of political and material development during this period. My real regret lies in the fact that I have not been able to take a personal farewell of my friends in the Council, and to wish them happiness in their own lives, and success in their service to the cause of their fellow citizens in the Punjab. But that wish is heartfelt; I offer it to them not only in all sincerity, but in all gratitude for the friendship they have given me."

Here his message ends. I am confident that I express a feeling, general in the Province, when I say that Sir Malcolm has left it carrying away with him a rich store of genuine gratitude and admiration. I need not dwell on the great technical excellence of his work, on the ripe wisdom, the all-embracing energy and the boundless enthusiasm which he gave unreservedly to further the best interests of the development of the Province in a notable period of progress and expansion: for these are well known and their memory will long be cherished; but within the walls of this Council Chamber perhaps especially, a recollection will linger of a head of the administration who thoroughly understood the spirit and balance underlying the constitution introduced by the Government of India Act of 1919 and its potentialities, of one who, as far as might properly lie within his scope as Governor, was determined wholeheartedly to devote his great capacities to assist in co-ordinating the working of the constitutional machine, so that the new opportunities might be utilised to the full, and that all the parts of the machine might function together smoothly and efficiently for the greater prosperity and welfare of the people of the Province.

In the same furrows I shall strive to guide my course in the service of the Province. If I can count upon any asset to help me in my difficult task, it will be upon my past association with this Council as a Member of it. For while serving in the ranks of the Members of the Council, I have been fully conscious of the part they have played in moulding the destinies of the Province, in stimulating the growth of political responsibility and in aiding the development of the Province in the best interests of those whom they represent. I realize the sincere desire to effect improvements with which they are animated, and the extent to which their considerations of questions are rightly influenced and moderated by a comprehension of the complexity of administrative problems and of the wide reactions which may be involved in some administrative change. Though I may no longer in my present position take a part in debates on the floor of the House, or in this manner assist in those interchanges within these walls by the impact of which new departures in important policies are hammered out and matured, yet my past association with the Members as a Member may help me more fully to appreciate the real atmosphere which prevails regarding important questions and the true inwardness of the spirit which underlies the issue of your deliberations on a particular point at a particular time. I am likewise in no danger of minimising the great importance which is to be attached to the Council as the leading element in public life in the Province and as the focus of aspirations and interests of the many classes of the people of the Punjab. I shall remain firm in the conviction that wisdom and sobriety of view will continue to march hand in hand with sincerity of purpose and enthusiasm in working for the moral and material welfare of the Province in this Council.

Before I pass on to discuss some questions in which the Legislative Council has been interested, let me briefly refer to a matter which has been occupying the attention of the public both in and outside the Province—I mean the sudden death of Lala Lajpat Rai. I freely join in the tributes of those who testify to his sustained work for social improvement, the amelioration of the conditions of the masses and educational development; and while there were points both of creed and method in his political programme, upon which other schools of thought held susbtantially differing views, no one—and I include myself—can fail to appreciate the devotion with which he continuously laboured for those political ideals which he conceived to be in the interests of the advance of his country.

Let me now turn to the developments which have taken place in connection with certain questions of special interest to the Legislature. The Punjab Legislative Council passed the Punjab Land Revenue (Amendment) Bill on the 11th of May last. The Council will recollect that this measure was introduced with the object of implementing the recommendation of the Joint Select Committee of the Houses of Parliament to the effect that the time had come to embody in the law the main principles by which the land revenue is determined, the methods of valuation, the pitch of assessment, the periods of revision, the graduation of enhancements and the other chief processes which touch the well-being of the revenue payers. In his closing speech in the debate, the Hon'ble Revenue Member made it clear that the amendments passed by the Council had modified the Bill in very

important particulars. The Bill was originally introduced after discussion with and by the permission of the Government of India; and the modifications consequent from the amendments adopted by the Legislature had a direct bearing on some of the points which had been the subject of discussion with the Government of India prior to the receipt of their permission to proceed with the introduction of the Bill. In these circumstances, it became necessary both for the Government and the Governor carefully to examine the situation created by the amendments in the Bill, as passed, in relation to the stipulations regarding matters of principle made by the Government of India, the practice and needs of this Province and the provisions of other similar legislation elsewhere. This examination had not been concluded before Sir Malcolm Hailey gave over charge in this Province. It was subsequently finished; and after due consideration of the several alternatives open to me, I have decided to reserve the Bill for the consideration of the Governor-General, and the Bill has been submitted accordingly under rule 8 of the Reservation of Bills Rules.

On numerous occasions Members of the Legislature have displayed a close interest in the problems of the Muzaffargarh district which we have been wont to regard as one of the backward districts of the Province. This interest may be said to have reached its culminating point in a resolution moved by the Member for the Montgomery Muhammadan rural constituency on the 9th of May last, urging Government to give effect to the recommendations embodied in the report of Mr. Anderson, the officer who had been placed on special duty to enquire into the disabilities affecting the district and the character of the relief required. Government has now considered the views and suggestions expressed by the Members of this House from time to time, and has also examined the report of the officer on special duty and the opinions of the local authorities, and is issuing a resolution stating its conclusions and setting forth those measures of amelioration, which it seems practicable to adopt. The conclusions of Government cover important questions such as the improvement of irrigation, medical relief and public health, educational facilities, agricultural progress, the betterment of living conditions and the relief of indebtedness and economic stress. We must not expect to perform sudden miracles; but I believe that the resolution will demonstrate the substantial nature of the steps adopted for tackling a problem, the solution of which will call both for continuous effort and attention from the departments of Government and for co-operation and response from the people of the district also for a number of years to come. It is too early to predict; but it is the earnest desire of Government to bring this district up to the standard of other districts now more fortunately circumstanced; and I am confident that the steps we are taking should lead in that direction, and that the day is not far off, when backward conditions, so far as it lies in our power to remove them, will no longer be a characteristic of this district.

While touching on this subject, I should like to refer generally to what is known as "Village Uplift." This term has usually been associated with a special movement started and still in progress in Gurgaon. Without wishing in any way to belittle the fine spirit and enthusiasm which lay behind the work in that district, I may point out that it is not peculiar to Gurgaon. In reality, the work is more universal and is connected with what the district

boards and rural community councils and other bodies in many parts of the province are already doing, in a greater or lesser degree, in connection with popularising and making known the fields in which the beneficent departments are labouring. It is connected with inducing those whom the labours of these departments are primarily destined to benefit, to take the fullest advantage of that improvement in their conditions of living, which the efforts of these departments are striving to effect. There have been some allegations in the Press that Government is indifferent to rural uplift work and is doing too little to foster it. This appears to be a complete misconception. Government is strongly in favour of a direct effort to overcome whatever obstacles apathy, ignorance or innate conservatism may place in the way of the improvement of the conditions of rural life or of the poorer and more backward classes in urban areas. We have for some time past been striving to ameliorate those conditions by the spread of educational and physical development, by the encouragement of the co-operative movement, by the expansion of facilities for medical relief and public health, by efforts for the stimulation of agriculture and industries, by improvement of communications and other means. But we fully realize that without some driving force of organised enthusiasm or some special propagandist effort, many may fail to understand or avail themselves of the ways and means that can be adopted for the betterment of the conditions of living. We believe that the alliance of such activities is essential to success and work in the beneficent departments, and that these activities deserve help so far as we can provide for it within our financial resources. But when we give help of this kind, as a matter of principle, we consider that such activities should be linked up with, and worked under definite established organizations, such as, for instance, district boards and rural community councils, so as to provide for the regular submission of budgets, the application of audit to expenditure, and, above all, so as to secure continuity and regularity of action and the necessary element of responsibility. Such relation with established organizations is also essential in order to retain touch with the beneficent departments themselves. We also believe that before help is given, the programme should be definitely thought out and the financial implications of schemes should be fully understood. It will harm, rather than help the movement, to start some far-reaching scheme, for the fruition of which no adequate funds can be secured from any source. Subject to these reasonable safeguards in the interests of regularity and continuity and for the association of responsible and representative local organizations with the movement, the movement is clearly one which may count upon recognition, encouragement and support within reasonable limits from the Government.

Another matter which from time to time has commanded the interest of this Legislative Council, is the *batai* jagir system in Dera Ghazi Khan. On the 2nd of March, 1925, the Hon'ble Member for Muzaffargarh moved a Resolution recommending "the abolition of the system of *jinsi batai* as it exists in part of the Dera Ghazi Khan district." The Hon'ble Member in charge of the Revenue portfolio, after referring to the intricacies of the question and its inter-connection with other rights, privileges and duties of the Tumandars, gave an undertaking that Government would arrange to abolish the system of *jinsi batai* within five years. Since this assurance was

given, the need for speeding up the abolition has been emphasised by Members of this House on numerous occasions by interpellations and in the budget debates. As was anticipated by Government, the introduction of a change from this ancient system, dating back to a time when the Tumandars were farmers of land revenue and passing through the stage of their transformation from revenue farmers to assignees, has been a difficult process, full of complications and reactions on other privileges of Tumandars and specialised administrative arrangements. The Government of India which was concerned on the point of political jagirs, was addressed at the beginning of the year and its assent to our recommendations in favour of the abolition of the *batai* jagir system has been recently received. The Punjab Government have now issued orders abolishing the system throughout the Dera Ghazi Khan district with effect from the present *kharif*. In future, the Tumandars concerned will be granted assignments of a fixed annual sum in cash for the term of Settlement, roughly equivalent to the nominal cash value of their *batai* Jagirs as appraised at the last revision of Settlement. The abolition of the *batai* jagirs results in financial loss to the Tumandars: and though Government is not under an obligation to award any compensation for the abolition of the *batai* system, it is anxious that the emoluments of those Tumandars who under the old arrangements have rendered good service to the State in the past, should not be curtailed owing to the change in system. It has been decided that in addition to the existing *inams* converted into cash, cash *inams* should also be fixed for the Tumandars, approximately equivalent to the amount of the old *inam*. Both *inams* will be subject to the same conditions as were attached to the old jagirs. Thus, the archaic system, which in the changes of the times had begun to develop elements of inconvenience and friction, has now been replaced, without, it is hoped, any loss of the benefits it secured, by arrangements more suitable to present-day conditions and more acceptable to those mainly concerned.

The Council will recollect the debates which have taken place in the House, regarding the exemption of swords from restrictions under the Indian Arms Act. Last year Government decided to recommend exemption as an experiment in eight districts of the Province, and the Government of India issued a notification introducing exemption in those districts from the 19th July, 1927. It was the intention of Government that, if the result of the withdrawal of restrictions in those districts established that the privilege could be further extended without danger, a further recommendation would be made. The situation has again been reviewed; and Government has come to the conclusion that the step taken in 1927 has not led to an increase in the number of violent crimes in which this class of weapon was used. It has, therefore, recommended to the Government of India that the scope of the experiment should be extended by adding nine more districts of the Province, where the records of crime particularly as regards crimes of violence such as dacoity, riot, grievous hurt, murder and culpable homicide, have been comparatively low. The Government of India have accepted the recommendation, and the districts of Rohtak, Jullundur, Gurdaspur, Sialkot, Jhelum, Ludhiana, Gujranwala, Gujrat and Attock have been added to the existing list of eight. The experiment will henceforward be in force in more than half of the districts in the Province and in some districts in each division.

I do not wish to prejudice or influence any debate which may take place as regards the Regulation of Accounts Bill; but I wish to give the Council a few facts regarding the Bill, so far as I am personally concerned in the matter. In addressing the Legislature in October, 1926, my predecessor gave his reasons for not commending the Bill, as passed by the Council, for the final assent of the Governor-General and for not returning it to the Council for reconsideration. At the same time, he gave the supporters of the Bill an assurance that Government was convinced that some legislation would be beneficial for the regulation of certain classes of accounts and that steps would be taken to place a Government Bill of a somewhat simpler and possibly more restricted scope before the Council. In that conviction Government have remained firm; and since then we have been engaged in trying to evolve another Bill. Our aim, as explained by Sir Malcolm Hailey, has been to draft a Bill for securing an improved system of keeping accounts as between certain classes of creditors and debtors, which would give to the latter a means of ascertaining periodically how their accounts stand and how they are made up. At the same time, we desire to avoid, as clearly undesirable, *firstly*, any unnecessary degree of regimentation which might tend unduly to harass the lender and actually to constrict the facilities for credit so useful in our rural system of economy, and *secondly*, interference with accounts connected with trade and commerce. We have also been aiming at framing provisions in such a way as to be simple of interpretation and not to add to the volume or complexity of civil litigation. I must confess that in our efforts hitherto we have unfortunately failed owing to technical difficulties in the drafting. Whenever we seem to be approaching a draft which may achieve the objects we have in view, we find after scrutiny from the angle of view of probable interpretation in the Courts that the wording we propose for employment clearly fails to pass the last test I have mentioned: and we have to begin our efforts afresh. I have referred to the matter in some detail, as I was until recently personally in charge of the department concerned; and I am anxious that the Legislature should understand that the failure up to the present time to produce a draft measure is one not of intention or effort, but mainly of technical dexterity. We shall welcome any helpful suggestions from those interested in such a measure; and the Home Member will be glad to discuss any suggestions which the latter may desire to make.

From the point of view of agricultural prosperity, the season has been most inauspicious. The wheat failure of last *rabi* caused considerable loss to cultivators and land-owners in the Central Punjab, and necessitated the remission of 40 lakhs of land revenue and *abiana* and the suspensions of further sums totalling 2 lakhs of rupees. This was followed by a most unsatisfactory monsoon. Scanty and partial rain fell in some places in July; but August in the plains throughout the Province was entirely rainless. In parts of the Province in consequence, the unirrigated *kharif* crop was either not sown or withered after sowing, while even on irrigated land the crop generally suffered to some extent in quality. Heavy rain fell at the beginning of September in the districts through which the Chenab and Jhelum rivers take their course, causing almost unprecedented and disastrous floods in the riverain portions of the Jhelum, Gujrat, Shahpur, Sialkot and

Gujranwala districts, and to a lesser extent in Jhang and Multan. These floods imperilled the safety of the headworks of several of our great canals, but I am glad to say that they escaped vital damage. This rainfall, while it brought benefit to the uplands of the Central Punjab, was not sufficiently extensive materially to relieve the situation in the south-east, west, or north-west of the Province. Prompt measures were taken for the relief of those areas which had suffered by flood. Special arrangements were made for the inspection of the damage to *kharif* crops in these riverains. Large sums of *Takari*, totalling 8¾ lakhs, were placed at the disposal of the Commissioners concerned for distribution to cultivators and landowners for the purchase of seed, for the replacement of cattle swept away in the flood and for the rehabilitation of damaged wells. Special steps were taken to provide seed for *rabi* sowings where it was required. One lakh and thirty thousand rupees were transferred from the Provincial Famine Insurance Fund for gratuitous relief in cases of destitution. Application was also made to the Trustees of the Indian People's Famine Trust for assistance; and a lakh of rupees were received for grants for expenditure on specified objects in the affected areas. Appeals were also made to private charity by local Relief Fund Committees and through a central movement organized under the auspices of the Chairman and Vice-President of the Provincial Red Cross Society. The collections of the latter agency reached a total of Rs. 52,000, while in one of the affected districts alone a Relief Society collected and distributed as much as Rs. 20,000. I take this opportunity of expressing my appreciation of the excellent work which has been done by those who served on local Committees or were connected with the Central Fund and of the munificence of those who have assisted these organizations with money. The attitude of the people, who suffered in the floods, has also been above all praise. They have borne their misfortunes with a self-reliance and resource worthy of the best traditions of the province. The Deputy Commissioners of the districts concerned and the officials and non-officials associated with them are likewise to be congratulated on the promptness and energy with which they investigated the extent of the damage done and the need for assistance, and the great care they have taken in distributing relief where it was needed.

As regards tracts, other than the riverains which have suffered in the floods, Government has taken special steps to keep informed of the areas in which *kharif* crops have suffered deterioration owing to the fickleness of the monsoon, and of the extent of the departure from normality. The position as regards fodder is being carefully watched. Fodder concessions have been given already in 12 districts and more will be arranged if they are required. The prevailing crop conditions, particularly as regards the cotton crop pickings which are still in progress, will be carefully and sympathetically considered when full information is available. The vagaries of the season have brought disappointment both to Government and the people, but we must bear it with fortitude and hope for better times.

In spite of these difficulties, I trust that with mutual co-operation and good-will, the Government and the Legislative Council may be enabled steadily and successfully to continue the work upon which they have been engaged for a number of years past for the furtherance of the development and progress of the Punjab and the greater well-being of its people.

His Excellency the Governor then left the Council Chamber and the proceedings terminated.

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PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

3RD SESSION OF THE 3RD PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Wednesday, the 28th November 1928.

THE Council met at the Council Chamber at two of the clock. Mr. President in the Chair.

OATH OF OFFICE.

The following members were sworn in :—

TOWNSEND, MR. C. A. H. (Official, nominated).
ASTBURY, MR. A. R. (Official, nominated).
SMITH, MR. J. B. G. (official, nominated).
SALE, MR. S. L. (Official, nominated).
SHAVE, DR. (MRS.) M. C. (Non-official, nominated).

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

PUNJAB CIVIL SERVICE (EXECUTIVE BRANCH).

***1430. Lala Mohan Lal :** Will the Chief Secretary to Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) how many members of the Punjab Civil Service (Executive Branch) reached the time scale of Rs. 850 during each of the past seven years and how many of them in each year had to wait in that grade for one year, two years, three years or for a longer period before getting further substantive promotion ;

(*b*) under the existing conditions, how many provincial civil service officers will, in the normal course of events, be getting the Rs. 850 time scale of pay after six years ;

(*c*) if it is a fact that the number of provincial civil service officers reaching the time scale of Rs. 850 is steadily increasing and is likely further to increase every year ;

(*d*) if the reply to (*c*) is in the affirmative, what steps, if any, Government proposes to take to provide greater chances for the promotion of these officers to the selection grade ?

Mr. H. W. Emerson : (*a*) The number of Extra Assistant Commissioners who reached the maximum of the time scale during each of the past 7 years is as follows :—

1921	..	..	..	..	2
1922	..	..	..	..	3
1923	..	..	..	..	1
1924	..	..	..	..	5
1925	..	..	..	..	6
1926	..	..	..	..	3
1927	..	..	..	..	4

[Mr. H. W. Emerson.]

Several of these officers retired before their turn came for further promotion. Others were passed over as unfit. Those who were promoted to the selection grade had to wait on an average 2 years.

(b) If there were no casualties among the officers concerned and if none of them obtained promotion to the selection grade or to a listed post, the number of such officers would be 51. Allowing for casualties and promotions the number of provincial civil service officers whose substantive pay will be Rs. 850 in six years' time may be taken at about 95; but in accordance with past experience it is probable that a considerable proportion of these will be on deputation at higher rates of pay.

(c) In 1921 the scale of pay of the provincial civil service was revised. Previous to the revision there were 7 grades of Extra Assistant Commissioners with a fixed number of posts in each grade. In the higher grades there were—

3 posts only	..	..	..	.. on Rs. 800
4 posts only	..	..	..	.. on Rs. 700
5 posts only	..	..	..	.. on Rs. 600

As a result of the revision an incremental scale was introduced, which now ensures that an Extra Assistant Commissioner will rise to Rs. 850 per mensem after 15 years' service if he was appointed before 1921 and after 18 years' service if he was appointed subsequent to 1921. Since the cadre has recently been increased, it follows that for some years there is likely to be an increase in the number of officers who attain the time scale pay of Rs. 850, but when the distribution of officers in accordance with their years of service becomes normal, the increase will automatically cease.

(d) As suggested in the answer to part (c) of the question, the increase in the number of officers obtaining the pay of Rs. 850 per mensem does not indicate that there is a block in promotion; on the contrary it shows that as a result of the revision of 1921 more officers reach the ordinary maximum, since there is no limit to the number who can reach that maximum. Consequent on the increase of the cadre in 1927, the number of selection grade posts was increased from 4 to 7; an addition has recently been made (though not yet filled) to the number of listed posts and 2 further additions will probably be made to the listed posts before 1936. Having regard to the substantial increase in pay sanctioned in 1921 and to the heavy additional expenditure which this will impose on the Province, Government does not propose at present to take further action in the direction indicated in the question.

RAWALPINDI RIOTS.

***1431. Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang:** Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state—

(a) what steps, if any, have been taken by the Government to compensate those citizens of Rawalpindi who suffered in the riots of the 14th of June 1926;

(b) whether any steps have been taken by the Government to convey an assurance to the sufferers that they would receive compensation;

(*c*) whether it is not advisable to issue a press *communiqué* intimating to the people of Rawalpindi the amount of the compensation, the time when it will be granted and the manner in which it will be granted ?

The Honourable Mr. A M. Stow : (*a*) and (*b*) Claims for compensation under Section 15 (*a*) of the Police Act (Act V of 1861) have been received by the District Magistrate who estimates the compensation to be paid at Rs. 8,76,000.

(*c*) The honourable member is referred to the reply given to his starred question No. 1145[1] (*i*), (*ii*) (*b*).

The method of assessment has not been finally settled. The honourable member's suggestion will be considered when arrangements are complete.

MIRZA MANZURUL AZIZ BEG.

***1432. Lala Bodh Raj :** (*i*) Will the Honourable Minister for Education be pleased to state--

(*a*) whether Mirza Manzurul Aziz Beg, Assistant District Inspector of Schools, Muzaffargarh, remained in the civil hospital, Leiah, as an indoor patient from 7th December to 22nd December 1927 ;

(*b*) whether he charged the pay for these days showing himself as on duty on some of the intervening days during this interval ?

(*ii*) If reply to (*a*) and (*b*) be in the affirmative, will the Honourable Minister please state what action, if any, the authorities intend to take against him for drawing the pay by making such statements ?

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal : (*i*) (*a*) and (*b*). Yes.

(*ii*) Government is considering whether any action is necessary in view of the fact that the Assistant District Inspector in question claims to have carried on at least part of his work during the period referred to.

JAWALI AIDED SCHOOL.

***1433. Lala Bodh Raj :** (*a*) Will the Honourable Minister for Education be pleased to state if it is a fact that the inspection of Jawali aided school was done at the Chandrain school and the boys of Jawali school had to appear at Chandrain for examination ?

(*b*) If so, what were the reasons for the inspection officer to adopt such an unusual procedure ?

(*c*) Is it a fact that the number of boys as stated to have been examined by the inspection officer does not correspond with the number as shown by the Manager of the Jawali school ? If so, what are the reasons for this discrepancy and what action has been taken against the persons at fault ?

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal : A reference has been made to local officers and information will be supplied to the honourable member when obtained.

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[1] Vol. XI, pages 498-99.

MUSSAMMAT LACHHYA, PRISONER IN LAHORE FEMALE JAIL.

*1434. **Lala Bodh Raj:** With reference to the reply given to part (c) of starred question No. 168[1] asked on 21st March 1927, will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state if any further enquiry concerning the cause of delay has been made and if so, with what result ?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow: Further enquiry has been made but it has been found impossible to fix responsibility for the delay with any office or individual. The warrant of release was not sent by registered post. The Honourable Judges have now issued instructions to all Sessions Judges and District Magistrates that in cases in which it is necessary to send release warrants through the post such warrants should be despatched under registered covers to the jail in which the prisoner is confined.

CORRUPT OFFICIALS.

*1435. **Lala Bodh Raj:** Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the action taken against corrupt officials in the various departments of Government in the Punjab for the year 1927-28 ?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow: A statement is laid on the table.

Statement showing action taken against corrupt officials in the Punjab for the year 1927-28.

Head of Department or office.	Number of officers punished.	Nature of punishment awarded.	REMARKS.
Deputy Commissioner, Rohtak.	1 Offg. Tahsildar ..	Suspended	
Deputy Commissioner, Ambala.	1 Tahsil Wasil Baqi Nawis.	Dismissed.	
Deputy Commissioner, Ludhiana.	1 Patwari ..	Suspended and fined.	
Deputy Commissioner, Lahore.	1 Tahsildar ..	Prosecuted and sentenced to 1 year's rigorous imprisonment which on appeal was changed into simple imprisonment.	
Ditto ..	1 Judicial Moharrir ..	Dismissed.	
Ditto ..	1 Passport Clerk ..	Dismissed.	
Ditto ..	1 Ahlmad and 1 Peon ..	Suspended.	
Ditto ..	1 Moharrir ..	Warned.	

[1] Vol. X.-A, page 558.

Head of Department or office.	Number of officers punished.	Nature of punishment awarded.	Remarks.
Deputy Commissioner, Gujranwala.	1 Naib-Tahsildar ..	Reduced by 10 places in the seniority list and declared to be on probation.	
Deputy Commissioner, Gujrat.	3 Patwaris ..	3 suspended. The case of one official is still under enquiry.	
Ditto ..	1 Patwari ..	Dismissed.	
Ditto ..	1 Patwari ..	Retired.	
Deputy Commissioner, Attock.	1 Mohaarir ..	One years' rigorous imprisonment and Rs. 100 fine.	On account of embezzlement.
Deputy Commissioner, Lyallpur.	1 Mohaarir ..	Dismissed.	
Commissioner, Ambala.	2 Naib-Tahsildars ..	Both dismissed.	
District and Sessions Judge, Hissar.	1 Ahlmad ..	Dismissed ..	For the loss of a file.
Ditto ..	1 Naib-Sheriff ..	Suspended	For allowing unauthorised inspection of a file after the court had risen for the day.
District and Sessions Judge, Karnal.	1 Reader ..	Transferred on account of a bad reputation.	
District and Sessions Judge, Ferozepore.	2 Naib-Nazirs ..	Both dismissed.	
District and Sessions Judge, Gujranwala.	1 Naib-Sheriff ..	Dismissed	Relating to Gujrat District.
District and Sessions Judge, Gujranwala.	1 Ahlmad ..	Unfavourable remarks recorded in his character roll.	
District and Sessions Judge, Mianwali.	1 Process Server ..	Suspended for six months.	
District and Sessions Judge, Multan.	1 Civil Nazir ..	Convicted and fined Rs. 115 under Stamp Act. In cases under sections 406 and 409, Indian Penal Code, was given the option to resign or stand his trial and he resigned.	

[Hon'ble Mr. A. M. Stow.]

Head of Department or office.	Number of officers punished.	Nature of punishment awarded.	REMARKS.
District and Sessions Judge, Multan.	1 Process Server ..	Dismissed and sentenced to 3 months' rigorous imprisonment under section 409, Indian Penal Code.	
Ditto ..	Ditto ..	Dismissed and sentenced to 2 years' rigorous imprisonment under section 409, Indian Penal Code.	
Ditto ..	Ditto ..	Dismissed.	
Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, Irrigation Branch.	1 Assistant Engineer ..	Dismissed.	
Ditto ..	2 Patwaris ..	Both dismissed.	
Ditto ..	1 Temporary Engineer ..	Service terminated.	
Ditto ..	1 Temporary Subordinate.	Ditto	
Financial Commissioner, Development.	Camel Sowar ..	Reduced.	
(Civil Veterinary Department).	Barkandaz ..	Dismissed.	
Inspector-General of Police.	Sub-Insprs. Head Consts. Foot Consts.		
	2 11 20	Dismissed.	
	.. 4 3	Reduced.	
	2 1 5	Black marks.	
	1 .. 1	Warned under Police Rule 17-31.	
	.. 1 ..	Was allowed to resign in view of long service.	
	5 17 29		
Inspector-General of Prisons, Punjab (Jails).—			
Ludhiana district.	2 Warders ..	1 dismissed from service. 1 fined.	
Gujranwala district.	1 Warder ..	Fined.	

Head of Department or office.	Number of officers punished.	Nature of punishment awarded.	Remarks.
Inspector-General of Prisons, Punjab (Jails)—*contd.*			
Lahore district.	1 Warder ..	Sent up for trial and sentenced to six months' rigorous imprisonment.	
Ferozepore district.	3 Warders ..	3 fined. 2 awarded seven days' extra drill each.	
Campbellpur district.	2 Warders ..	1 fined and warned. 1 seven days' extra drill.	
Jhang district.	4 Warders ..	2 fined. 1 suspended. 1 fined and warned.	
Muzaffargarh district.	1 Headwarder ..	Reduced to warder and transferred.	
Multan Central Jail.	2 Warders ..	1 fined and warned for dismissal. 1 dismissed.	
Montgomery Central Jail.	8 Warders ..	1 suspended and sent up for trial. 1 pay reduced (to Rs. 20) for one month. 1 reduced in grade (with least pay for 12 months.) 1 pay reduced in pay from Rs. 18 to Rs. 17) for one year. 1 awarded seven days' pack drill. 1 sent up for trial and sentenced to 4 months' imprisonment.	
Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals.	1 Temporary Sub-Assistant Surgeon.	Discharged from service.	
Deputy Commissioner for Criminal Tribes, Punjab.	1 Acting Superintendent, Industrial Settlement, Chuharwalnt.	Dismissed.	

The following officers and departments have no cases to report.

Deputy Commissioner, Hissar.
" " Gurgaon.
" " Karnal.
" " Simla.
" " Kangra.
" " Jullundur.
" " Amritsar.
" " Gurdaspur.

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Deputy Commissioner	Sialkot.
" "	Sheikhupura.
" "	Shahpur (Sargodha).
" "	Jhelum.
" "	Rawalpindi.
" "	Montgomery.
" "	Jhang.
" "	Multan.
" "	Muzaffargarh.
" "	Dera Ghazi Khan.
Commissioner,	Multan.
"	Jullundur.
District and Sessions Judge,	Ambala.
" " "	Ludhiana.
" " "	Jullundur.
" " "	Hoshiarpur.
" " "	Gurdaspur.
" " "	Amritsar.
" " "	Lahore.
" " "	Montgomery at Lahore.
" " "	Sialkot.
" " "	Jhelum.
" " "	Rawalpindi.
" " "	Attock (Campbellpur).
" " "	Shahpur and Jhang (Sargodha).
" " "	Lyallpur.
" " "	Dera Ghazi Khan.
Chief Secretary to Government, Punjab.	
Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, Buildings and Roads Branch.	
Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, Hydro-Electric Branch.	
Registrar, High Court of Judicature at Lahore.	
Director of Land Records.	
Director of Agriculture	The conduct of two non-gazetted officers is under investigation at present.
Director of Public Instruction.	Suitable administrative action taken in suspected cases which could not be proved.
Director of Public Health.	
Legal Remembrancer to Government, Punjab.	
Chief Conservator of Forests.	
Registrar, Co-operative Credit Societies.	
Director of Industries.	
Curator, Central Museum, Lahore.	
Superintendent, Government Printing, Punjab.	
Director of Information Bureau.	
Secretary, Rural Sanitary Board.	
Secretary, Legislative Council.	
Warden of Fisheries.	
Private Secretary to His Excellency the Governor.	

PALLU KHAN, ZAILDAR.

*1436. **Lala Bodh Raj:** Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the Hindu Sabha, Alipore, made several allegations against Pallu Khan, Zaildar, and his son for exciting disaffection between the two sister communities and that the attention of the authorities was drawn towards those allegations;

(b) if so, what action has been taken in the matter?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow: (a) In April 1928 the Hindu Sabha of Alipur complained that the Zaildar and his son were encouraging Muhammadans to boycott Hindu shopkeepers.

(b) An enquiry was held and the communal differences between the Hindus and Muhammadans of Alipur were reconciled by the Sub-Divisional Officer, Alipur. In the work of reconciliation the Zaildar gave considerable help to the authorities.

COMPLAINT AGAINST THE SUB-DIVISIONAL OFFICER, MONTGOMERY SUB-DIVISION.

*1437. **Lala Bodh Raj:** Will the Honourable the Revenue Member be pleased to state if it is a fact that the *abadkars* of 6-R. distributary, Lower Bari Doab Canal, made allegations against the sub-divisional officer, Montgomery sub-division, for mal-treatment in a petition submitted to him as well as to the Chief Engineer, Irrigation?

If so, what action was taken thereon?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: Yes. The allegations were enquired into, and the finding was that they were not established.

Lala Bodh Raj: Will the Honourable Revenue Member please state who was the officer who was deputed to make enquiries?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: The final report was made by the Superintending Engineer.

Lala Bodh Raj: Who was the officer who went on the spot to make the enquiry?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: I am not acquainted with him.

SALARY OF HEALTH OFFICERS AND SANITARY INSPECTORS.

*1438. **Lala Bodh Raj:** Will the Honourable Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) why the pay of a District Medical Officer of Health is higher than the pay of a Medical Officer of Health in a municipal committee;

(b) why the pay of sanitary inspectors working under the district boards is not higher than the pay of sanitary inspectors working under the municipal boards?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan Noon : (*a*) There is no fixed rate of pay for Municipal Medical Officers of Health. This part of the question therefore does not arise.

(*b*) Replies have not yet been received with regard to the districts of Ferozepore, Gujrat, Gurgaon, Montgomery and Multan, but in no other districts except Lyallpur are there any Sanitary Inspectors in the employ of district boards. In Lyallpur 2 Sanitary Inspectors are employed on the same scale of pay as has been sanctioned for Municipal Sanitary Inspectors. Presumably the district board has not sanctioned a higher rate of pay as it has been able to obtain men on the same rate of pay.

SALARY OF SANITARY INSPECTORS.

*1439. **Lala Bodh Raj :** Will the Honourable the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) if it is a fact that in or about the year 1914 the pay of a sanitary inspector was Rs. 40 per mensem while that of a sub-assistant surgeon was Rs. 35 per mensem ;

(*b*) if it is a fact that the pay of sub-assistant surgeon has been since raised to Rs. 70 per mensem while that of a sanitary inspector to Rs. 50 per mensem ;

(*c*) if so, what are the reasons for lowering the scale of pay of the sanitary inspector ?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : (*a*) The pay of 2nd grade sanitary inspectors was fixed at Rs. 40—8—70 per mensem in 1915 ; at that time the pay of the lowest grade of sub-assistant surgeons was Rs. 30 per mensem.

(*b*) The scale of pay for junior sub-assistant surgeons has now been fixed at Rs. 70—4—130 while second class senior sub-assistant surgeons receive Rs. 150 per mensem and first class senior sub-assistant surgeons Rs. 175 per mensem. The grades of sanitary inspectors are :—

	Rs.
Second grade	50—4—90
First grade	100—5—150

while chief sanitary inspectors may receive such pay in excess of Rs. 150 per mensem as the local body may direct.

(*c*) The pay of sanitary inspectors has not been lowered but has been raised. The starting pay of sanitary inspectors is however now lower than that of sub-assistant surgeons, but this is not inequitable in view of the fact that the course of instruction for matriculates wishing to qualify as sanitary inspectors lasts six months while the course of instruction for matriculates wishing to qualify as sub-assistant surgeons lasts four years.

TERMINAL AND HOUSE TAXES IN LYALLPUR.

*1440. **Lala Bodh Raj :** Will the Honourable Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) if it is a fact that both the terminal as well as the house tax is charged by the municipal committee, Lyallpur ;

(*b*) if so, whether there is any proposal to consolidate both the taxes into one?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) No, nor would it be possible to consolidate two such different taxes into one.

HOUSE TAX, ETC., IN LYALLPUR.

***1441. Lala Bodh Raj:** Will the Honourable Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) if it is a fact that the residents of Lyallpur have to pay revenue ground rent, income-tax and house tax for their houses and shops;

(*b*) if so, whether there is any proposal to consolidate all these taxes into one?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon: (*a*) Land Revenue is assessed on the sites of shops and houses in Lyallpur and house tax has been imposed on the annual value of shops and houses. Income-tax is assessed on income which may or may not be derived from shops and houses.

(*b*) No, nor could provincial, central and local taxes be combined into one tax.

MESSRS. AHMAD BUX AND PIR BUX.

***1442. Lala Bodh Raj:** Will the Honourable Minister for Education be pleased to state with reference to the answer to question No. 1305,[1] asked on 5th May 1928—

(*a*) if it is a fact that the services of the two teachers of Jatoi, namely, Messrs. Ahmad Bux and Pir Bux, had been ordered by the department to be dispensed with;

(*b*) if it is a fact that they are being retained by the district board, Muzaffargarh.

(*c*) if so, what are the reasons?

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal: Government has nothing to add to the reply already given.

Lala Bodh Raj: Will the Honourable Minister say whether the answer to this question is covered by the answer to question 1805.

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal: Yes. I have nothing to add.

Lala Bodh Raj: Will the Honourable Minister kindly state the reply to question No. 1805?

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal: The reply that has been given at present is comprehensive enough to meet the point raised. Government has nothing whatever to add to the reply previously given.

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[1] Vol. XI, page 881.

MR. HOGG, ADVISOR ON PHYSICAL EDUCATION.

*1443. **Lala Bodh Raj:** Will the Honourable Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(*a*) if it is a fact that the department has engaged the services of Mr. Hogg, an organiser of the scout movement, on Rs. 600 per mensem as an Advisor on physical education;

(*b*) if so, what special qualifications entitle him to hold this job?

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal: (*a*) Mr. Hogg does not receive his salary from the Education Department, but from the Boy Scouts' Association, which lends Mr. Hogg's services as Advisor in Physical Training to the Education Department, and receives a grant calculated at Rs. 800 per mensem for that purpose from Government.

(*b*) He has taken the army physical training instructor's course for officers, and has been on the physical training staff both in the army and the Navy.

Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram: How are Mr. Hogg and the boy scouts said to have done at the Kurukshetra fair?

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal: Does it arise out of the question?

Mr. President: No.

UNANI AND AYURVEDIC SYSTEMS OF MEDICINE.

*1444. **Lala Bodh Raj:** (*a*) Will the Honourable Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state whether in view of the assurance[1] held out by him on 22nd February 1928, while discussing the resolution regarding encouragement of Unani and Ayurvedic systems of medicine any efforts have been made to ascertain the requirements of various institutions engaged in promoting that cause and to finance them with Government aid?

(*b*) Will the Honourable Member also lay on the table a comparative statement showing the number of dispensaries in Allopathy, Unani and Ayurvedic opened after the reforms year by year?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon: It has been necessary to refer to local officers, and the information required by the honourable member is not yet complete. A reply will be sent to him in due course.

DISTRICT BOARD GIRLS' SCHOOL, KANGRA.

*1445. **Chaudhri Ram Singh:** (*a*) Will the Honourable Minister for Education kindly state if it is a fact that the annual examination of the students of the fifth class of the District Board Girls' School, Kangra, has not been held so far by the Inspectress of Schools?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) above be in the affirmative, will the Honourable Member kindly state the reasons for not holding the said examination so far?

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal: (*a*) No.

(*b*) Does not arise.

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[1] Vol. XI, pages 77—79.

DISTRICT BOARD GIRLS' SCHOOL, KANGRA.

*1446. **Chaudhri Ram Singh:** (*i*) Will the Honourable Minister for Education kindly state—

(*a*) if it is a fact that the Inspectress of Schools insists on the new building for the District Board Girls' School, Kangra, being erected outside the city;

(*b*) if it is also a fact that the District Inspector of Schools, Kangra is of opinion that the building should be erected somewhere within the city walls?

(*ii*) If the answer to (*a*) and (*b*) above be in the affirmative, will the Honourable Member kindly state what Government has decided to do?

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal: (*i*) (*a*) No.

(*b*) No.

(*ii*) Does not arise.

BHARWAIN-KANGRA ROAD.

*1447. **Chaudhri Ram Singh:** Will the Honourable Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the proposal for metalling the road leading from Bharwain to Kangra has been dropped? If so, will he kindly state the reasons for this decision?

The Honourable Sardar Jogendra Singh: No proposal for metalling the road between Bharwain and Kangra has been considered by Government. Surveys are however in hand with the object of discovering whether this road is capable of improvement in the matter of curves and gradients.

KANGRA VALLEY RAILWAY.

*1448. **Chaudhri Ram Singh:** Will the Honourable the Member for Revenue kindly state if he has been informed of the approximate date of the completion of the Kangra Valley Railway and the date from which it will be open to the public?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: The Agent, North-Western Railway, has supplied information to the effect that the official opening of the Kangra Valley Railway will take place about the middle of January 1929.

REMUNERATION TO ZAILDARS.

*1449. **Chaudhri Ram Singh:** (*i*) Will the Honourable the Revenue Member be pleased to state whether it is a fact—

(*a*) that the remuneration allowed at present to the zaildars in tahsil Saraj, district Kangra, ranges between Rs. 50 and Rs. 80 per annum;

(*b*) that of late the number of Government departments has increased considerably and that the duties of the zaildars have accordingly multiplied?

[Chaudhri Ram Singh.]

(*ii*) If the answer to the above be in the affirmative, will Government kindly state whether it has any intention of increasing the amount of remuneration allowed to the zaildars in proportion to the increase in their duties?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: (*i*) (*a*) There are 26 zaildars in Seraj. Of these 17 receive from Rs. 50 to Rs. 80 per annum, and the remainder from Rs. 81 to 185 per annum.

(*b*) Yes.

(*ii*) A representation has been received by the Deputy Commissioner, Kangra, from the zaildars of Seraj requesting an increase in their present remuneration. This is under consideration.

LICENCES FOR MOTOR VEHICLES.

***1450. Chaudhri Ram Singh:** Will the Honourable the Revenue Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of licences granted by the Deputy Commissioner, Kangra, for plying motor vehicles on hire in the Kangra district since he has been reinvested with powers of granting such licences;

(*b*) how many of these licences have been granted for motor lorries carrying passengers and how many for those carrying luggage;

(*c*) the names and the addresses of the persons to whom such licences have been granted?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: (*a*) 139.

(*b*) 67 relate to motor vehicles carrying passengers, and 72 to motor vehicles carrying goods.

(*c*) (1) Clive Transport Company, Pathankot.

(2) Kangra Valley Transport Company, Pathankot.

(3) Kangra Valley Goods Company, Pathankot.

(4) Kangra Jowalaji Motor Service, Kangra.

(5) Mr. R. D. Ahuja, Railway Contractor, Pathankot.

(6) Khan Sahib Nawab Khan, Railway Contractor, Baijnath.

(7) Lala Babu Ram-Bansi Lal, Arhtis, Pathankot.

(8) L. Keshav Ram, Garh Estate, Bajaura (Kulu).

(9) Pandit Tara Mani, of Chintpurni, Hoshiarpur District.

(10) Lala Vidya Dhar, of Palampur.

(11) Messrs. Harnarain and Company, Pathankot.

SANITARY ENGINEERS.

***1451. Chaudhri Ram Singh:** (*a*) Will the Honourable Minister for Agriculture please lay on the table a list of Engineers serving under the Punjab Government, Sanitary Department, showing how many among them are specially trained as Sanitary Engineers and how many are only Civil Engineers?

(*b*) Will the Honourable Minister also please state—

(*i*) whether it is a fact that the Sanitary Department takes all the Engineers needed for the department from the Rurki Engineering College in preference to those who have specialised as Sanitary Engineers at other institutions? If so, will he kindly state the reasons for showing this preference to Civil Engineers for employment in the Sanitary Department;

(*ii*) whether in filling appointments of Sanitary Engineers during the last five years any applications were received from persons specially trained as Sanitary Engineers and if so, what was the result of their applications?

The Honourable Sardar Jogendra Singh: (*a*) The designation "Sanitary Engineer" has no legal limitation, any person is entitled to describe himself as a Sanitary Engineer and engage in business under such designation. The question whether a person has been trained as a Sanitary Engineer has therefore no precise meaning.

In Great Britain persons who are engaged in such businesses as plumbing, or retaining accessories used in water supply and house drainage installations commonly describe themselves as Sanitary Engineers. Similarly there are in Great Britain institutions which claim to provide a course of training in "sanitary engineering" but here again the scope of such training is not defined by the expression "sanitary engineering," and is in practice commonly confined to the minor aspects of such work. On the other hand in Great Britain and elsewhere the design and execution of water supply and sewerage schemes of magnitude is entrusted to qualified Civil Engineers who have acquired special experience of this branch of civil engineering.

The list[1] laid on the table therefore distinguishes those engineers serving in the Public Health Circle who are qualified Civil Engineers and who have acquired special experience in the design and execution of sanitary engineering undertakings.

(*b*) (*i*) The policy of Government in recruiting engineers for the Public Health Circle of the Punjab, Public Works Department, Buildings and Roads Branch, is to engage qualified Civil Engineers who have acquired special experience in the design and execution of sanitary engineering undertakings or qualified Civil Engineer students and provide for their special training under Government.

(*ii*) Many applications for posts in the Public Health Circle are received from persons who are not qualified Civil Engineers but who have been trained at an institution claiming to provide a course of training in "sanitary engineering." Such applications are rejected in favour of those received from men of the class that it is the policy of Government to recruit.

STOPPAGE OF MILITARY PENSIONS.

***1452. Sardar Partap Singh:** Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether there are any military pensioners whose pensions were stopped in connection with the gurdwara movement and have not yet been restored;

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[1] *Vide* pages 69-70 *infra*.

[Sardar Partap Singh.]

(*b*) if so, the names of such persons, their addresses, amounts of pension forfeited and reasons for non-restoration ?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow : Government regrets that it is unable to give an answer to this question, since the initative for the restoration of a forfeited pension comes from the person concerned. Government itself has no list of military pensioners whose pensions were stopped in connection with the Gurdwara movement. Government, however, assures the honourable member that the conditions as stated by His Excellency the Governor in addressing the Legislative Council on the 9th of July 1925 and reported at pages 1301-1305 of the Punjab Legislative Council Debates, Volume VIII, Part B, are being observed.

RAILWAY LINE FROM PATHANKOT TO CHAKKI.

***1453. Chaudhri Ram Singh :** With reference to starred question No. 458[1] put on the 22nd July 1927, and the answer thereto, will the Honourable the Revenue Member kindly state what reply, if any, has been received from the Agent, North-Western Railway, and whether any steps have been taken to compensate the zamindars for the loss suffered by them ?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : A copy of Council Question under reference and the reply thereto, is enclosed for information.

It was received too late for reply to be given in the last Council.

(*Answer to starred Question No.* 458.)

(*a*) Yes. This has been in existence for many years.

(*b*) No complaints have been received by the railway from the zamindars between whom and the railway an agreement for extracting stones from the Chakki river bed exists.

(*c*) Yes, subject to the decision of the Deputy Commissioner, Gurdaspur, in case of disagreement between the two parties.

REMOVAL OF FUEL FROM BINDRABAN FOREST.

***1454. Chaudhri Ram Singh :** (*a*) Will the Honourable Revenue Member kindly state, whether it is a fact—

(*i*) that the zamindars are allowed to take bamboos free of cost from the Bindraban Forest near Datarpur in the Hoshiarpur District for building their houses ;

(*ii*) that the zamindars possess the right of making use of the wood and grass growing in that forest ?

(*b*) If the reply to above parts be in the affirmative, will he kindly state why their rights are now being interfered with by preventing them from taking dry fuel lying cut in the said forest ?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : (*a*) (*i*) The zamindars of certain villages are entitled to bamboos from Bindraban Reserve for their own use on payment of the cost of cutting and bringing them to depôt ; but they are not entitled to take bamboos direct from the forest.

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[1] Vol. X-B, page 986.

(*ii*) A part of the reserve is open to grazing for 9 months of the year and zamindars may take dry wood from the portion that is open.

(*b*) Exercise of these rights has not been prevented.

POLICE FORCE IN MULTAN AND LAHORE.

***1455. Lala Bodh Raj:** Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state for Lahore and Multan towns—

(*i*) the ordinary strength of police;

(*ii*) the additional strength posted on account of Hindu-Muslim riots in the year 1927;

(*iii*) what should be the ordinary strength according to population of the towns;

(*iv*) the tax levied under the Police Act on account of additional police;

(*v*) if it is a fact that the casualties at Multan were not so great as at Lahore?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow: (*i*) The ordinary police strength of Lahore and Multan towns is—

	Inspector.	Sergeant.	Sub-Inspector.	Assistant Sub-Inspector.	Head Constables.	Foot Constables.
Lahore	4	1	10	7	82	602
Multan	1	1	2	..	23	194

(*ii*) Lahore—1 Deputy Superintendent of Police, 10 Sub-Inspectors, 58 Head Constables and 350 Foot Constables. This strength has since been reduced to 8 Sub-Inspectors, 21 Head Constables and 180 Foot Constables, which will eventually form part of the regular headquarter establishment.

Multan.—1 Deputy Superintendent of Police, 5 Sub-Inspectors, 16 Head Constables, 125 Foot Constables, since reduced to 2 Sub-Inspectors, 8 Head Constables and 62 Foot Constables.

(*iii*) The ordinary proportion between strength of police and population cannot be applied to Lahore because of (1) the large suburban areas which are embraced within the Municipal area, and (2) the need for extra police for traffic and other duties. On a basis of population only, the ordinary strength for Lahore would be about 650 Constables and for Multan about 190, each with its due porportion of Head Constables and non-gazetted officers.

(*iv*) No tax has been levied under the Police Act in respect of the Lahore Additional Police, the cost of which is met from Provincial revenues. The tax levied on account of the Additional Police in Multan is Rs. 78,766

[Hon'ble Mr. A. M. Stow.]

for the first year from 11th September 1927 to 10th September 1928 and Rs. 29,747-6-0 for the second year from 11th September 1928 to 10th September 1929.

(*e*) Yes.

SANITARY INSPECTORS.

*1456. **Lala Bodh Raj:** Will the Honourable Minister for Local Self-Government please state for the year 1928 and for subsequent years respectively;

(*a*) the number of sanitary inspectors employed by the Health Department;

(*b*) if it is a fact that some 20 of them were made permanent on 1st September 1927 and they were allowed only one increment of Rs. 4 in their pay without any regard to the period of service? If so, why the period of their service has been disregarded in the matter;

(*c*) if it is a fact that either the regular increments or an extra plague allowance of Rs. 25 over and above their pay has been allowed to other sanitary inspectors in the department? If so, what are the reasons for such distinction?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon: (*a*)—

1923	3
1924	21
1925	21
1926	43
1927	47
1928	47

(*b*) The reply to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. These temporary sanitary inspectors, prior to being given permanent posts in the scale of Rs. 50—4—90 were on a fixed pay of Rs. 50 per mensem and the Accountant-General ruled that their previous temporary service on fixed pay could not be counted under the Fundamental Rules for the purpose of increments.

(*c*) Yes. Regular increments of Rs. 4 per annum are given to sanitary inspectors of the permanent staff on the scale of Rs. 50—4—90.

An allowance of Rs. 25 per mensem was granted as a special case to certain sanitary inspectors owing to the arduous nature of the duties upon which they were employed during a severe epidemic of plague in districts of the Ambala Division.

SECRETARY, MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE, JHAJJAR.

*1457. **Lala Bodh Raj:** Will the Honourable Minister for Local Self-Government please state—

(*a*) if it is a fact that the secretary, municipal committee, Jhajjar, in Rohtak district, is a relation of Mr. Raghbir Singh, Revenue Assistant, an officer in charge of the local bodies;

(*b*) if it is a fact that the said officer exercised his influence with members of the committee in getting him the appointment of secretary ?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : (*a*) No.

(*b*) It appears that all that happened was that when the President of the Committee consulted him in the matter, the officer in question suggested the name of a relative of his own who was not, however, appointed.

SARDAR DILBAGH SINGH, MAGISTRATE, FIRST CLASS.

*1458. **Lala Bodh Raj :** Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state—

(*a*) if it is a fact that towards the end of July 1928, Sardar Dilbagh Singh, Magistrate, first class, led a deputation to the Deputy Commissioner, Rohtak ;

(*b*) if so, what was the object of the deputation ;

(*c*) if there are any rules governing the conduct of Government servants in a matter like the one referred to in (*a*) above ?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow : (*a*) No.

(*b*) and (*c*) Do not arise.

DURANALANGANA AND WALI MUHAMMAD INUNDATION CANALS.

*1459. **Lala Bodh Raj :** Will the Honourable the Revenue Member please state—

(*a*) if it is a fact that since the construction of the weirs across the Jhelum, Chenab and Ravi rivers and the opening of the triple canals the supply of water to the inundation canals of Duranalangana and Wali Muhammad has been decreasing ;

(*b*) if it is a fact that the dates of opening and closing of these canals vary much from year to year and have a profound effect on the cropping ;

(*c*) if it is a fact that at the time of the construction of works referred to in (*a*) above the Settlement Commissioner drew the attention of the Government to the fact that sanction should not be given to a new project until some provision has been made for maintaining the cultivation of lands irrigated by the said inundation canals ;

(*d*) if so, what were the suggestions made by him for the achievement of the object ;

(*e*) whether those suggestions have been acted upon ? If not, why ?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : (*a*) The construction of the Triple Project has had no appreciable effect on the supplies of the Wali Muhammad and Duranalangana Canals. This year these canals opened on the 8th April and ran continuously with full supply till the 15th of September. The records show that this date 8th April is the earliest date of opening for the last 30 years.

[Hon'ble Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain.]

(*b*) The dates of opening and closing of these canals do vary and do affect the cropping but that depends entirely on the surface levels and a favourable position of the river.

(*c*) No such records can be traced.

(*d*) and (*e*) Without such records definite reply cannot be given.

Lala Bodh Raj: Will the honourable member please state whether any further efforts are being made for tracing the records?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: No.

DURANALANGANA AND WALI MUHAMMAD INUNDATION CANALS.

*1460. **Lala Bodh Raj:** Will the Honourable the Revenue Member please state—

(*a*) if it is a fact that each of the inundation canals referred to in part (*a*) of question No. 1459 above, before the opening of the new works referred to in the same question had a separate head of its own and each of them ran independently of the other in summer for the full period of six months commencing from the middle of April to the middle of October;

(*b*) if it is a fact that those two heads were substituted by one head for both the canals introducing the method of irrigation by '*warabandi*';

(*c*) if it is a fact that under the new system the crops which receive water at one turn generally dry up before the next turn comes up?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: (*a*) In 1896, *i.e.*, 14 years before the opening of the Upper Chenab, a combined regulator was built at Bosan for the Wali Muhammad and Duranalangana Canals. Previous to 1896 both had separate uncontrolled heads and took out of the same creek as at present. There is nothing on record to show that under this old system both the canals ran constantly for six months. The duration of flow entirely depends on the favourable position of the river.

(*b*) "*Warabandi*" is only enforced during low supplies and is adopted on all canals in the Punjab.

(*c*) This is not the case because each canal is usually run with a full supply of seven days alternately.

DURANALANGANA AND WALI MUHAMMAD INUNDATION CANALS.

*1461. **Lala Bodh Raj:** Will the Honourable the Revenue Member please state—

(*a*) if it is a fact that the inundation canals referred to in question No. 1459 above, are opened when the gauge of the river is between 11 and 13 feet and flow from 55 to 90 days in the season, while previous to the opening of the new works referred to in question No. 1459 they were opened as soon as the gauge reached 7 or 8 feet and flowed for full six months;

(*b*) if it is a fact that the Settlement Officer, Multan, in his report (1921) has remarked about the serious effects on the crops by the late opening and the early closure of these canals;

(*c*) what steps have been taken by the Government to meet the difficulties of the zamindars referred to in (*b*) above?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: (*a*) The canals are not ordinarily opened until the Chenab river at Shershah rises to 10 feet and even before the Triple Project works these were opened at this same 10 feet gauge. The duration of flow is dependent on the river maintaining this minimum gauge.

(*b*) In Settlement Officer's report it was anticipated that Project would cause these canals to open a month later and close 15 days earlier but actual experience has shown that the forecast was very pessimistic. In ordinary years these canals open only a few days later but on the other hand close a few days later.

(*c*) In view of the above facts no steps are needed. There is no control over the water level in the river.

Lala Bodh Raj: Is it a fact that the duration of the flow during the last ten years has been from 55 to 90 days?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: It is difficult to answer that question.

DURANALANGANA AND WALI MUHAMMAD INUNDATION CANALS.

*1462. **Lala Bodh Raj:** Will the Honourable the Revenue Member please state—

(*a*) if it is a fact that the zamindars of the inundation canals referred to in question No. 1459, above, have a complaint against the Canal Department that the authorities have been failing to take adequate and timely steps for having the silt deposit at the head fully cleared;

(*b*) if so, what action has been taken to remove this grievance of the zamindars?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: No. This year the canals in question were opened on 8th April, the earliest date for the past 30 years, and ran continuously with full supply till the 15th of September.

Lala Bodh Raj: Is it a fact that the zamindars complained even before this year?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: I cannot answer that either without enquiry.

DURANALANGANA AND WALI MUHAMMAD INUNDATION CANALS.

*1463. **Lala Bodh Raj:** Will the Honourable the Revenue Member please state—

(*a*) if it is a fact that the area in 'Uter' circle watered by canal (Duranalangana and Wali Muhammad) irrigation was 38 per cent. at third settlement of 1901 and it went down to 28 at the fourth settlement of 1921;

(*b*) if so, what steps the Government proposes to take in order to stop such decrease in future?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : (*a*) Paragraph 10 of Mr. Emerson's Final Settlement Report shows that in 1901 the percentage of *Chai-Nahri* was 25 and *Nahri* 42 and now it is 87 per cent. and 86 per cent., respectively, but the cropped area is larger and much more secured than 20 years back. The matured area of *Chai-Nahri* and *Nahri* is given as 329,405 and 319,066 acres against 178,451 and 295,567 acres at the last settlement.

(*b*) Does not arise.

FAILURE OF CROPS IN MULTAN TAHSIL.

*1464. **Lala Bodh Raj :** Will the Honourable the Revenue Member please state—

(*a*) if it is a fact that the allowance made for the failed crops in both the harvests in the Multan tahsil was 8 per cent. of the sown area at the third settlement and it was 19 per cent. in the decennial period from 1907-08 to 1916-17 ;

(*b*) if so, what are the reasons for this increase in the failed crops and what steps the Government has taken to stop it ?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The difference in percentage figures is due to the wide extension of the fluctuating system by the third Settlement. Under the older system in force in 1897-98 the recording of failed crops was of less importance and was done with less care than is now essential.

WELL CATTLE.

*1465. **Lala Bodh Raj :** Will the Honourable Minister for Agriculture please state—

(*a*) the average number of well cattle on the total number of wells in use in Multan tahsil for the year 1897-98 as well as in the year 1918-19 ;

(*b*) if it is a fact that the number has fallen down ;

(*c*) what are the reasons for such fall and what steps have been taken to stop such fall ?

The Honourable Sardar Jogendara Singh :

(*a*) Number of wells	1897-98	4,295
	1919-20	6,213
Total number of bulls and bullocks ..	1897-98	45,648
	1919-20	51,887

Figures are given for the year 1919-20, the year of the quinquennial census, no figures being available for the preceding year.

(*b*) No.

(*c*) Does not arise.

HAVELI PROJECT.

*1456. **Lala Bodh Raj:** Will the Honourable the Revenue Member please state—

(*a*) if it is a fact that after the opening of new works referred to in question No. 1459[1] the number of tenants on the two inundation canals referred to in the same question has been continually falling and that a large number of them has migrated from the 'Utar' circle to the Lower Bari Doab Colony which is contiguous to the former;

(*b*) if it is a fact that the zamindars of Multan have given out their apprehensions that if the Sutlej Valley (Nilibar) perennial canal is opened before the completion of Haveli Project, the remaining tenants will leave for the new colony, and that their doing so would prove calamitous to them;

(*c*) what are the prospects of the completion of the Haveli Project?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: (*a*) and (*b*) Quite possible.

(*c*) No decision has yet been given.

INUNDATION CANALS (DURANALANGANA AND WALI MUHAMMAD).

*1457. **Lala Bodh Raj:** Will the Honourable the Revenue Member please state—

(*a*) if it is a fact that at the fourth settlement the zamindars of Multan were given to understand that a new head for the inundation canals (Duranalangana and Wali Muhammad) would be constructed a few miles higher up and that the existing heads would be used as subsidiaries when necessary;

(*b*) if it is a fact that the Chief Engineer, Irrigation, at the time of his visit to Multan in March 1926 asked the then Superintending Engineer to have a scheme for a new head a few miles higher up prepared and submitted to him for sanction without any further waiting for the completion of the Haveli Project?

(*c*) If the replies to (*a*) and (*b*) be in the affirmative, will the Honourable Member please state what steps have been taken in this direction?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: (*a*) No such understanding appears to have been given or mentioned in the Settlement Report. It is impossible to carry the head of Wali Muhammad Supply Channel higher up the river as it is already in the highest position possible, close to the junction of the Ravi with the Chenab.

(*b*) On representation of the Zamindars' Association to His Excellency on 24th November 1926, for the separation of Wali Muhammad and Duranalangana Canals and moving their heads further up the river, the Superintending Engineer was ordered to investigate the possibility of the proposal. The Superintending Engineer estimated the cost of constructing separate canals from the river as 7½ lakhs and also reported that owing to river conditions it was not advisable to move the heads higher up. The scheme was dropped as being impracticable and uneconomical.

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[1] Page 27 *ante*.

[Hon'ble Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain.]

(*ii*) As shown by the working of the Wali Muhammad and Duranalangana Canals this year, no further action is necessary. This year the canals were opened on the 8th, the earliest date for the past 30 years, and ran continuously at full supply till 15th September.

GRANT OF PROPRIETARY RIGHTS TO LESSEES IN DURNALANGANA CANAL EXTENSION.

*1468. **Lala Bodh Raj:** Will the Honourable the Revenue Member please state—

(*a*) (*i*) the number of lots of Government waste land commanded by Duranalangana canal extension allotted in the year 1910 to different lessees;

(*ii*) the number of plots forfeited on account of the lessees having not fulfilled the conditions;

(*b*) if it is a fact that the Deputy Commissioner, Multan, recommended for complete remission of the *chahi-nahri* revenue in the rabi for the term of lease? If so, why the Government has not acted upon his recommendation;

(*c*) if the Government intends to grant them the proprietary rights?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: (*a*) (*i*) 125.

(*ii*) 27.

(*b*) and (*c*). The honourable member's information is vague and incomplete. It does not appear to be in the public interest to go into the occurrences of twenty years or more, now.

GIRLS' PRIMARY SCHOOL, KANGRA HILLS.

*1469. **Rai Sahib Lala Ganga Ram:** Will the Honourable Minister for Education please state—

(*a*) if it is a fact that the annual examination of the Girls' Primary School, Kangra Hills, is usually held some time in the month of March;

(*b*) if it is a fact that no examination of the Girls' School was held in March last and therefore classification of the girl students could not take place in the beginning of April?

(*ii*) If so, will the Honourable Minister please state the reasons for this delay?

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal: (*a*) The annual examination of the primary schools for girls of Kangra district is usually held between the 15th May and 15th July and not in the month of March.

(*b*) No examination of the Girls' Schools was held by the Assistant Inspectress in March last, but classification of the students took place as usual in April. The annual promotion examination is held by the Headmistress of each school during the month of March and it is only the girls of the Fifth Primary Class who wait for the Upper Primary Examination which is held by the Inspectress.

(*ii*) Does not arise.

PRIMARY SCHOOLS IN KANGRA.

*1470. **Rai Sahib Lala Ganga Ram:** Will the Honourable Minister for Education please state when the last classification of the primary schools in Kangra district took place?

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal: In March, 1928.

SLAUGHTER OF CATTLE.

*1471. **Rai Sahib Lala Ganga Ram:** (*a*) Will the Honourable Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state whether it is a fact that a memorial was submitted in 1926 or 1927 to the Punjab Government by the Cow Preservation League, Calcutta, requesting the Punjab Government for taking steps to devise some restrictions against the indiscriminate slaughter of cattle in the province;

(*b*) If so, will the Government please lay a copy of this memorial on the table and also state what steps the Government has taken or intends to take in this matter?

The Honourable Sardar Jogendra Singh: I regret the answer to this question is not ready. It will be communicated to the honourable member when ready.

COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL SCHOOLS.

*1472. **Rai Sahib Lala Ganga Ram:** Will the Honourable Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of commercial and industrial schools in the province giving Government and private institutions separately;

(*b*) whether any grant has been made to an industrial school in the province;

(*c*) if so, to what amount?

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal:

(*a*) Government Industrial Schools 18

Private Industrial Schools 4

There are no schools known as Commercial Schools in the province, but post-matriculation clerical and commercial classes are attached to 10 Government and 1 private institution.

(*b*) and (*c*) Grant-in-aid were made to the following institutions during the year 1927-28 as noted against each—

	Rs.
(1) Victoria Diamond Jubilee Hindu Technical Institute, Lahore	9,999
(2) Blind School, Amritsar	800
(3) Arya Samaj Orphanage Industrial School, Ferozepore	1,984
(4) Mission Industrial School, Gurgaon	2,619
(5) Municipal Board Industrial School, Amritsar ..	7,588

GRANTS-IN-AID TO INDUSTRIAL SCHOOLS.

*1473. **Rai Sahib Lala Ganga Ram :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education please lay a copy of the rules governing grants-in-aid to industrial schools ?

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal : A copy of Punjab Government, Home (Education) Department, Circular letter No. 7687-G., dated the 16th October 1919, which contains rules governing grants-in-aid to industrial schools is laid on the table.

Circular No. 7687-G., dated the 16th October 1919.

From—The Under-Secretary to Government, Punjab, Home (Education) Department,
To—All Commissioners, Chairmen and Presidents of District Boards and Municipal Committees, Inspectors and District Inspectors of Schools.

WITH reference to clause 3 of paragraph 8 of the Punjab Government, Home (Education) Department, Circular Memo. No. 32, dated the 20th January 1919, I am directed to intimate that the following changes in the grant-in-aid system of the industrial schools in the Punjab will take effect from the 1st April 1920 :—

I.—Block grants—

(*a*) for primary schools and departments at Rs. 2 or Rs. 3 per pupil to be assessed on the efficiency of the institution ;

(*b*) for middle departments at Rs. 4 or Rs. 6 on the same basis.

II.—Staff grants at—

(*a*) half the salary of uncertificated teachers whose work is approved by the Inspector ;

(*b*) two-thirds the salary of certificated teachers.

The grants will be assessed by the Inspector of Industrial Schools (Principal, Mayo School of Arts), in the case of middle schools, and by the Inspector of Educational Handwork (Mr. Buchanan) in the case of primary schools.

2. The object of the revised system is—

(*a*) to permit of larger grants than under the present rules being given to efficient schools ;

(*b*) to make the grants to each school dependent on the efficiency of the instruction and the qualifications of the staff.

The enhanced grants are not intended to relieve local bodies of the share of the cost of maintenance of these institutions which they meet at present, and should it be found that in consequence of the enhanced grants from Government any local body is effecting a corresponding reduction in its expenditure, the grants will be liable to revision.

3. The local bodies within whose jurisdiction the industrial schools exist should be directed to submit the names and qualifications, literary and technical, of their teachers to the Principal, Mayo School of Arts, Lahore, this year. Special certificates will be issued by the Education Department on the recommendations of the Principal, Mayo School of Arts, and the Inspector of Drawing and Educational Handwork, Punjab, after their annual

inspections this year, to those teachers who are considered qualified for their work, and therefore entitled to earn the higher rate of staff grants.

4. A suggested scale of salaries for industrial schools together with regulations for the award of certificates is attached.

5. At present no uniform scale of fees is levied in industrial schools. It is recommended, though local bodies are at liberty to vary this scale if they wish to do so, that the fee rates should range from 1 anna in the first class to 8 annas in the eighth class.

COMPLAINT AGAINST A POLICE OFFICIAL IN AMRITSAR.

*1474. **Rai Sahib Lala Ganga Ram :** Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) if it is a fact that one Naraina, sweeper, sent a telegram to the Inspector-General of Police complaining against the conduct of a certain police official taking forced labour or *begar* in Amritsar district, village New Karian, thana Sarhal;

(*b*) if so, will he please state if any enquiry was made and with what result ?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow : (*a*) A telegram complaining against the police and purporting to have been sent by Naraina was received by the Inspector-General. Naraina has since denied having sent the telegram and says that it must have been sent in his name by some other person.

(*b*) An enquiry was held by a gazetted Police Officer on the spot but no evidence was forthcoming to substantiate the allegations.

HASIYAT TAX.

*1475. **Rai Sahib Lala Ganga Ram :** Will the Honourable Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that a Sub-Judge at Sargodha has held in 31 cases instituted by some tax-payers of Sargodha against the district board, the Hasiyat tax to be irrecoverable and illegal ? If so, will the Government please state what steps they have taken or intend to take to have the tax realised by the district board to be refunded to the payers thereof ?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : A Sub-Judge has found in the sense indicated, but the district board is endeavouring to have the decision set aside. The question of making refunds, therefore, does not at present arise.

HEAD VERNACULAR CLERKS.

*1476. **Lala Bodh Raj :** Will the Honourable Member for Revenue please state the names of the candidates communitywise who have been accepted for the office of Head Vernacular clerks in the Multan division for the years 1927 and 1928 ?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : Perhaps the honourable member wants to find out how the candidates are divided communally—9 candidates of whom 2 are Hindus.

PUBLIC PROSECUTORS.

*1477. **Lala Bodh Raj:** (*i*) Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state—

(*a*) what is the age-limit for a Public Prosecutor in the Punjab;

(*b*) for how many years can an extension be given after the above age-limit;

(*c*) how many Public Prosecutors in the Punjab have attained the above age and are still working;

(*d*) if anybody has been granted extension; if so, why, when and for what time?

(*ii*) Will the Honourable Member also say if Government have any intention of retiring them and if the reply be in the negative, the reasons for the same?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow: (*i*) (*a*) No age limit has been fixed, but a legal practitioner engaged by Government as Government Pleader accepts the liability to be retired at the age of 55 at the absolute discretion of Government.

(*b*) Does not arise.

(*c*) There are two legal practitioners (Khan Bahadur Khwaja Muhammad Ghulam Sadiq, Public Prosecutor, Amritsar, and Rai Sahib Lala Sita Ram, Talwar, Public Prosecutor, Mianwali) engaged as Government Pleaders over the age of 55.

(*d*) Does not arise.

(*ii*) The matter is in the discretion of Government.

ADMISSION TO NORMAL SCHOOLS.

*1478. **Chaudhri Ram Singh:** Will the Honourable Minister for Education kindly state—

(*i*) whether it is a fact that the students who take up Sanskrit, Hindi or Punjabi as elective subjects in the Middle Department are not admitted to the Normal Schools while those who take up Urdu or Persian in the Middle Department are readily admitted in such schools;

(*ii*) if so, on what grounds this distinction is being maintained?

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal: (*i*) No.

(*ii*) Does not arise.

DIVERSION OF CHAKKI RIVER.

*1479. **Chaudhri Ram Singh:** (*i*) Will the Honourable the Revenue Member kindly state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that in or about the year 1860, the Canal Department diverted the course of the Chakki river towards Damtal, Sarai and Mohtli in Nurpur tahsil by cutting the Dhangu hill;

(*b*) that the said department continued paying Rs. 21,115-9-0 to the zamindars and tenants for about 8 years from 1860 to 1868 as compensation for the loss suffered by them on account of the failure of their crops and that Mr. Lyall, the then Settlement Officer, entered this amount in the annual record as the price of the land?

(*ii*) If the answers to (*a*) and (*b*) above be in the affirmative, will Government kindly lay the papers concerned on the table together with a copy of the entry made by Mr. Lyall?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: (*a*) The Canal Department concentrated the various streams of the river Chakki in the neighbourhood of Dhangu into one stream through a cutting in Dhangu hill. The date of doing this cannot be traced.

(*b*) No entry of the kind attributed to Mr. Lyall in this part of the question can be traced nor does it appear that the Canal Department "continued paying Rs. 21,115-9-0 to the zamindars and tenants for about 8 years from 1860 to 1868." The reference is apparently to a sum of Rs. 21,115-11-0 which was paid as compensation for land, trees and moafi rights injured by the Chakki torrent in consequence of the operations of the Canal Department during the sixties of the last century.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

Damage to Cotton crops.

727. Sayad Muhammad Husain: Will the Honourable the Revenue Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) if he is aware of the fact that considerable damage was done to the cotton crops in the Lower Bari Doab Canal Colony on account of the breach in the Upper Chenab Canal in August 1928;

(*b*) if so, the relief, if any, the Government proposes to give to the sufferers?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: (*a*) No.

(*b*) This does not arise, but if there is very serious damage, the remission rules in force will operate.

Breaches in the Upper Chenab Canal.

728. Sayad Muhammad Husain: Will the Honourable the Revenue Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) if it has been brought to his notice that the banks of the Upper Chenab Canal and the pucca masonry works constructed on it are weak and liable to breaches in the future;

(*b*) if the answer to part (*a*) is in the affirmative, the action, if any, the Government proposes to take to prevent breaches in the abovementioned construction?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Every effort is being made to avoid further trouble. The soil through which the canal is constructed is of poor quality in many reaches and calls for a very high standard of maintenance. The necessity of this has been fully impressed on the local officers.

As regards masonry works the design and present condition of each is being examined with a view to avoid possible causes of failure. Also orders have been issued for stringent periodical examination in the future in order that any defects which may develop may be brought to notice at once, and the necessary repairs and strengthening undertaken without delay. In order to make this possible, it is essential that there should be periodical closures of the main canal, including at least one of not less than 30 days every year, for the present. This is necessary as owing to the high spring level, it requires at least 10 days before the water in the canal has become sufficiently low to permit of the foundations of masonry works being examined, and repairs put in hand.

OPENING OF THE DRAIN OBSTRUCTED BY THE GUGERA DISTRIBUTARY.

729. Sayad Muhammad Husain : Will the Honourable the Revenue Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether he is aware of the fact that considerable damage was done to crops and buildings in the vicinity of Renala Khurd by the heavy rains of August 1928 ;

(*b*) whether it is also a fact that the rain water was stopped by Gugera distributary of the Lower Bari Doab Canal ;

(*c*) if the answer to parts (*a*) and (*b*) are in the affirmative, whether the Government proposes to open the natural drain obstructed by the Gugera distributary, and state the nature of relief, if any, Government proposes to give to the sufferers ?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) No.

(*c*) No drainage is obstructed by the Gugera distributary but the opening up of the drainage serving the area is under consideration. As regard relief, the ordinary remission rules will operate in this area.

DAMAGE BY RAIN WATER TO CERTAIN VILLAGES.

730. Sayad Muhammad Husain : (1) Will the Honourable the Revenue Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) if he is aware of the fact that heavy rain fell in the Pakpattan tahsil on the 31st August 1928 ;

(*b*) if it is also a fact that no syphon was constructed under the main line of Sutlej Valley Canal in the vicinity of village Pir Ghani ;

(*c*) if it is also a fact that rain water began to pour into the area of villages Pir Ghani, Mahabil, Chak Muhammad Shah and other villages from 31st August 1928 to the 4th September 1928 ;

(*d*) if it is a fact that this rain water remained accumulated in the said area and was let out eventually under the orders of the Executive Engineer, Suleimanke, by making three cuts in the main canal ;

(*e*) if it is also a fact that in the interval much damage was done to the crops and houses ?

(2) If the answers to parts (*a*), (*b*), (*c*), (*d*) and (*e*) are in the affirmative, will the Government kindly state—

(*i*) why the cuts were not made in time ;

(*ii*) what damage was done to the aforesaid villages ;

(*iii*) what relief, if any, the Government is prepared to give to these villages, and

(*iv*) what steps they are taking to drain the rain water in future ?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : (1) (*a*) to (*c*) Yes.

(*d*) Cuts were made in canal bank at R. D. 76,000 at 20 hours on 1st and cuts at R. D. 84,000 and R. D. 70,000 at 21 hours on 2nd and 15 hours on 3rd.

(*e*) A certain amount of damage to crops and houses occurred of which a detailed report is awaited.

(2) (*i*) The cuts were made as the emergency arose, see (*d*) above.

(*ii*) The damage is under investigation.

(*iii*) The relief will depend on the result of the investigation.

(*iv*) The problem is under investigation.

ABIANA.

731. Sayad Muhammad Husain : (*i*) Will the Honourable the Revenue Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) if he is aware of the fact that none of the perennial canals in the Dipalpur area started irrigation from this kharif ;

(*b*) if it is also a fact that many distributaries did not start full irrigation till late in the season, on account of the delay in the construction of railway bridges and other masonry works ?

(*ii*) If the answer to parts (*a*) and (*b*) are in the affirmative, will the Government kindly state whether they will impose the old rate of abiana or the new rate for the present kharif crops ?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : (*i*) (*a*) The question is not quite understood as in Dipalpur area there is no perennial canal. The Dipalpur Canal is non-perennial and has started irrigation from kharif 1928.

(*b*) None of the new distributaries started full irrigation this year. According to the forecast given in the Revised Project Estimate of the Sutlej Valley Project of 1926, they will start full irrigation in the year 1932-33. It is expected that the area irrigated during the current year will exceed the forecasted figures.

(*ii*) In view of (*a*) and (*b*) above, this question does not arise.

ACREAGE RATES IN DIPALPUR CANAL AREA.

732. Sayad Muhammad Husain: (*a*) Will the Honourable the Revenue Member be pleased to state whether he is aware of the fact that new watercourses were not ready at the time of the starting of the Dipalpur Canal and that old watercourses were used by the zamindars as the medium of irrigation;

(*b*) If the answer to part (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Government kindly state whether it is their intention to defer the imposition of acreage rates for this year?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: The honourable member is informed that the requisite information is not available at present. Enquiry has been made and the result is awaited; it will be communicated to the honourable member as soon as available.

GRANT OF LAND IN NILI BAR TO OORA VILLAGERS.

733. Sayad Muhammad Husain: (*a*) Will the Honourable the Revenue Member be pleased to state whether he is aware of the fact that village Oora (اورا) situated near Sialkot has practically lost all its land on account of the acquisition by the railway?

(*b*) If the answer to part (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Honourable Member kindly state whether the Government intends to consider the claims of the inhabitants of this village to a grant of land in the Nili Bar?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: (*a*) No land belonging to the village Oora has been acquired by the railway.

(*b*) Does not arise.

QUARTERS FOR EXTRA ASSISTANT COMMISSIONERS.

734. Pir Akbar Ali: Will the Chief Secretary to Government kindly state—

(*a*) whether there is any proposal to build quarters for Extra Assistant Commissioners;

(*b*) if the answer to (*a*) be in the affirmative, whether this proposal is limited to certain districts or is general for all the districts of the province?

Mr. H. W. Emerson: (*a*) Government has not accepted the general principle that residences should be built for all Extra Assistant Commissioners. It has admitted the desirability of building such residences as funds permit and subject to the vote of the Council in those stations where suitable private houses are not available on reasonable rent.

(*b*) Subject to the conditions stated in the first part of the answer, the principle applies generally; but in giving effect to it, it is proposed that the programme of construction shall be based on local needs.

EXEMPTION OF HINDUS FROM FRONTIER CRIMES REGULATIONS.

735. Khan Sahib Khan Muhammad Saif Ullah Khan: Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that Hindus have been exempted from the operations of the Frontier Crimes Regulations in such of the Punjab districts in which these regulations are in force;

(*b*) whether they will also be excluded from the list of Jirga elders in such districts?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow: (*a*) Instructions have been issued that the cases in which Hindus are accused persons should ordinarily not be tried under the Frontier Crimes Regulations.

(*b*) This depends on the discretion of the Deputy Commissioner.

VETERINARY ASSISTANTS.

736. Khan Sahib Khan Muhammad Saif Ullah Khan: (*i*) Will the Honourable Minister for Agriculture be pleased to place on the table a list of the names of such Veterinary Assistants of the Civil Veterinary Department, Northern Punjab, who served in the Great War from 1914 to 1919 and

(*a*) whose accounts of pay, gratuity, etc., are still pending;

(*b*) whose last pay certificates have not yet been received in the Civil Veterinary Department from the Military Transport Department;

(*c*) who have not yet got any military medals or distinctions due to them for their field service;

(*d*) who have not been given any departmental promotion since 1914;

(*ii*) Will the Honourable Minister kindly state what action the Government proposes to take as regards (*a*), (*b*), (*c*) and (*d*)?

The Honourable Sardar Jogendra Singh: (*i*) Following is a list of the names of Veterinary Assistants of the North Punjab Circle who served, in the Great War from 1914 to 1918:—

1. Lala Tara Chand, I.
2. M. Mohammad Sarwar Shah.
3. M. Rahmat Khan.
4. M. Shahab-ud-Din, I.
5. M. Mohammad Abdulla, I.
6. M. Mohammad Sher.
7. M. Fazl-ud-Din, Ahmadi.
8. L. Bhim Sain.

(*a*) No. 7 only: 1st grade, Veterinary Assistant Fazl-ud-Din Ahmadi.

(*b*) Same as for (*a*) above.

(*c*) No information available.

(*d*) Nos. 5 and 7 above.

[Hon'ble Sardar Jogendra Singh.]

(*ii*) (*a*) The matter is still the subject of correspondence with the Military Authorities.

(*b*) No action is required to be taken, as the pay is being regularly paid to the Veterinary Assistant in the absence of the receipt of the Last Pay Certificate from the Military Department. The pay was authorised in consultation with the Accountant-General, Punjab.

(*c*) In the absence of definite information Government is not prepared to take any action.

(*d*) Government's orders are that the claims of these Veterinary Assistants be duly considered along with others at the time promotions are made in the Department.

HILL TORRENTS BHUNA AND KAHAN.

737. Malik Nawab Major Talib Mehdi Khan : Will the Honourable the Revenue Member kindly state—

(*a*) whether Government had at one time under consideration a proposal to build *bunds* (dams) across the hill torrents called Bhuna and Kahan in the Jhelum district ;

(*b*) whether the above project was subsequently dropped ?

(*ii*) If the answer to parts (*a*) and (*b*) be in the affirmative, will Government please say if there is any likelihood of the scheme being revived ?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Yes, these schemes were dropped because they were financially impracticable.

(*ii*) No.

REGULATION OF MONEY LENDERS ACCOUNTS BILL.

738. Malik Nawab Major Talib Mehdi Khan : Will the Honourable the Finance Member kindly state, when legislation by Government regarding the regulation of money-lenders accounts is expected to be undertaken ?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow : The date for the introduction of the Bill depends on the time taken to produce a satisfactory draft.

The Honourable Member may rest assured that Government will do all in its power to produce as satisfactorily a Bill as possible in the shortest time.

DISTRICT AND ASSISTANT DISTRICT INSPECTORS OF SCHOOLS.

739. Malik Nawab Major Talib Mehdi Khan : Will the Honourable the Minister for Education please state the number of officers community-wise (District Inspectors of Schools and Assistant District Inspectors of Schools) transferred from the inspection line to the teaching line and *vice versa* during the last two years ?

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal: A statement giving the requisite information is laid on the table.

Number of officers transferred from teaching to the inspecting line during the last two years.			Number of officers transferred from the inspecting to the teaching line during the last two years.		
Hindus.	Muhammadans.	Sikhs.	Hindus.	Muhammadans.	Sikhs.
District Inspectors of Schools.					
4	1	2	1	1	—
Assistant District Inspectors of Schools.					
5	14	8	9	23	6

Jhelum Canal.

740. Malik Nawab Major Talib Mehdi Khan: Will the Honourable the Revenue Member please state, whether the Government have come to any decision with regard to the construction of the canal running along the right bank of the Jhelum and taking off at the head of the Lower Jhelum Canal.

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: No decision has yet been arrived at in the matter. An officer of the Irrigation Department has been placed on special duty to investigate the important problems connected with the cross drainage of the area, and his report which is expected shortly must be awaited before the case can be proceeded with.

Desi Cotton.

741. Sardar Hira Singh: Will the Honourable the Revenue Member kindly state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that *Desi* cotton is the main crop of the ilaqa irrigated by the Upper Bari Doab Canal;

(*b*) whether he is also aware of the fact that this crop has specially failed this year and yielded a very poor outturn;

(*c*) If the answers to (*a*) and (*b*) above be in the affirmative, whether Government have any intention of remitting the water-rate and land revenue on *Desi* cotton?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: (*a*) It is the most important irrigated crop.

(*b*) Its estimated yield is below normal.

(*c*) The matter is receiving most careful consideration.

NON-OFFICIAL PRESIDENTS OF LOCAL BODIES.

742. Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Fazl Ali: Will the Honourable the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to say if any official presidents of local bodies have been substituted by non-official presidents in any of the local bodies of the Punjab since the 1st January 1927? If so, in what places?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon: The information is being collected and will be communicated to the Honourable Member in due course.

FAILURE OF COTTON CROPS.

743. Rana Firoz-ud-din Khan: Will the Honourable the Revenue Member be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether he is aware that cotton crop has failed in the Lyallpur district;

(*ii*) if so, what steps, if any, has Government taken to investigate the causes of failure and to ascertain the extent of the damage done?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: (*i*) The crop is below the average.

(*ii*) The matter is under the consideration of Government.

LANDS ACQUIRED FOR MILITARY ENCAMPING GROUNDS.

744. Rana Firoz-ud-Din Khan: (*i*) Will the Honourable the Revenue Member be pleased to state if it is a fact—

(*a*) that about 250 kanals of land, situated in village Ghumke, Sialkot district, were acquired by the Government at a nominal price of about Rs. 500 in 1866 to be used as military encamping grounds;

(*b*) that it was expressly promised on behalf of Government that the land would be restored to the original proprietors or their descendants in case it was not required for the purpose for which it was acquired;

(*c*) that the land in question has now been granted in spite of the promise, to an Indian Military Officer?

(*ii*) If answer to (*i*) above be in the affirmative, will the Government please state reasons for not restoring the land to the descendants of original proprietors as promised?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: (*i*) (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) No.

(*c*) and (*ii*) do not arise.

GOVERNMENT COLLEGE, LAHORE.

745. Khan Bahadur Malik Muhammad Amin Khan: (*a*) Will the Honourable Minister for Education be pleased to state whethe

it is a fact that a Committee of Enquiry consisting of the Director of Public Instruction, the Assistant Director of Public Instruction, Mr. Parkinson, and Mr. Garrett, sat in December last to consider the demand for additional accommodation as well as staff in the Government College, Lahore?

(*b*) If the answer to part (*a*) be in the affirmative, will the Honourable Minister for Education please lay on the table the findings of the said committee of enquiry?

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The committee was purely a departmental committee to advise the Ministry. It is not proposed to publish the document.

GOVERNMENT COLLEGE, LAHORE.

746. Khan Bahadur Malik Muhammad Amin Khan: (*a*) Will the Honourable Minister for Education be pleased to state whether it is a fact that there is no library hall and reading rooms in the Government College, Lahore, available for students as a place for study?

(*b*) If the answer to part (*a*) be in the affirmative, will the Honourable Minister for Education please state what steps, if any, does Government intend to take to supply the need?

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal: (*a*) By reason of the popularity of Government College, numbers have now risen to such an extent that the library rooms are now being utilized for some of the smaller classes.

(*b*) Government has under consideration the desirability of increasing the accommodation at Government College.

HONORARY MAGISTRATE, AMBALA.

747. Rana Firoz-ud-Din Khan: Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Ambala city has a population of about 16 thousand Muslims as against about 11 thousand non-Muslims and the only Honorary Magistrate there is a non-Muslim, who is also the Sub-Registrar?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow: The answer is in the affirmative.

HONORARY MAGISTRATES AT KASUR.

748. Rai Bahadur Pandit Daulat Ram, Kalia: Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that there is no Hindu Honorary Magistrate at Kasur;

(*b*) whether there are any vacancies in the Bench of the Honorary Magistrates at Kasur;

(*c*) whether the Government proposes to fill up the vacancies;

(*d*) If so, how?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow: (*a*) Yes. There are two Sikh and two Muhammadan Honorary Magistrates at Kasur.

(*b*) No.

(*c*) & (*d*) Do not arise.

KASUR MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE.

749. Rai Bahadur Pandit Daulat Ram, Kalia: (*i*) Will the Honourable Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state if it is a fact—

(*a*) that the Kasur municipal committee has not appointed any paid Secretary since the reversion of Pandit Iqbal Narain in April last;

(*b*) that in August last, Mr. Lincoln made an inspection of the municipal office and found it in an unsatisfactory condition;

(*c*) that the Deputy Commissioner wrote to the committee to expedite the appointment of the paid Secretary?

(*ii*) If the replies to the above be in the affirmative, will the Government be pleased to state, if it proposes to take any action in the matter?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon: (*i*) (*a*), (*b*) & (*c*) Yes.

(*ii*) The municipal committee is still considering the question of the appointment of a paid Secretary.

MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE, KASUR.

750. Rai Bahadur Pandit Daulat Ram, Kalia: (*i*) Will the Honourable Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) the average monthly income of the municipal committee, Kasur, during the last seven months;

(*b*) the average monthly expenditure in all departments of the committee;

(*c*) the amount due to contractors for supplies and works completed;

(*d*) the amount due to traders for octroi refunds;

(*e*) whether it is a fact that the committee has been withholding payments due to contractors and traders for want of funds?

(*ii*) If the replies to the above be in the affirmative, will the Government be pleased to state what measures the committee has adopted to put its finances on a sound footing?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon: A report has been called for from local officers and the information required by the Honourable Member will be furnished to him in due course.

MISSION GIRLS' SCHOOL, KASUR.

751. Rai Bahadur Pandit Daulat Ram, Kalia: (*i*) Will the Honourable Minister for Education be pleased to state if it is a fact—

(*a*) that the municipal committee of Kasur decided to discontinue the Educational grant to the Mission School for girls;

(*b*) that the Deputy Commissioner, Lahore, suspended the above resolution of the committee;

(*c*) that the committee again passed a resolution refusing to give grant to the above school:

(*d*) that the Director of Public Instruction telegraphed to the committee threatening to discontinue the whole educational grant in case the Mission School grant was not paid;

(*e*) that the committee thereupon paid the grant?

(*ii*) If the replies to the above be in the affirmative, will the Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of girls attending the above school;

(*b*) how many of them are Christians, Hindus, Muhammadans and Sikhs;

(*c*) how many of them belong to Kasur town and how many come from villages?

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal: (*i*) (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) A telegram to the effect was sent by the Director of Public Instruction to the Deputy Commissioner, Lahore, and not to the municipal committee of Kasur.

(*e*) Yes.

(*ii*) (*a*) 65.

(*b*) Christians, 60, Hindus, nil, Muhammadans, 5 and Sikhs, nil.

(*c*) Kasur town, 10, Tahsil 31 (the rest from outside).

In applying rule 8, Chapter III, of the Punjab Education Code, 11th edition, what is generally considered is the area in which the school is located and not the area or areas from which the students come.

PARTING MESSAGE OF HIS EXCELLENCY SIR MALCOLM HAILEY.

Mr. President: I wish to inform the honourable members of the Council that on the 2nd August, 1928, I received the following telegram from His Excellency Sir Malcolm Hailey, who relinquished the charge of his exalted office six days later:

> "I regret exceedingly that circumstances will not allow me to bid farewell to yourself and Punjab Legislative Council, but I shall always be mindful of my very pleasant relations with them and with their President."

To this telegram I sent the following reply:

> "I am grateful to Your Excellency for your kind telegram. I fully realise that circumstances do not allow you to bid farewell to the Punjab Legislative Council. I assure you that the Council will appreciate your message and shall never forget your pleasant relations with its members and President."

REFERENCE TO THE LATE LALA LAJPAT RAI.

Mr. President: Gentlemen, I am sure you will be deeply and sincerely sorry for the great and irreparable loss the country has suffered by the unexpected and sudden death of Lala Lajpat Rai of world-wide fame. The unique and invaluable services rendered by him to the social, educational and national cause are too well-known to require any mention. I am sure all of you will agree with me that he has passed away at a time when his services were sorely needed by his country. His loss is, no doubt, a national loss and has, therefore, been mourned both in and outside the country. I hope you will permit me to send on your behalf a message of condolence and sympathy to the members of the bereaved family.

The House signified its assent *nem con.*

PANEL OF CHAIRMEN.

Mr. President: I have to announce to the Council that under Rule 3 of the Punjab Legislative Council Rules, I have nominated the following gentlemen to serve on the panel of Chairmen for the present session:

(1) Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram.

(2) Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang.

(3) Dr. Shaikh Muhammad Alam.

(4) Sardar Harbakhsh Singh.

REPORTS AND STATEMENTS LAID ON THE TABLE.

Secretary: I beg to lay on the table the following:—

(1) Report of the Committee on Public Accounts of the Punjab Legislative Council on the Audit and Appropriation Accounts of the year 1926-27 and other matters.

(2) The appropriation accounts of the Punjab Government and the Report of the Accountant-General thereon for the year 1926-27.

(3) Statement showing the action taken by Government on resolutions passed by the Punjab Legislative Council from November 1927 up to date.

(4) Statement showing the action taken by Government on cuts made by the Punjab Legislative Council in original and supplementary demands presented to the Council from November 1927 up to date.

GOVERNMENT'S DEMANDS FOR ADDITIONAL, SUPPLEMENTARY AND EXCESS GRANTS.

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow (Finance Member): Sir, I beg to present the additional, supplementary and excess demands for grants specified in the continuous list of Government business. These have all been recommended by His Excellency the Governor. As regards the additional and supplementary demands for the current financial year, I would draw

the attention of honourable members to the statement of the financial position which has been circulated to them. With regard to the excess grants for 1926-27, I may inform the Council that these are presented on the recommendation of the Public Accounts Committee whose report has been circulated. Excess Demand No. 4, however, has not received the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor as on reference to the Accountant-General it has been found to be unnecessary.

IRRIGATION GRANT.

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain (Revenue Member): Sir, I beg to move:

"That an additional sum not exceeding Rs. 1,12,202 be granted to the Governor in Council to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending the 31st of March 1929 in respect of Irrigation."

Mr. President: The question is:

"That an additional sum not exceeding Rs. 1,12,202 be granted to the Governor in Council to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending the 31st of March 1929 in respect of Irrigation."

Lala Bodh Raj [West Punjab Towns (Non-Muhammadan), Urban]: Sir, I rise to a point of order. On page 1 of the memorandum to the supplementary estimates you will find that the total expenditure against extension of Shahpur Minor, etc., and against alteration in the Railway bridge at R.D. 97,132, Main Line Lower is Rs. 18,126 and Rs. 43,249, respectively. It appears that the member incharge has asked the Council to give its sanction for Rs. 1,000 under each head, but judging from the note which has been appended to it, it is found that the work will be carried out in 1928-29, the balance of the cost being found from the present irrigation budget.

It appears that this is in the form of a token grant and the system of token grants has already been abolished. The honourable member will, therefore, not be in order if he does not ask for the sanction of the House to the whole expenditure.

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: I do not quite follow the honourable member. If he is going to speak again, I hope he will make himself clear.

Mr. President: Will the honourable member make himself a little bit clearer, if possible?

Lala Bodh Raj: I will just repeat what I have already stated. On page 1 of the Memorandum to the Supplementary Estimates, the expenditure on the extension of Shahpur Minor, etc., and the alteration in the Railway Bridge at R. D. 97,132, Main Line Lower, is shown to be Rs. 18,126 and Rs. 43,249, respectively. The honourable member for Government has been pleased to ask the Council sanction for Rs. 1,000 under each head and he evidently means to cover the balance of the expenditure from the present irrigation budget. As this is a new service, under the rules, he should apply for sanction to the whole expenditure and I ask whether he is in order in asking only for Rs. 1,000.

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : I understand the honourable member has really no objection to the money being spent. His whole objection consists in my placing Rs. 1,000 in the second column of the estimates instead of placing the whole sum. Have I followed him aright, Sir?

Dr. Shaikh Muhammad Alam : But he does not follow you.

Mr. President : No member is allowed to express his view by proxy in this hall.

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : Therefore, Sir, I have no doubt that on the merits of the question we are in agreement and the only difference between the honourable member and myself is as to the method adopted.

Mr. President : The question is :

Lala Bodh Raj : What about my point of order, Sir?

Mr. President : Is the honourable member raising a point of order or opposing the grant?

Lala Bodh Raj : There is no question of opposition to the grant, Sir.

I will raise another point, then. From the note that has been attached to the demand it appears that the Standing Finance Committee has approved and the Council's vote has been anticipated. The expenditure has already been incurred and we are simply to say ditto to what the Finance Committee has done. Previously it was the practice for the reports of the Finance Committee to be published in the *Punjab Government Gazette*, even before the Council met, so that the members were in a position to know the reasons which led the Finance Committee to give sanction to the expenditure and why the Council should also sanction it. But, now that practice has not been followed and the members of the House are not in a position to know for what reason the Finance Committee gave its sanction before the Council could meet.

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : Is it possible to explain to the honourable member that the two institutions, the Standing Finance Committee and the Finance Department, are quite distinct? Perhaps that might clear his mind for throughout his speech he was referring to the Committee and not to the Department and it is that which has accorded the sanction.

Lala Bodh Raj : Beg your pardon Sir. I referred to the Finance Committee and not the Finance Department, for it is stated at the bottom of page 6 of the memorandum that the Standing Finance Committee has approved of the Council vote being anticipated.

Mr. President : May I know if the honourable member's complaint is that the Standing Finance Committee has exceeded its jurisdiction in expressing the opinion which is recorded at the bottom of page 6 of the memorandum?

Lala Bodh Raj : Yes, Sir. In addition, I should say that we have not got the material to know whether this amount is to be sanctioned and whether we should say ditto to what the Finance Committee has done, and why?

Mr. President : If the honourable member, who moved the demand has failed to satisfy the Council with cogent reasons in support of his demand

it is open to the honourable objector and others who agree with him to throw out the demand. But I do not think I should call upon the Government Member to give reasons when he does not choose to do so himself.

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: None has been asked for. The honourable member does not object to the expenditure at all. He approves of it as he is fully aware of the trouble about water-logging. His only complaint is that the Standing Committee of the Council has, in view of the extreme urgency of the proposal, ventured to assume that the Council would share the same view and informed the Government that it is a matter in which the Committee could so assume. The honourable member may be quite mistaken in his view that the Council does not agree with the Standing Finance Committee. But if there is any item of expenditure about which the honourable member has the slightest doubt, I will be only too glad to explain the matter.

Mr. President: The question is:—

"That an additional sum not exceeding Rs. 1,12,202 be granted to the Governor in Council to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending the 31st of March 1929 in respect of Irrigation."

The motion was carried.

IRRIGATION (CAPITAL) GRANT.

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain (Revenue Member): Sir, I beg to move—

"That an additional sum not exceeding Rs. 8,24,000 be granted to the Governor in Council to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending the 31st of March 1929 in respect of Irrigation (Capital)."

Mr. President: The question is:

"That an additional sum not exceeding Rs. 8,24,000 be granted to the Governor in Council to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending the 31st of March 1929 in respect of Irrigation (Capital)."

The motion was carried.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION (RESERVED) GRANT.

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain (Revenue Member): Sir, I beg to move:

"That an additional sum not exceeding Rs. 2,000 be granted to the Governor in Council to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending the 31st of March 1929 in respect of General Administration (Reserved)."

Mr. President: The question is:

"That an additional sum not exceeding Rs. 2,000 be granted to the Governor in Council to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending the 31st of March 1929 in respect of General Administration (Reserved)."

The motion was carried.

POLICE GRANT.

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow (Finance Member): I beg to move:

"That an additional sum not exceeding Rs. 18,203 be granted to the Governor in Council to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending the 31st of March, 1929 in respect of Police."

Mr. President: The question is :

"That an additional sum not exceeding Rs. 18,203 be granted to the Governor in Council to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending the 31st of March, 1929 in respect of Police."

Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq [Amritsar City (Muhammadan), Urban]: Sir, there is one item in regard to which I wish to say a few words, and that is the increase of staff for the control of traffic in Lahore. For the last two years there has been a great increase in traffic, especially motor vehicle traffic, not only in Lahore but all over the Punjab. There should therefore be more effective control of traffic not only in Lahore but also in other parts of the province and I wish to ask, if I would be in order, the Government to look to the needs of the other parts, where heavy motor traffic makes it necessary to have an equally effective control. It is getting all the more dangerous when you find hundreds and thousands of *gariwallas* driving sometimes one and sometimes the other way without practically any control, and accidents are on the increase. People who are given licenses are not made aware of the rule of the road. The custom of driving to the left is unfortunately an English custom, which in our country people do not know and they are in the habit of driving always on the right side. There is thus the clash between the custom and the law when the police find out that a particular driver has violated the rule of the road, if he, according to his custom, drives on the right side.

Mr. E. Maya Das: Is this speech relevant, Sir?

Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq: Thus, Sir, there is the great need of teaching the people who come to obtain drivers' licenses the right side which they should keep to. There should be some kind of licensing system whereby, as in Germany and in England, whenever people come to take licenses they should be told that the right side is not the right but the left. And there should also be a greater control of the traffic by the police on several roads.

3 P.M. There is one other point I wish to mention. The police should be told to deal with the lorrywalas properly. Once I happened to be travelling in a lorry to Amritsar. On the way a Sub-Inspector of Police got in without paying his fare, and with him two other men. Though the lorry was meant to carry 18 passengers it actually was carrying 21 passengers. This is not the way the Police should deal with traffic. There should be better traffic control.

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: Will the honourable member give me the number of that lorry?

Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq: If I had known that I would be asked the number of the lorry, I would have taken note of the number.

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: I made that enquiry with a view to taking necessary action.

Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq: Very good. As a rule, when allegations are made, Government take three years to start instituting enquiries. I am very glad to find that Government is so prompt today. What I want to say is this that there should be some real control, and that Lahore should not be the only favoured district. There is a lot of traffic in Lahore no doubt, but there is a lot of traffic in other places also. There should be more real

traffic control. In one place a lorry is licensed to carry eighteen passengers, in another place the same lorry is licensed to carry twenty passengers. I find that in Lahore a lorry is licensed to carry nineteen passengers, in Amritsar a similar lorry is licensed to carry 21 and in Gujranwala 17. There should be a sort of a committee of enquiry to go into the whole question of motor traffic control.

The Honourable Sardar Jogendra Singh: There is already a committee sitting.

Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq: Then that committee is doing its job somewhere else. I say that there should be some sort of enquiry and regulations should be made for the better control of traffic. We should introduce the latest methods employed in countries like Germany and England.

Mr. President: The question is:

"That an additional sum not exceeding Rs. 18,203 be granted to the Governor in Council to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending the 31st March 1929 in respect of Police."

The motion was carried.

MISCELLANEOUS (TRANSFERRED) GRANT.

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon (Minister for Local Self-Government) Sir, I beg to move:

"That an additional sum not exceeding Rs. 20,381 be granted to the Punjab Government (Ministry of Local Self-Government) to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending the 31st of March 1929 in respect of Miscellaneous (Transferred)."

Mr. President: The question is:

"That an additional sum not exceeding Rs. 20,381 be granted to the Punjab Government (Ministry of Local Self-Government) to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending the 31st of March 1929 in respect of Miscellaneous (Transferred)."

Lala Bodh Raj: Sir, I just want to ask one question regarding the expenditure of Rs. 8,533 which is to be incurred on account of demonstration train. Are the carriages the property of the Punjab Government or of the Railway?

The Honourable Sardar Jogendra Singh: The carriages are to be used as demonstration carriages every year.

Lala Bodh Raj: Yes, but will they be the property of the Punjab Government or the property of the North-Western Railway?

The Honourable Sardar Jogendra Singh: They are the property of the Railway.

Mr. President: The question is:

"That an additional sum not exceeding Rs. 20,381 be granted to the Punjab Government (Ministry of Local Self-Government) to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending the 31st of March 1929 in respect of Miscellaneous (Transferred)."

The motion was carried.

EDUCATION (TRANSFERRED) GRANT.

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal (Minister for Education) : Sir, I beg to move :

"That an additional sum not exceeding Rs. 15,000 be granted to the Punjab Government (Ministry of Education) to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending the 31st of March 1929 in respect of Education (Transferred)."

Mr. President : The question :

"That an additional sum not exceeding Rs. 15,000 be granted to the Punjab Government (Ministry of Education) to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending the 31st of March 1929 in respect of Education (Transferred)."

The motion was carried.

MEDICAL GRANT.

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon (Minister for Local Self-Government) : Sir, I beg to move :

"That an additional sum not exceeding Rs. 66,148 be granted to the Punjab Government (Ministry of Local Self-Government) to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending the 31st of March 1929 in respect of Medical."

Mr. President : The question is :

"That an additional sum not exceeding Rs. 66,148 be granted to the Punjab Government (Ministry of Local Self-Government) to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending the 31st March 1929 in respect of Medical."

Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq (Amritsar City (Muhammadan), Urban) : Sir, I read in the Explanatory Memorandum that it is proposed to employ a dentist on the starting pay of Rs. 1,000 rising to Rs. 1,500 per mensem. Sir, we all know that all over India there is not enough money to carry on Government properly, and yet our Government is thinking of employing a dentist on Rs. 1,000 a month. The Government benches forget that the income of the individual in the Punjab has no relation at all to the high salaries the Government is giving to its officials. A poor country like India cannot afford to pay Rs. 1,000 a month to a dentist when cheaper dentists are available. The price of wheat in the province has gone up, the cotton crop has failed, and famine is facing us. And yet Government is coming forward with a proposal to employ a dentist on Rs. 1,000. The Government forgets that it is not America or England where the wages are very high. If the same high salaries are paid in India, it will prove disastrous to the country. The Ministers here get Rs. 5,000 a month, the Honourable Members also get Rs. 5,000 and the Financial Commissioner gets Rs. 4,000. So they can never think of offering anything less than Rs. 1,000 to other officers. If the money were to come out of their own pockets, they would not think of spending so much. What is the use of having one dentist for one place on such a high salary, when you can have two or three dentists for the same amount for two or three places? Then what is the use of centralising? Lahore has already got a good number of dentists. Amritsar has got half a dozen men or so; but there are towns and villages which have no dentists at all.

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : The dentist is being employed to teach people dentistry, so that they may go to the villages and towns where there are at present no dentists.

Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq : You start an Extra Assistant Commissioner on Rs. 200 and an I. C. S. on Rs. 500. Even in your Education Department where you have professors coming from England with Cambridge or Oxford degrees, you start them on Rs. 400, and in the Police Department you give a start of Rs. 200 or Rs. 300. I do not see why a dentist should be given the starting pay of Rs. 1,000. Such high pays should be discouraged by this Council. For this reason I oppose this grant.

Mr. President : The question is :

"That an additional sum not exceeding Rs. 66,149 be granted to the Punjab Government (Ministry of Local Self-Government) to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending the 31st of March 1929 in respect of Medical."

The motion was carried.

AGRICULTURE GRANT.

The Honourable Sardar Jogendra Singh (Minister for Agriculture) **:** Sir, I beg to move :

"That an additional sum not exceeding Rs. 31,792 be granted to the Punjab Government (Ministry of Agriculture) to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending the 31st of March 1929 in respect of Agriculture."

Mr. President : The question is :—

"That an additional sum not exceeding Rs. 31,792 be granted to the Punjab Government (Ministry of Agriculture) to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending the 31st of March 1929 in respect of Agriculture."

The motion was carried.

INDUSTRIES GRANT.

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal (Minister for Education) **:** Sir, I beg to move :

"That an additional sum not exceeding Rs. 1,970 be granted to the Punjab Government (Ministry of Education) to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending the 31st of March, 1929 in respect of Industries."

Mr. President : The question is :

"That an additional sum not exceeding Rs. 1,970 be granted to the Punjab Government (Ministry of Education) to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending the 31st of March 1929 in respect of Industries."

Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq : Sir, I want to ask whether this school ever came up for consideration before the Standing Industries Committee.

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal : I do not think this point came up before the Standing Committee.

Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq : May I know the reason why ?

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal : The locations of schools do not necessarily come before the Standing Committee on Industries.

Shaikh Muhammad Shadiq : But this is a grant for a new school.

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal : If the honourable member will refer to page 26 of the Explanatory Memorandum, he will see that a particular demand has been, as a matter of fact, sanctioned for the establishment of a Metal Work Industrial School at Jagadhri. The present proposal is merely to transfer that school—not to have it at Jagadhri but to have it at Ambala. It is merely for technical purposes regarded as a new service.

Chaudhri Duli Chand [Karnal (Non-Muhammadan), Rural] (Urdu) : Sir, I strongly oppose the demand under consideration. My reason for opposing this grant is that Ambala, where the Industrial school in question is now proposed to be located, is not within the easy reach of the boys of the rural areas who may like to join this institution. I did not oppose the original grant because at that time we were given to understand that the institution was to be opened in Jagadhri, which is easily accessible to villages, and is, therefore, fully beneficial to the students of rural areas. I am at a loss to understand why a divisional town has been preferred to Jagadhri so far as the locality of this institution is concerned. In this connection I may state that it is a policy to which we, on this side of the House, are strongly opposed and I think I will not be very wrong if I say that it is the result of this policy that in this enlightened century we find very few literate persons in the villages. If there are to be found any literate persons in the villages, it is because the Education Ministers who preceded the present Minister made strenuous efforts for spreading education in the rural areas and took special steps for opening many high schools in rural areas. No doubt Ambala is situated in my Division, but it is situated in one corner of it. If Rohtak, Karnal or Gurgaon had been selected in place of Jagadhri, I might have seen my way to support the present demand, but I am sorry and I wonder why preference has been given to Ambala.

Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq : May I know whether Rohtak and Karnal are villages ?

Chaudhri Duli Chand : No, but they are central places. (Continued in Urdu) : I might not have opposed this grant if the question of opening the proposed institution at Ambala had come up before the Standing Committee on Industries, which, I know, consists of a large number of rural members, and if that Committee had approved of the change of locality. But, as explained by the Honourable Minister, the said Committee was never consulted on the point. I, therefore, take this opportunity to enter my protest against the proposed change of locality and I will not mind if my voice proves a voice in the wilderness.

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal (Minister for Education) : May I just say one word in answer to what has been observed by Chaudhri Duli Chand. Rohtak has already got an industrial school. The original idea was to establish a metal institute at Jagadhri. The matter was carefully investigated by Mr. Cowie, who is the Inspector of Industrial Schools, and he and the Director of Industries and others, who considered the matter, came to the conclusion that an institute at Jagadhri will not succeed. The idea that Jagadhri had an indigenous labour supply that was in any manner specially skilled in metals was not found to be true. We have already, as has been said at page 26 of the memorandum accompanying the supplementary estimates, imported certain amount of machinery. We want to make the best use of it.

As a matter of fact, at Ambala where there is no industrial school we found that the Government school buildings were available. It was also the opinion of experts, Mr. Cowie and others who have advised us in this matter that the School at Ambala will make a good start. Both on the score of economy and the suitability of the place, Government decided that the school will be best located at Ambala. You will see from the very small demand made that it is not a measure that will involve us in any heavy expenditure. Further, I may say this, that as between Ambala and Jagadhri the cry of rural and urban is entirely fallacious. Ambala has a population of about a little over 27,000. Jagadhri has a population of 11,500 and over. Karnal, for which special favoured treatment was claimed, has a population in the neighbourhood of 22,000; and Rohtak has something in the neighbourhood of 25,000.

Mr. President: The question is :

"That an additional sum not exceeding Rs. 1,970 be granted to the Punjab Government (Ministry of Education) to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending the 31st of March 1929 in respect of Industries."

The motion was carried.

CAPITAL OUTLAY ON INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT GRANT.

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal (Minister for Education): Sir, I beg to move :

"That an additional sum not exceeding Rs. 11,296 be granted to the Punjab Government (Ministry of Education) to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending the 31st of March 1929 in respect of Capital Outlay on Industrial Development."

Mr. President: The question is :—

"That an additional sum not exceeding Rs. 11,296 be granted to the Punjab Government (Ministry of Education) to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending the 31st of March 1929 in respect of Capital Outlay on Industrial Department."

The motion was carried.

MISCELLANEOUS DEPARTMENT (RESERVED) GRANT.

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain (Revenue Member): Sir, I beg to move :

"That an additional sum not exceeding Rs. 11,528 be granted to the Governor in Council to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending the 31st of March, 1929 in respect of Miscellaneous Departments (Reserved)."

Mr. President: The question is—

"That an additional sum not exceeding Rs. 11,528 be granted to the Governor in Council to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending the 31st of March 1929 in respect of Miscellaneous Departments (Reserved)."

The motion was carried.

CIVIL WORKS (TRANSFERRED) GRANT.

The Honourable Sardar Jogendra Singh (Minister for Agriculture): Sir, I beg to move:

> "That an additional sum not exceeding Rs. 3,14,030 be granted to the Punjab Government (Ministry of Agriculture) to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending the 31st of March 1929 in respect of Civil Works (Transferred)."

Mr. President: The question is:

> "That an additional sum not exceeding Rs. 3,14,030 be granted to the Punjab Government (Ministry of Agriculture) to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending the 31st March 1929 in respect of Civil Works (Transferred)."

Lala Bodh Raj (West Punjab Towns (Non-Muhammadan), Urban): Sir, with reference to the construction of a new Civil Hospital at Multan (page 35 of the memorandum), I have to make one observation. The building was originally to be constructed by the municipal committee, Multan, at a cost of about five lakhs, and the Government was pleased to grant them one lakh as grant-in-aid and rupees two lakhs were to be contributed by the district board of Multan. As the Municipality was not in a position to take in hand the construction of the building on account of the paucity of funds, Government decided to take up the project as part of the programme for the provincialization of headquarters hospitals and to execute the work as a provincial work. I do not see any reason why the building should be constructed as a provincial work and the municipal committee should be called upon to contribute any funds towards the building of this hospital. It is a patent fact, and the Honourable Minister for Local Self-Government knows it full well, that the financial condition of the municipal committee of Multan is very bad. Sometime back the Deputy Commissioner of Multan served the municipality with notice that if the committee cannot see its way to find out ways and means for meeting its financial deficits, the Deputy Commissioner will be compelled to recommend to Government to take over the charge of the affairs of the Multan municipality and the committee being compelled by that threat was pleased to assure the Deputy Commissioner that the municipal committee will impose a new tax in order to make up the gap between the income and expenditure. It is also a patent fact that although the municipal committee has imposed a new tax in the form of water tax and house tax, there is a great agitation against the imposition of such taxes. The people of Multan being very poor are not in a position to bear the burden of new taxation. It is in the fitness of things that the Government should see that they do not compel the municipal committee to contribute anything in that respect. My submission, therefore, is that the amount of Rs. 50,000 that has already been contributed by the committee and credited to the Government must be paid back to the municipality, so that the municipality may be in a position to carry out the beneficent schemes of water-works and drainage, etc., that it has already taken in hand. It is a very serious affair in Multan. I would recommend to the Minister for Local Self-Government and other members of Government to take up this question seriously and then decide whether that amount should be refunded to the municipality or not.

Khan Bahadur Mian Muhammad Hayat, Qureshi [Shahpur West Muhammadan Rural] (Urdu): Sir under the head civil works (Transferred) the Government has asked a sum of Rs. 22,840. This sum will be utilised for purchasing the bungalow at present occupied by the Superintendent of Police, Ludhiana. But I beg to say that the said bungalow is a very old one. The officers of the Buildings and Roads at Pakpattan were asked to express their opinion about the matter and the Executive Engineer submitted a valuation statement of the house in question which amounted to Rs. 27,110. Then, again, he submitted an estimate for the construction of a new house and the latter amounted to Rs. 24,500. Under these circumstances I am of opinion that to spend Rs. 22,840 for an old house is not a good bargain. It is just possible that next year you may have to spend something more on its repairs, or for carrying on certain alterations in the building. Therefore, in my opinion all this expenditure is absolutely unnecessary and it will be much better to construct a new house instead of buying this old bungalow. With these remarks I oppose this item.

Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq (Amritsar City, Muhammadan Urban): Sir, I find on page 87 of the memorandum that summer health resorts are proposed to be opened at Palampur and Baijnath. It is proposed to acquire land at Baijnath.

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon: The proposal for Baijnath has been dropped for the present.

Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq: Then, it should have been omitted from page 87.

The Honourable Sardar Jogendra Singh: It includes the cost of surveying the site at Palampur which has been acquired.

Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq: Well, it does not matter. I will bring to the notice of the House another matter. In 1914 the Lieutenant-Governor of this Province visited Amritsar and after seeing the condition of things personally he agreed that a bar room should be opened for the lawyers. Fourteen years have elapsed and up to this time no steps have been taken in this direction, despite the promise of the Lieutenant-Governor that he would sanction the proposals as soon as the papers about the building for a bar room went to him. The bar room at present in existence was intended to accommodate about 50 lawyers. But now that number has increased to about 150 or 175 and still no additional accommodation for this growing number has been provided. In summer the lawyers get suffocated in this small room. I am sure even the convicts are allowed more moving space; but the lawyers are denied even the space which is allowed to prisoners. The same is the case with civil court bar rooms. There is no electricity. In winter the suffering is still worse. There is absolutely no standing space even for all the lawyers. It is out of question for lawyers to sit outside, because it is so dusty. I wonder if any member of the Government were to be made to sit there for half an hour, he would quietly put up with that state of affairs. He would raise a big hue and cry. The whole place is quite insanitary and it is cruel for the Government to allow this case to be hanging fire for the past 14 years. My honourable friend the Revenue Member was telling the House that if any member brought any complaint to his notice, it was promptly attended to. But here is a case where the

Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq.]
question has been kept in suspense for nearly 14 years without anything being done to remedy the state of affairs. I ask the Honourable Member to look into the affairs immediately and provide a bar room.

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : There are two bar rooms.

Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq: There are 2½ bar rooms to be more accurate. There is a small room for barristers and another room for other lawyers. The accommodation is too small for all of them to sit in one room. There are 150 to 200 lawyers. How can you expect all of them to be huddled in such small rooms? Even in this House which is so very spacious, only 80 to 90 members can comfortably sit. This small bar room at Amritsar cannot accommodate so many lawyers.

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : But the majority of the lawyers must be engaged in courts.

Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq : My honourable friend seems to forget that there is no practice in courts these days. It appears he has been out of the legal profession for so many years that he has not got the latest information. That is why he is sitting so comfortably over there without knowing what is happening in the world. I would not have brought this question before the House if it had not been absolutely necessary. The Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab, Sir Michael O'Dwyer promised to redress this grievance as far back as 1914 and the Deputy Commissioner also promised to get the thing done. More than 14 years have elapsed since then.

بارہ برس دے بعد تے خدا روڑی دی بہی سندائے

One could have understood the proposal not being given effect to till 1918 owing to war, but it is now nearly ten years since peace was concluded and yet nothing has been done in the matter. It is high time the Government looked into the affair. My submission is that there should be a central bar room so that all lawyers may be accommodated in one and the same place.

Mr. J. D. Penny : Sir, what item is the Honourable Member discussing? I cannot find anything about this in the demand before us.

Mr. President : Is the honourable member supporting the proposal recommending to Government to construct the bar room for lawyers or opposing the demand now under consideration?

Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq : It is very difficult to say whether I am opposing or supporting. I am supporting if the Government promise to construct the bar room; I am opposing the demand if they refuse to build a bar room. The Government must have sense enough to know whether I am opposing or supporting the demand.

The second point which I want to say is about the residence for the Superintendent of Police at Ludhiana. I think the Government often purchases buildings on the recommendations of the local officers and often such purchases turn out to be very disadvantageous from the Government point of view. There is no use buying a white elephant. There is no use of buying a house which has not got enough accommodation and which costs more in repairs. I hope the Government would kindly give due consideration to my request.

Mr. J. G. Beazley (Secretary, Transferred Departments): Sir, I wish to make just a few remarks in regard to what has been said in connection with the new civil hospital at Multan. I may first of all say that ordinarily the responsibility for providing medical relief is a responsibilty which rests on local bodies. Two or three years ago Government realized that many of the larger hospitals both in tahsils and head-quarters which were left in charge of local bodies required a great deal to be done in order to get them into proper condition, and realizing that local bodies were unable to undertake the expenditure necessary to put these hospitals in a proper condition evolved a scheme of provincializing the hospitals at the head-quarters of tahsils and at the head-quarters of districts. But in adopting this scheme Government made it clear that they would not thereby relieve the local bodies of any expenditure they were already incurring on medical relief. They would simply take over the hospitals and require the local bodies to contribute towards their maintenance what they were already contributing or already spending on those hospitals, but the Government would be responsible for such additional equipment and staff and so forth as would be necessary to put these hospitals in a good condition. Now the position so far has been that Government, except at Amritsar, has not so far spent any money on buildings of the hospitals at the head-quarters of districts but has simply taken over the hospitals as they stand and left for the future the question of adding new buildings or replacing the old buildings by new ones. In the case of Multan, there had been a project for building a new civil hospital which had been on the tapis for many years. I think the Government grant of a lakh of rupees must have been made five or six years ago. The whole project was hanging fire and meanwhile the need for a new civil hospital at Multan had become so urgent that Government came to the conclusion that some special and extraordinary measures should be taken. They have, therefore, as is stated in the memorandum, decided to execute the project as provincial work thus anticipating what might have been done had the hospital been taken over in the ordinary way on the usual conditions and modernized perhaps ten years later. The result of this has been that the public of Multan will get a thoroughly up-to-date modern hospital for a contribution of only Rs. 50,000 instead of having to find probably 2½ lakhs. Is this ungenerous? The money was already earmarked for the hospital and was in the municipal balance. The question of taxes raised to supplement the municipal revenues for meeting the recurring expenditure of other services appear to me to be entirely irrelevant. I think the Council will agree that in this instance this particular local body has been treated extraordinarily generously, and that it is not gracious to look this gift horse in the mouth.

Dr. Shaikh Muhammad Alam: I want to have this information through you, Sir. I am really touched by the condition of Mrs. Giddens. If I am able to procure another gentleman to buy this house, would the Government be pleased to strike off this item of expenditure?

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram (Multan Division, Non-Muhammadan, Rural): Sir, on page 38 of the memorandum under Original Works—Buildings—Industries, there is provision for the construction of a tube well and pumping plant for the supply of drinking water in the compound of the Mayo School of Arts Hostel, Lahore. As I understand that the municipality of

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram.]

Lahore is taking steps to increase the supply of pipe water for the whole town and as the municipal committee has already taken in hand the arrangements for such water supply, is there any hurry for constructing this tube well at a cost of Rs. 12,102? Cannot this wait for some time till there is sufficient water-supply for the Lahore Municipality? The standing committee has already rejected this grant in 1928 and I cannot understand how this item has been revived again. If it could wait for such a long time, why should it not wait for some time more until sufficient water supply is given by the municipality.

The Honourable Sardar Jogendra Singh (Minister for Agriculture): Sir, I have just one or two points to explain. One is regarding the residence for the Superintendent of Police, Ludhiana. It was objected to by the honourable member over there that if Government could build a new house for Rs. 24,000 why should it buy an old house for Rs. 22,000. The honourable member has not realised that only a certain type of house could be built for Rs. 24,000, while the present commodious house with a large compound can be bought for Rs. 22,000. The estimate did not include the cost of the site.

Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq: May I know the area, please?

The Honourable Sardar Jogendra Singh: I have not got the area at present but I shall give it presently. The Government considers it a very good bargain at the price at which it is offered.

Regarding the survey of the sites at Palampur and Baijnath, the cost has already been incurred and the surveys completed.

I do not think there is any other item which I am called upon to explain to the House.

Dr. Shaikh Muhammad Alam [West Punjab towns, Muhammadan Urban] (Urdu): Sir, in my opinion this demand must be opposed. The demand put forward by the Government is very amazing. In fact there is always something strange in every demand put forward by the Government, and the most amazing thing about this demand is that the House is asked to grant money for the purchase of a house owned by Mrs. Giddens for no better reason than that she is in need of money. In the year 1925 also a demand was made in order to purchase this house, and at that time it was valued at Rs. 40,000. Then a value estimate was asked for. This amounted to Rs. 27,110, and Mrs. Giddens agreed to accept that much. Now it is said that as Mrs. Giddens is in need of money, she will sell the house to the first comer if it is not purchased by the Government. May one ask what special attraction this particular house possesses which has captivated the imagination of Government Members to such an extent that they want to purchase it at any cost? Is this bungalow studded with diamonds or is there a well filled with precious stones that the Government Members were anxious to purchase it in 1925, then in 1926, and again in 1927 and 1928, and are still likely to hanker after it in the future? I fail to appreciate the fun of the statement that this particular house must be bought because, otherwise Mrs. Giddens will not be able to get money and the Superintendent of Police will remain houseless. Is there no other house in the whole City of Ludhiana? Is it absolutely impossible to find

another house for the Superintendent of Police that the Government feels compelled to purchase Mrs. Giddens' house. In connection with the Industrial School the House was told that at first its need was felt at Jagadhri, but later on it was decided that Ambala would be more suitable than Jagadhri. The Members of the Government do not take the trouble of making inquiries at the proper time but when a thing has assumed its final shape they seem to possess every blessed detail about it. I should like the Government to take the House into their confidence and explain why the Government has taken such a fancy to this particular house. If some body wants to sell his or her house why should we be compelled to purchase it? A poet says :—

بندہ پرور یہہ محبت میں حکومت کیسی

I should like to know what has made the Government fall in love with this particular house and why the Government is anxious to put so great a burden on the public funds. I feel that it is our moral duty to oppose this demand so that the official members should think twice before coming forward with such demands.

Chaudhri Zafrullah Khan: (Sialkot, Muhammadan Rural): Sir, the anger of my learned friend who has just sat down has evidently been roused by the facts stated at page 84 of the memorandum from which, he says, it appears that Government are anxious to purchase the house because Mrs. Giddens is in need of money. That is an entire misrepresentation, I do not say conscious but nevertheless a misrepresentation, of the situation as represented at page 84 of the memorandum. This proposal is not put forward because Government thinks Mrs. Giddens ought to be provided with money as she is in need of it. The Government's case is that this house would be a suitable house for the Superintendent of Police; next, that it is a good bargain for the price at which it is offered. And, therefore, the Government thinks that this House might consent to the bargain being closed with. Government explain that the owner is willing to sell the house for Rs. 22,000, for which it is a good bargain, because she is in need of money. The Government does not want to purchase because she is in need of money but because it is a good bargain and the owner is willing now to sell it for a lesser amount as she is in need of money. The explanation of the Government is so clear that I should have expected that no misapprehensions such as those which appear to have influenced my honourable friend who has just sat down could possibly have arisen. It is stated at page 84: "Mrs. Giddens' house is excellent value for for Rs. 22,000 and the Public Works Department cannot build a house comparable with it which would carry anything like the same rental." Nobody has the slightest reason to doubt the correctness of this statement and if it is true, the demand is put forward on that ground.

Another honourable member pointed out that if it was possible to build a new and equally commodious house for Rs. 24,500, why purchase an old one from Mrs. Giddens. There again, I think there has been a slight misapprehension. What is stated in the memorandum is that an estimate was obtained for the construction of a house of the type recently built for the Executive Engineer, Nili Bar Division and that this estimate amounted to Rs. 24,500. The matter to my mind is perfectly simple. Of course, the House may very well oppose the grant on the ground that it is not prepared

[Chaudhri Zafrullah Khan.]

to enter into a bargain with a private house-owner and would rather incur a few thousands more for a new construction. I can very well understand that point of view but the construction put forward by my honourable friend Dr. Shaikh Muhammad Alam on the proposal of Government is scarcely justified.

Mr. President: The question is.—

"That an additional sum not exceeding Rs. 3,14,030 be granted to the Punjab Government (Ministry of Agriculture) to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending the 31st of March 1929 in respect of Civil Works (Transferred)."

The motion was carried.

HYDRO ELECTRIC SCHEME (CAPITAL) GRANT.

The Honourable Sardar Jogendra Singh (Minister for Agriculture): Sir I beg to move.

"That an additional sum not exceeding Rs. 2,000 be granted to the Punjab Government (Ministry of Agriculture) to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending the 31st of March 1929 in respect of Hydro-Electric Scheme (Capital)."

Mr. President: The question is—

"That an additional sum not exceeding Rs. 2,000 be granted to the Punjab Government (Ministry of Agriculture) to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending the 31st of March 1929 in respect of Hydro-Electric Scheme (Capital)."

The motion was carried.

PROVINCIAL LOANS AND ADVANCES (RESERVED) GRANT.

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain (Revenue Member): Sir, I beg to move.—

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 35,00,000 be granted to the Governor in Council to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending the 31st of March 1929 in respect of Provincial Loans and Advances (Reserved)."

Mr. President: The question is—

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 35,00,000 be granted to the Governor in Council to defray the charges that will come in course of payment for the year ending the 31st of March 1929 in respect of Provincial Loans and Advances (Reserved)."

The motion was carried.

EXCESS GRANTS, 1926-27.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION (TRANSFERRED) GRANT.

The Honourable Sardar Jogendra Singh (Minister for Agriculture): Sir, I beg to move—

"That an additional sum not exceeding Rs. 2,897 be granted to the Punjab Government (Ministries of Agriculture, Education and Local Self-Government) to meet the excess expenditure incurred during the year ending the 31st of March 1927 in respect of General Administration (Transferred)."

Mr. President: The question is—

"That an additional sum not exceeding Rs. 2,897 be granted to the Punjab Government (Ministries of Agriculture, Education and Local Self Government) to meet the excess expenditure incurred during the year ending the 31st of March 1927 in respect of General Administration (Transferred)."

The motion was carried.

POLICE GRANT.

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow: (Finance Member): Sir, I beg to move—

"That an additional sum not exceeding Rs. 27,054 be granted to the Governor in Council to meet the excess expenditure incurred during the year ending the 31st of March 1927 in respect of Police."

Mr. President: The question is—

"That an additional sum not exceeding Rs. 27,054 be granted to the Governor in Council to meet the excess expenditure incurred during the year ending the 31st of March 1927 in respect of Police."

The motion was carried.

STATIONERY AND PRINTING (RESERVED) GRANT.

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: (Revenue Member). 4 P. M. Sir, I beg to move—

"That an additional sum not exceeding Rs. 42,827 be granted to the Governor in Council to meet the excess expenditure incurred during the year ending the 31st of March 1927 in respect of Stationery and Printing (Reserved)."

Mr. President: The question is—

"That an additional sum not exceeding Rs. 42,827 be granted to the Governor in Council to meet the excess expenditure incurred during the year ending the 31st of March 1927 in respect of Stationery and Printing (Reserved)."

The motion was carried.

THE SIND SAGAR DOAB COLONIZATION REPEALING BILL.

Chaudhri Zafrullah Khan [Sialkot (Muhammadan) Rural]: Sir, I beg to move—

"That leave be granted to introduce the Sind Sagar Doab Colonization Repealing Bill"

Mr. President: The question is—

"That leave be granted to introduce the Sind Sagar Doab Colonization Repealing Bill."

The motion was carried.

Chaudhri Zafrullah Khan: Sir, in introducing the Sind Sagar Doab Colonization Repealing Bill, I do not propose to make any very lengthy remarks except that the reasons for which the Bill is being introduced have been at some length explained in the statement of objects and reasons with regard to the Bill. The sole object of the Bill is that twenty seven years ago, Government obtained certain rights under the Act, which are proposed to be repealed, from private proprietors in their proprietary lands on the understanding that an irrigation project would be introduced in those areas which would beneficially affect the proprietors of those areas. None of the various projects which have been considered for irrigating those areas have eventually materialised, and the object of the Bill is that the Acts under which Government obtained those concessions and rights should be repealed so as to put the proprietors of those areas in exactly the same position if those Acts had not been passed. With these remarks I beg to introduce the Sind Sagar Doab Colonization Repealing Bill.

Chaudhri Zafrullah Khan : Sir, I beg to move—

"That the Sind Sagar Doab Colonization Repealing Bill be referred to a Select Committee consisting of the following :—

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain,
Mr. C. A. H. Townsend,
Mr. S. L. Sale,
Mr. W. R. Wilson,
Diwan Bahadur Raja Narendra Nath,
Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram,
Sardar Raghbir Singh,
Khan Bahadur Mian Muhammad Hayat, Qureshi,
Khan Sahib Khan Muhammad Saifullah Khan,
The nominee of the Honourable President, and
The mover."

and if you would permit, Sir.

"Mr. J. B. G. Smith."

Mr. President : The question is—

"That the Sind Sagar Doab Colonization Repealing Bill be referred to a Select Committee consisting of the following :—

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain,
Mr. C. A. H. Townsend,
Mr. S. L. Sale,
Mr. W. R. Wilson,
Diwan Bahadur Raja Narendra Nath,
Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram,
Sardar Raghbir Singh,
Khan Bahadur Mian Muhammad Hayat, Qureshi,
Khan Sahib Khan Muhammad Saifullah Khan,
Mr. J. B. G. Smith,
The nominee of the Honourable President, and
The mover."

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain (Revenue Member) : Sir, I think it would be necessary at this stage for me to make a statement as to the position of Government with regard to this private Bill relating to the Sind Sagar Doab Colonization Act, I of 1902. The Council would probably like me to make a statement indicating what the point before the Council is, what is the Colonization Act, that it is intended to repeal, what has been attempted since it was enacted and how far Government is prepared to accept the principle on which the present Bill is based.

The question before Government a long, long time ago was whether those very large tracts of unoccupied land in the Province belonged to the village community in the neighbourhood and the vicinity of those tracts or whether they belonged to the Province as a whole. A great deal of controversy raged round this point. Eventually the Punjab Administration decided that those large tracts belonged to the village communities in their neighbourhood and not to the Province as a whole. Then arose the question how improvements in those large tracts could be carried out. It was then that the need of co-operation between the village communities which had those *shamilats* and the Province as a whole arose, and it was discovered by

both that without the close co-operation of the two, the Province as a whole and the village communities who had rights in those *shamilats*, really no improvement in those vast tracts could be effected and it was really on that basis that Act I of 1902 was enacted and certain agreements in pursuance of it were executed and given effect to. The statement of objects and reasons gives more or less accurately the various stages in the history of the efforts made to redeem that promise. Government at one time believed that it will be at no distant date that the Thal Project will be taken in hand and vast improvements effected in the area involved in it. Government realise that now this desire to have all the water that is necessary for the main project cannot be satisfied as the required water is not forthcoming, and therefore, the Punjab Government has been compelled, for the time being, to restrict the scope of that scheme. In 1925 it was a smaller project that was adopted in the hope that it will be a good beginning and that in course of time—one never knows one's luck—it may be possible to expand it and extend it. There has been undoubtedly a grievance—I admit, a genuine grievance—on the part of the proprietors who executed this agreement inasmuch as for all these years, the canal did not materialize while they presumably entered into the agreement in the hope that within a reasonable period of time the canal will materialize. I am free to admit that during the last twenty six years although ceaseless efforts were made by the Punjab Government, inasmuch as those efforts were not crowned with success, naturally the people concerned have not given Government much credit for them on the ground that they did not bring them any good. The point, however, for the people concerned and the province as a whole is this: should this attempt be altogether abandoned and this large area with great possibilities of development be considered practically deprived of irrigation for all time to come? I feel unwilling to be very pessimistic about it and yet I cannot shut my eyes to facts inasmuch as there are at present no prospects of finding all the water that the *whole* project needs. Therefore, Sir, after very careful consideration Government have arrived at the decision that they should give way to the very natural demand of the people of that ilaqa to bring the whole matter under re-consideration in a committee with representatives of the people on it in order to discuss freely and frankly the situation that has arisen and be prepared to release such areas as Government is unable to serve, and thus enable all those areas to proceed to develop in the best way they can. Such areas as Government still hopes to be able to serve with a canal, and that again not a problematic canal which may or may not come twenty years hence but one to be started within a period of six or seven years should be retained. Even in the course of those years it is intended that facilities should be given to proprietors to bring even that land under cultivation if necessary by attempting to effect such alterations which will not affect the rights either of Government or of the proprietors. I trust, Sir, that this will meet the approval of the Council and it is on those principles that I am ready to accept the motion to refer the bill to a Select Committee.

I have tried to collect certain figures and I find that in the main project or the Thal Project the total area affected was something like 46 lakhs of acres. Out of that area 2,085,000 acres was the area under agreement to which Act I of 1902 applied, but of that area only 1,314,000 acres was the area which was commanded under the main Thal Project scheme. Now, I

[Hon'ble Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain.]
will give the figures for the lesser project which was intended to be the first step in the scheme in the hope that some time it will be possible to have the second step as well. Under this lesser project the total area was 2,190,000 acres. The agreement area was 1,356,000 acres while the area of agreement commanded was 928,000 acres.

Thus it would appear that in the select committee, it will be possible to consider the release quite as much as of four lakhs of acres of the land covered by the agreement commanded. This is, it seems to me a fair guarantee of the desire of the Government to meet all legitimate demands of the people to develop their lands without the help of canal irrigation. As to the rest, if after six or seven years as may eventually be decided, it appears that even that scheme cannot materialize, then no doubt, it will be open again to the Council to release even that as well and restore the condition that existed before. I need not go further into details and will content myself with having made this statement so that the Bill may not go to the select committee without the Council being apprised of the position. We will try to do the best we can in the select committee to give satisfaction to all parties concerned.

Mr. President: The question is—

"That the Sind Sagar Doab Colonization Repealing Bill be referred to a Select Committee, consisting of the following:—

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain,

Mr. C. A. H. Townsend,

Mr. S. L. Sale,

Mr. W. R. Wilson,

Diwan Bahadur Raja Narendra Nath,

Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram,

Sardar Raghbir Singh,

Khan Bahadur Mian Muhammad Hayat, Qureshi,

Khan Sahib Khan Muhammad Saifullah Khan,

Mr. J. B. G. Smith,

Nominee of the Honourable President, and

Chaudhri Zafrullah Khan (the Mover)."

The motion was carried.

The Council then adjourned till 2 P.M., on Thursday, the 29th November 1928.

[Vide *Answer to Question No.* 1451, *pages* 22-28 *ante.*]

LIST OF ENGINEERS SERVING UNDER THE PUNJAB GOVERNMENT, PUBLIC HEALTH CIRCLE, SHOWING HOW MANY ARE SPECIALLY TRAINED AS SANITARY ENGINEERS AND HOW MANY AS CIVIL ENGINEERS.

Name.	Rank.	Remarks.
	I.—Specialist Cadre.	
R. B. Amar Nath, Nanda.	Superintending Engineer, Public Health Circle.	Fully qualified Civil Engineer (Roorkee) specialised in Sanitary Engineering, with over 25 years practical experience as a Sanitary Engineer in the Punjab, Public Works Department.
Mr. D. A. Howell ..	Officiating Superintending Engineer, Public Health Circle.	Fully qualified Civil Engineer (Corporate Member Institution of Civil Engineers, England), specialised in Sanitary Engineering, with over 14 years practical training and experience as a water-supply and sewerage engineer (Sanitary Engineer) in Great Britain and Russia and 8 years practical experience as a Sanitary Engineer in the Punjab, Public Works Department.
Mr. J. A. B. Bromage ..	Executive Engineer, Public Health Circle.	Fully qualified Civil Engineer (Corporate Member Institution of Civil Engineers, England). Specialised in Sanitary Engineering in England, with about 3 years practical experience as a Sanitary Engineer in England and 3 years in the Punjab, Public Works Department.
Mr. B. F. Main ..	Executive Engineer, Public Health Circle.	Fully qualified Civil Engineer (Corporate Member of Institution of Civil Engineers, England), specialised in water-supply engineers and water purification work with about 9 years practical experience of water-supply, water purification and Municipal Engineering in Great Britain and in India.
	II.—Temporary Engineers.	
Mr. D. N. Gautam ..	Temporary Engineer ..	B.Sc. (Engineering), London. Qualified Civil Engineer, with about 4 years general Civil Engineering experience in India and 9 years special Sanitary Engineering experience in the Public Health Circle, Public Works Department, Punjab.

Name.	Rank.	Remarks.
	II.—Temporary Engineers—*concluded.*	
Mr. T. B. Madnani ..	Temporary Engineer ..	Licenciate in Civil Engineering, 1st Class, Poona (with Sanitary Engineering as special subject). Qualified Civil Engineer with special training in sanitary engineering and about 25 years practical experience of sanitary engineering works (water-supply, sewerage, etc.) in the Indian Public Works Department of which about 8 years have been spent in the Public Health Circle, Public Works Department, Punjab, and the rest at Delhi on new Imperial works.
	III.—Assistant Engineers.	
M. J. S. Sethi ..	Assistant Engineer, Public Health, Public Works Department.	Fully qualified Civil Engineer. Associate of the City and Guilds Institute, London; with 10 years practical experience of general Civil Engineering work, including a good deal of water engineering work in India and over 2 years special experience of Sanitary Engineering in the Public Health Circle, Public Works Department, Punjab.
Mr. Gurandittа Mall ..	Assistant Engineer, Public Health Circle.	Sub-Engineer, Roorkee, with over 15 years practical experience of Sanitary Engineering in the Public Health Circle, Public Works Department, Punjab.
Mr. Devki Parshad ..	Personal Assistant ..	Qualified Civil Engineer, B.Sc. (Glasgow University) with one year of practical experience of Sanitary Engineering work in England.
	IV.—Apprentice Engineer.	
Mr. Devi Chandra Khanna.	Apprentice Engineer ..	T. C. E. College, Roorkee, Civil Engineer appointed by Government of India as Apprentice Engineer in Public Health Circle—November 1927.

186&191 PLC—620—15-12-28—SGPP Lahore.

PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

3RD SESSION OF THE 3RD PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Thursday, the 29th November, 1928.

The Council met at the Council Chamber at two of the clock. Mr. President in the chair.

OATH OF OFFICE.

The following member was sworn in :—

Milne, Mr. D. (Nominated official).

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

WATER SUPPLY.

*1480. **Rai Bahadur Lala Mohan Lal :** (1) Will the Honourable Revenue Member be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the water level in the Jullundur district has sunk down by over ten feet during the last 10 years, and that several wells and mango gardens have dried up ?

(2) If so, will the Government kindly state what steps have been or are being taken (*a*) to ensure usual water supply for the Jullundur district ; (*b*) to give relief to those who have already suffered ?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : (1) The water level in the Jullundur district has fallen. The fall has, however, not been uniform, but markedly localised. In a large part of the area the well-levels have not varied since the first recorded observations in 1848, more than is to be expected as a result of fluctuations in the annual rainfall. Areas where depletion has taken place have been shown to coincide with those in which well-irrigation has increased to such an extent as to overtax the supplies of water in the soil. Not only is it incorrect to state that the water-table has fallen by 10 feet, but in no case has an observed fall during the last ten years been as great as 10 feet. It is true that several wells and gardens have dried up.

(2) (*a*) Enquiries were instituted, reports ordered, consultations held, but as the source of water supply in the Jullundur district is the rainfall, no measure has yet been discovered to counteract this evil.

(*b*) Does not arise.

FAILURE OF CROPS IN DERA GHAZI KHAN DISTRICT.

*1481. **Shaikh Faiz Muhammad :** Will the Honourable Revenue Member kindly state—

(*a*) if it has been brought to his notice that owing to the existence of some sort of insect in the fields, the last rice and jawar crops in Dera Ghazi Khan district have altogether failed ;

[Shaikh Faiz Muhammad.]

(*b*) if answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, what relief Government proposes to give to the suffering zamindars ?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : (*a*) No.

(*b*) Rice is grown in areas where the canal assessment is very largely fluctuating, and field to-field kharaba is given by patwaris. Canal grown jawar is also under the same fluctuating system, and any damage done to jawar in areas under fixed assessment will be dealt with under the sanctioned rules for suspension and remission of land revenue.

DAJAL MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE.

***1482. Shaikh Faiz Muhammad :** Will the Honourable Minister for Local Self-Government kindly state—

(*a*) what is the total population of Dajal municipality in Dera Ghazi Khan district ;

(*b*) what is the total income and total expenditure of the committee in question ;

(*c*) if Government is aware that the Dajal committee cannot pay for a satisfactory arrangement of drinking water and therefore rain water stored in *kacha* pools is used for the purpose ;

(*d*) if answer to (*c*) is in the affirmative, what relief Ministry for Local Self-Government is prepared to give to the Dajal municipal committee for the purpose ?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : (*a*) 5,775.

(*b*) The income and expenditure in 1927-28 were Rs. 17,024 and Rs. 15,892, respectively.

(*c*) The incidence of taxation per head of the population in 1927-28 was Rs. 2-6-2 only as against the provincial average of Rs. 4-4-4 for 1926-27. Octroi is the only tax imposed, and no attempt appears to have been made to raise money from any other source. It cannot be, therefore, held that the municipal committee could not raise part of the cost, at any rate, of a water supply, if it cared to do so.

(*d*) The question of the contribution to be made by Government towards a water supply scheme will be examined in the light of the considerations referred to in (*c*) if and when proposals for the execution of a scheme are submitted.

WELLS FOR CERTAIN VILLAGES IN DERA GHAZI KHAN.

***1483. Shaikh Faiz Muhammad :** Will the Honourable Minister for Local Self-Government kindly state—

(*a*) what is the population of Vedera village in Dera Ghazi Khan tahsil and Kot Kaisrani village in Sangarh tahsil of Dera Ghazi Khan district ;

(*b*) if it is a fact that these villages have only one well each, which people work day and night to obtain drinking water ;

(*c*) whether Government is prepared to give special grant to the district board for at least one new well in each of these villages?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon:

(*a*) Vedera 2,159
Kot Kaisrani 3,242

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) The matter will be considered if the usual application for grant-in aid is made.

DISMISSAL OF TEACHERS BY DISTRICT BOARD, MUZAFFARGARH.

***1484. Shaikh Faiz Muhammad:** Will the Honourable Minister for Education kindly state—

(*a*) if it is a fact that in April or May last he issued orders that the district board of Muzaffargarh should dismiss six of its teachers or else the Education Department will stop their grant-in-aid;

(*b*) on what material was such order, if issued, based;

(*c*) if he (Minister for Education) consulted the Honourable Minister for Local Self-Government before issuing the order;

(*d*) whether the district board carried out the order;

(*e*) whether the Honourable Minister for Education is prepared to lay on the table entire correspondence which passed between the Education Department and the district board?

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal: In March last Government came to the decision that none of the teachers immediately implicated in the unfortunate affair of immoral conduct in the district board middle school at Jatoi were fit to be school masters and their services should be dispensed with, and action was ordered accordingly. In pursuance of this, the Director of Public Instruction, asked the Inspector of Schools, Multan division, to take steps to dispense with the services of six teachers as mentioned by the honourable member in part (*a*) of his question.

Several representations were thereafter received by Government and the case of each of the six teachers concerned was examined with care, and it was found that only two of the six teachers had it clearly established against them by the unanimous finding of the then Deputy Commissioner of the district and Chaudhri Fateh-ud-Din, the Divisional Inspector, that they were immediately implicated in the affair, and orders were issued that inquiries were to be made whether the other teachers were in any manner clearly involved and in the meantime orders of dismissal by the district board, if any, against them were to be cancelled. One of the four teachers, however, was an uncertificated teacher and his services were dispensed with under orders of the Inspector and Government has nothing to do with his dismissal.

(*b*) The incident was brought to the notice of Government as honourable members are aware by articles in a certain newspaper, and inquiries were thereupon instituted and it was held by the local authorities referred to in

[Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal.]
answer to (*a*) above that two of the teachers were guilty of the offence alleged against them.

(*c*) No.

(*d*) We have no direct information as to the action taken by the district board.

(*e*) It is regretted that it is not possible to lay on the table the confidential correspondence refe..ed to.

Chaudhri Duli Chand : Will the Honourable Minister for Education please state under what rules either under the Education Code or the District Board Act he was authorised to dismiss the teachers of the district board ?

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal : I require notice of the question.

Chaudhri Duli Chand : Will the Honourable Minister please state whether in dismissing these teachers he consulted the Honourable Minister for Local Self-Government ?

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal : The honourable member is referred to the answer to part (*c*) of the question which I have just given.

Chaudhri Duli Chand : Does it mean that the Honourable Minister did not consult the Minister for Local Self-Government, who is in charge of district boards ?

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal : I am not aware that it is necessary to consult the Minister for Local Self-Government. The Director of Public Instruction in pursuance of certain orders, informed the Inspector of Schools that certain teachers in the opinion of the Government were unfit to remain school masters and the Inspector of Schools took appropriate action.

Chaudhri Duli Chand : Have the Ministers got joint responsibility ?

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal : Is that an appropriate supplementary question ?

Mr. President : More than once I have invited the attention of the honourable members of this House to Standing Order 21. It says " that supplementary question can be put for the purpose of further elucidating any matter of fact re..ing which an answer has been given."

Chaudhri Duli Chand : Will the Honourable Minister please state whether any of these teachers belong to the agricultural class ?

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal : I have no information, but I shall enquire if the honourable member so desires.

JHUGIWALA AFFAIR AND SARDAR JAN MUHAMMAD KHAN.

***1485. Shaikh Faiz Muhammad :** Will the Honourable Finance Member kindly state—

(*a*) whether it has been brought to his notice that since the Jhugiwala affair the relations between the Superintendent of Police of the District and Sardar Jan Muhammad Khan, President, Anjuman-i-Islamia, Muzaffargarh, have been strained ;

(*b*) whether there have been any cases since the above occurrence in which the said Sardar Jan Muhammad Khan has been reported by the police as a suspect ?

(*c*) if the reply to parts (*a*) and (*b*) be in the affirmative, whether Government will be prepared to institute an inquiry into the matter ?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow : (*a*) No.

(*b*) Government has no information on the subject.

(*c*) Does not arise.

JUDICIAL AND POLICE LOCK-UPS.

***1486. Shaikh Faiz Muhammad :** Will the Honourable Finance Member kindly state—

(*a*) the total number of judicial lock-ups attached to the courts of Honorary Magistrates in Dera Ghazi Khan district ;

(*b*) the number of persons confined in each of these lock-ups ;

(*c*) the offence or offences with which each of these persons is charged ;

(*d*) if there are any among these persons who are not charged with the commission of any specific offence ?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow : (*a*), (*b*), (*c*) & (*d*) A statement is laid on the table:—

Lock-ups.	Number of prisoners confined there on 1st November 1928.	Offences under which confined.			Number of prisoners confined without any specific charge.
		Under various sections of I. P. C.	Under sections 110/107, 109, C. P. C.	Under F. C. R.	
1. Rojhan	42	42	5	2	..
2. Asni	..	..	..	..	..
3. Lalgarh ..	29	25	..	4	..
4. Tibbi Lund ..	4	3	1	..	..
5. Choti Zerin ..	50	46	..	4	..
6. Batil	28	25	..	3	..
7. Shadan Lund ..	1	..	1	..	..
8. Kot Qaisrani ..	2	2	..	..	..
9. Vehoa	1	1	..	..	..

INSPECTION OF JUDICIAL AND POLICE LOCK-UPS.

*1487. **Shaikh Faiz Muhammad:** Will the Honourable Finance Member kindly state—

(a) whether or not judicial and police lock-ups in the Province are open to inspection by non-official members of the Jail Committee of the provincial legislature;

(b) if answer to (a) is in the negative, what is the reason for not throwing open these lock-ups to the inspection of non-official visitors?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow: (a) & (b) Judicial lock-ups situated in jails are open to inspection by non-official members of the Jail Committee of the Provincial Legislative Council (who as such are non-official visitors of all jails). Frequent reports of such inspections are received.

Judicial lock-ups, not situated in jails, and police lock-ups are not under the control of Jail Department and are, therefore not open to inspection by non-official visitors of jails.

MANKA CANAL HYDRO-ELECTRIC SCHEME.

*1488. **Shaikh Faiz Muhammad:** Will the Honourable Member for Revenue kindly state—

(a) what progress, if any, has been made with the Manka Canal Hydro-Electric Scheme in the Dera Ghazi Khan district?

(b) how long is it proposed to keep this scheme pending and when the final orders concerning it are likely to be passed?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: (a) The technical details of the Manka Hydro-Electric Scheme are still under investigation. The main proposal consists of pumping water from temporary heads on the Indus, all of which are likely to change due to floods and river action. As the cost of engines, pumps, power station, transmission lines and other miscellaneous Canal Works will be about Rs. 20 lakhs, so before incurring such a heavy expenditure it is necessary to go into full details, which is likely to take time.

(b) The scheme is not kept pending, but details are being investigated and worked up. As explained above no date for final orders on a work of this nature can be given.

POLICE FORCE.

*1489. **Shaikh Faiz Muhammad:** Will the Honourable Finance Member kindly state—

(a) what is the total strength of the police force in the Dera Ghazi Khan district;

(*b*) how many head constables and constables in the force are inhabitants of the district;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that majority of such constables and head constables are posted at places from fifty to two hundred miles away from their native town or village in the district;

(*d*) whether or not constables and head constables posted at places over fifty miles away from their native places get special allowances given to all head constables and constables who do not belong to the district;

(*e*) if answer to (*d*) is in the negative, what is the reason for not granting such persons an allowance?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow:

	S. P.	A. S. P.	D. S. P.	Inspr.	S. I.	A. S. I.	H. C.	Const.
(*a*)	1	1	1	2	26	4	105	617

(*b*) 69 Head Constables and 296 Foot Constables are inhabitants of the district.

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) No.

(*e*) Efficiency demands that there shall be a leavening of Cis-Indus enrolments in the police force of the Dera Ghazi Khan district, but the physical hardships of the district are such, and the expenses incurred by journeys to and from the Punjab when on leave are so heavy, that no Punjabi of the accepted standard for enlistment is prepared to enlist in the Dera Ghazi Khan district unless offered special terms. Head constables and constables, who are residents of the district, receive emoluments on exactly the same scales as police officers of similar rank in any other district in the Punjab.

BORDER MILITARY POLICE.

***1490. Shaikh Faiz Muhammad:** Will the Honourable Finance Member kindly state—

(*a*) the number of Border Military posts in the district;

(*b*) strength of each of these posts;

(*c*) the name and period of service of *dafedar* of each post;—

(*d*) if there are any posts at which the *dafedar* and the majority of *sawars* are near relatives;

(*e*) if so, whether this arrangement has received the approval of Government?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow: (*a*), (*b*) & (*c*) A statement giving the required information is laid on the table.

(*d*) No.

(*e*) Does not arise.

STATEMENT SHOWING NUMBER OF BORDER MILITARY POLICE POSTS IN THE DISTRICT OF DERA GHAZI KHAN WITH STRENGTH, NAMES OF *DAFEDARS*, THEIR DATE OF APPOINTMENT AND NUMBER OF *SOWARS* RELATED TO *DAFEDARS*.

Serial No.	Name of Post.	Strength.		Sowars.	Pkds. Muhr.	Total.	Name of Dafedar.	Date of appointment.	Period of service.	Number of Sowars related to Dafedars.
		Jamadar.	Dafedar.							
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
									Years.	
1	Chittrwatta	..	1	4	..	5	Kadir Bakhsh Khan ..	1902	26	..
2	Vehoa	..	..	7	..	7	..	..	..	1
3	Lakhani	1	..	4	..	5	..	..	..	1
4	Dajal	..	1	7	..	9	Ishaq Khan ..	1898	30	1
5	Hinglun Kachh ..	1	..	10	..	11	..	..	..	2
6	Fazala Kachh ..	1	1	8	1	11	Mir Hassan Khan ..	1914	14	4
7	Mangrotha ..	..	1	9	..	9	Muhammadu Khan ..	1919	15	1
8	Mamdani ..	..	1	8	..	9	Gul Muhammad Khan ..	1906	22	1
9	Batil	..	1	9	1	11	Khan Sahib Chakar Khan	1892	36	4
10	Headquarter ..	..	1	16	1	18	Khan Muhammad Khan	1896	32	1

11	Sakhi Sarwar ..	1	1	9	1	12	Gul Muhammad Khan ..	1922	6	3
12	Moharki	..	1	9	1	11	Yar Muhammad Khan	1903	25	1
13	Rakhi Munh ..	..	1	3	1	5	Fazal Khan ..	1923	5	1
14	Rakhi Gaj ..	..	1	4	..	5	Jan Muhammad Khan..	1902	26	..
15	Girdo	..	1	4	..	5	Nabi Bakhsh Khan ..	1896	32	..
16	Khar	..	1	7	..	8	Najaf Shah ..	1892	36	..
17	Bewatta	..	1	4	..	5	Fatteh Muhammad Khan	1916	12	..
18	Chacha	..	1	6	..	7	Sher Ali Khan ..	1895	33	..
19	Khalchas ..	1	1	7	1	10	Faqir Bakhsh Khan ..	1913	15	..
20	Harrand	..	..	7	..	7	..	..	..	..
21	Drigri	1	1	8	..	10	Allah Dad Khan ..	1924	4	..
22	Kot Rum ..	..	..	5	1	6	..	..	..	..
23	Kot Sabzal ..	1	1	15	1	18	Rustam Khan ..	1905	23	..
24	Bhandowali ..	1	1	19	..	21	Mangiadha Khan ..	1923	5	..
25	Barah	..	2	13	..	15	Jani Khan .. and Durani Shah ..	1900	28	1
								1892	36	2
26	Toziani	..	2	13	..	15	Mehr Gul .. .. and Razidan Khan ..	1916	12	..
								1923	5	..
	Total ..	8	23	214	9	254				

DIVISIONAL INSPECTORS OF SCHOOLS.

*1491. **Shaikh Faiz Muhammad:** Will the Honourable Minister for Education kindly state community-wise the number of Divisional Inspectors of Schools in the Punjab on January 1st, 1927 and on October 31st, 1928?

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal: The information is as below:—

	Hindus.	*Muslims.*	*Sikhs.*	*Christians.*
As on 1st January 1927 ..	1	2	1	1
As on 31st January, 1928 ..	2	1	1	1

DISTRICT INSPECTORS OF SCHOOLS.

*1492. **Shaikh Faiz Muhammad:** Will the Honourable Minister for Education kindly state community-wise the number of District Inspectors of Schools on January 1st, 1928 and on October 31st, 1928?

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal: The information is laid on the table:—

	Hindus.	*Muslims.*	*Sikhs.*	*Christians.*
(*a*) The number community-wise of District Inspectors of Schools on the 1st January, 1928.	8	16	5	1
(*b*) The number community-wise of District Inspectors of Schools on the 31st October, 1928.	9	14	6	1

Chaudhri Duli Chand: How many of these nine Hindu District Inspectors of Schools belong to the agriculturist class?

Mr. President: I disallow this supplementary question. It does not arise from the answer given by the Honourable Minister for Education.

DIVISIONAL AND DISTRICT INSPECTORS OF SCHOOLS.

*1493. **Shaikh Faiz Muhammad:** Will the Honourable Minister for Education kindly state the names of those Divisional Inspectors and District Inspectors of Schools who, previous to their transfer to the Inspection line, had no experience of inspection work?

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal: None of the Divisional Inspectors had such experience, and a very large number of District Inspectors are so placed. It is not considered advisable to publish the list of names as it can serve no useful purpose.

HINDU MUNSHI FAZIL TEACHERS.

*1494. **Rai Sahib Lala Ganga Ram:** Will the Honourable Minister for Education be pleased to state whether his attention has been

drawn to an article issued in the *Milap* of 3rd August, 1928, and another article in the *Insaf*, Lyallpur, to the effect that injustice is done to Hindu Munshi Fazil teachers of Lyallpur ?

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal : Only the article published in the *Milap* of 3rd August, 1928 was brought to the notice of Government, but enquiry showed that no serious injustice had been done to the Hindu Munshi Fazil teachers of the Lyallpur district.

LABHU CHRISTIANS.

*1495. **Rai Sahib Lala Ganga Ram :** (*a*) Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Labhu Christians of District Lyallpur submitted a report, dated the 16th April, 1928, to the Superintendent of Police, Lyallpur, through *Insaf*, Lyallpur, complaining of the high-handedness of a Police Sub-Inspector and others ?

(*b*) If so, will the Honourable Member kindly state as to whether any enquiry has been made and with what result ?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Yes. An enquiry was made by a gazetted officer and the complaint was found to be without foundation.

HALLA LABOUR.

*1496. **Chaudhri Ram Singh :** (*i*) Will the Honourable Revenue Member kindly state whether it is a fact that the Department of *Shah Nehr Makerian* in the Hoshiarpur district charges fine from the zamindars on account of *hallas*, and that the latter are required to supply men to form such *hallas* ?

(*ii*) If so, will Government kindly lay on the table a copy of the document according to which *halla* labour is required of the zamindars ?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : (*i*) Yes.

(*ii*) It is not understood what the honourable member means by the term "Zamindars." If he refers to Shah Nahr Shareholders, the relevant document is the agreement of 1890. If he refers to irrigators, the relevant document is the Wajib-ul-Arz of the villages concerned. Copies of these documents are laid on the table.

Copy of paragraph 14 of the Deed of transfer to Government of Shareholders' right in the Shah Nahr Canal.

In consideration of the due observance of the above conditions, we shareholders, residents of Mauza Budhabar and the 15 villages detailed below, do hereby agree and bind ourselves, our heirs, representatives and assigns to supply free labour during the rains from 15th June to 1st October to repair breaches in the canal and main branches, or damage to the head works and *bands*, from Changarwan to Saraina, at the rate of three able-bodied men for each pie of our shares, or in default, to pay to Government a fine of 1 rupee per diem for every man not supplied when required : such fine to be deducted from the sum payable to the defaulter from the water rate and

[Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain.]
further to assist in every possible way the manager appointed by Government and the officers of Government in the administration of the canal:—

1. Sariana.
2. Bhamral.
3. Fattehpur.
4. Biriowal.
5. Baggowal.
6. Sahrakwal.
7. Bachhowali.
8. Badhan.
9. Dhada Kutrala.
10. Bahbal Manj.
11. Kasranwan.
12. Ladhar.
13. Dhesian.
14. Sadhari.
15. Sihali.

Chaudhri Ram Singh: As regards the ten per cent. canals, does the honourable member possess a document, in virtue of which the *Shah Nehr* department is entitled to take *halla* from the owners of such canals? If so, will the honourable member lay this document on the table?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: If the honourable member sends in notice of a fresh question, an attempt will be made to answer it.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CATTLE TAX COMMITTEE.

*1497. **Chaudhri Ram Singh:** (*i*) Will the Honourable Revenue Member kindly state whether it is a fact—

(*a*) that the census of goats and sheep in the Kangra district takes place after every three years;

(*b*) that after a census is taken, no reduction is made in the cattle tax for the next three years on account of the death of some of the goats and sheep that may take place in the meantime;

(*c*) that the Cattle Tax Committee had unanimously recommended that the census of goats and sheep in the Kangra district should be taken after every year;

(*d*) that the Deputy Commissioner, Kangra district, also recommended separately that the census of goats and sheep should be taken after every year?

(*ii*) If the answer to the above be in the affirmative, will Government kindly state what action it has taken on the recommendations of the Cattle Tax Committee and of the Deputy Commissioner?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: (*i*) (*a*), (*b*), (*c*) and (*d*) Yes.

(*ii*) The proposal is under the consideration of Government.

GRANTEES OF LAND.

*1498. **Lala Joti Parshad:** Will the Honourable Revenue Member be pleased to lay on the table a list of those persons of the Hissar district who received grants of land from the Government from 1914 up to-date giving in each case—

(*i*) the name of the recipients;

(*ii*) the area of the grant made; and

(*iii*) a short statement of services for which it was granted?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: The preparation of such a statement will involve very considerable time and labour of public servants. A research into the records of many districts will have to be carried out, and it does not appear whether a corresponding advantage to the public will be forthcoming.

OPENING OF CANAL TELEGRAPH OFFICES TO THE PUBLIC.

***1499. Lala Joti Parshad:** Will the Honourable Revenue Member be pleased to state what action the Government has taken on the resolution passed by this Council regarding the throwing open of the Canal Telegraph Offices to the public?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: All the permanent Canal Telegraph Offices on the Upper Bari Doab Canal were opened to the public on the 1st July, 1928.

The results will be examined and in the light of the experience gained the question of opening other Canal system will be considered.

PROVINCIALIZATION OF SCHOOLS.

***1500. Lala Joti Parshad:** Will the Honourable Minister for Education kindly state—

(*a*) what schools in the Ambala division have been provincialized during the current year?

(*b*) what are proposed to be provincialised in the next financial year?

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal: (*a*) Naraingarh, District Ambala, and Kot Khai, District Simla.

(*b*) The matter is under consideration.

TIME-SCALE FOR SUBORDINATE EDUCATION SERVICE.

***1501. Lala Joti Parshad:** Will the Honourable Minister for Education please state whether it is a fact that the system of time-scale of pay has not been introduced in the subordinate service of the Education Department? If so, will the Government please say whether it has any intention of introducing this system now? If not, why?

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal: The Subordinate Educational Service is organised on a time-scale basis, but has not a continuous time-scale. In pursuance of the advice of the Standing Committee on Education, Government is considering the creation of a larger number of posts in a higher grade, in lieu of a continuous time-scale.

PROTECTED MONUMENTS.

*1502. **Lala Joti Parshad:** Will the Honourable Minister for Agriculture please state the number and names of protected monuments in the districts of Hissar, Rohtak, Gurgaon and Karnal, and the sum which is spent yearly district-wise by the Punjab Government for their up-keep?

The Honourable Sardar Jogendra Singh: A statement giving the required information with regard to protected monuments maintained from provincial revenues of this Government is laid upon the table.

LIST SHOWING THE PROTECTED MONUMENTS IN THE DISTRICTS OF HISSAR ROHTAK, GURGAON AND KARNAL AND THE AMOUNT SPENT ON THEIR MAINTENANCE.

District.	Name of protected monument maintained at the expense of the Punjab Government.	Amount spent during 1927-28 on the maintenance of the monument.	Total cost in each district.
		Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
Hissar ..	1. Wedderburn memorial monument, Hissar.	0 0 0	
	2. Monument in the memory of the victims of the mutiny, Hissar.	16 0 0	
	3. Tomb of Colonel James Skinner, C.B., at Hansi.	15 0 0	
	4. Graves of Lieutenant T. H. Hilliard and Mr. J. W. Fell at Sirsa.	6 0 0	
	5. Sculptured bracket on the outer wall of the bastion of the fort close by Ferozeshah's Mosque, Hissar.	12 0 0	
	6. Talaqi Gate	25 0 0	
	7. Tomb of the Chalis Hadi ..	10 0 0	
	8. Small roofless mosque at Barwala, 19 miles north-west of Hansi.	7 0 0	100 0 0
Rohtak ..	*Nil.*		
Gurgaon ..	1. Tombs of Major Jean Etienne and Mr. Francwa Ferry, Natives of Bordeaux, France at Jhansa.	26 0 0	
	2. Ali Wardi Khan's Mosque ..	29 0 0	55 0 0
Karnal ..	*Nil.*		

CORRUPTION COMMITTEE.

*1503. **Lala Joti Parshad:** Will the Honourable Finance Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) if there is any separate district corruption committee for the Hissar district;

(*b*) if so, will Government kindly give the names of its members and the number of meetings they have held during the current financial year;

(*c*) what work the committee has done in checking corruption?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow: (*a*) No.

(*b*) & (*c*) Do not arise.

OPENING OF AN ENGINEERING COLLEGE IN THE PUNJAB.

*1504. **Lala Joti Parshad:** With reference to question [1]No. 1727, put on 1st May, 1925, will the Honourable Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state whether Government has as yet come to any decision? If not, why?

The Honourable Sardar Jogendra Singh: Two schemes were submitted to the Committee assembled by Government to consider the question of establishing, in the Punjab, a college for the training of engineers.

The Committee discussed the two schemes at a meeting held in June 1927 and resolved that a sub-committee consisting of competent engineers should examine the two schemes and, after visiting existing Engineering Colleges in the United Provinces and Bengal, submit their report on the adequacy or otherwise of the two schemes now before the Committee. It was decided that the sub-committee should assemble in the ensuing cold weather. This was unfortunately found to be not possible as some of the members of the sub-committee left the country on long leave before a date could be fixed for their meeting. As the members proceeding on leave would not be returning to India before the next cold weather, the meeting of the sub-committee was postponed till the winter of 1928. The question of convening a meeting of the sub-committee will be taken up next month by which time all those on leave will have returned to India.

MEASURES TO PREVENT CORRUPTION.

*1505. **Lala Joti Parshad:** Will the Honourable Finance Member please state in detail as to what measures the Government has adopted to root out corruption from all Government departments since the report of Mr. King's Committee?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow: The honourable member is referred to the answer given to Council question [2]No. 878 put by Mr. M. A. Ghani on the 21st November, 1927.

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[1]Vol. VIII-A, page 862.

[2]Vol. X-B, pages 1130-32.

ARMS LICENSES.

*1506. **Lala Joti Parshad:** Will the Honourable Revenue Member be pleased to state community-wise the total number of licenses for keeping arms granted or renewed in the years 1926, 1927 and 1928 in Hissar district ?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: The honourable member has not mentioned for which community he wants the figures. If the honourable member has a complaint to bring to the notice of the authorities or to make a suggestion, won't it be best if he were to do so directly?

CRIMES IN HISSAR.

*1507. **Lala Joti Parshad:** Will the Honourable Finance Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of crimes has of late largely increased in the Hissar district ;

(b) the number of cases challaned for every quarter since the beginning of 1927 for the district of Hissar ;

(c) what steps Government proposes to check this increase ?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow: (a) No. There is only a slight increase.

(b) 1st quarter 1927	..	223
2nd quarter 1927	..	157
3rd quarter 1927	..	310
4th quarter 1927	..	160
		850
1st quarter 1928	..	174
2nd quarter 1928	..	256
3rd quarter 1928	..	317
4th quarter 1928 up to 14th November 1928.	..	110
		857

(c) No special measures are called for.

UNEMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE.

*1508. **Lala Joti Parshad:** With reference to the report of the Unemployment Committee, will the Honourable Finance Member please state what suitable measures the Government proposes to take in carrying out the recommendations of the Committee ?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow: Heads of Departments have been requested to examine the Report of the Punjab Unemployment Committee and to submit to Government as soon as possible their observations

with regard to the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee. These will be examined by Government in the various departments as received, and it is intended in due course to issue a Resolution indicating the extent to which Government has accepted the conclusions of the Committee and proposes to give effect to its recommendations.

RANGOI CANAL.

*1509. **Lala Joti Parshad:** Will the Honourable Revenue Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that last year Government undertook the improvement of the Rangoi Canal in the Hissar district;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that the Financial Commissioner, Mr. Townsend, inspected the Head of the Canal in the beginning of this year;

(*c*) if the answer to (*a*) and (*b*) be in the affirmative, what report, if any, was made by the Financial Commissioner to Government;

(*d*) whether a copy of the same will be laid on the table;

(*e*) whether it is a fact that the Rural Sanitary Board decided in its meeting held in May 1928 not to take the Rangoi Canal under its control? If so, what are the reasons for such refusal?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: (*a*) No.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) & (*d*) A copy of the report is laid on the table.

(*e*) Yes, the Rangoi Canal is a purely irrigation canal and in no way connected with drainage or rural sanitary work.

Report, dated 6th April 1928, by Mr. C. A. H. Townsend, C.I.E., I.C.S., Financial Commissioner, Punjab.

SUBJECT:—*Rangoi Canal.*

I went into the matter at Jakhal last week. I visited the head of the Rangoi Canal (which is only two miles from the railway station), examined the records, and discussed the matter with the assembled zamindars, the Deputy Commissioner, and Khan Bahadur Sh. Abdur Rahman, Superintending Engineer and Secretary, Rural Sanitary Board, who kindly met me there.

2. The district board of Hissar took charge of the Canal on April, 1912 from the Irrigation Department. For the first few years after taking charge of the canal the district board was subsidised by Government to the extent of Rs. 2,600 a year, and spent some money on it. But the subsidy ceased after a few years; and of late years the district board has spent an ever-decreasing amount on the canal: in none of the last six years has it spent more than Rs. 700 on it. The annual grant from Government of Rs. 2,600,

[Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Hussain.]

referred to above, was merged in 1917-18, in the general consolidated grant given by Government to the district board. The identity of the grant having been lost, it is hardly surprising, however regrettable, that the district board soon forgot that it had any responsibilities for the up-keep of the Rangoi, especially as it derived no direct income from the canal, as water rates were not charged. The district board now maintains no establishment at all for the canal; it is under the charge of the District Engineer, but the charge is entirely nominal. In short, the canal, which is situated in a remote corner of the district, and is a long way from Hissar, is entirely neglected by the district board. Its condition was far from satisfactory in 1909-10. It is very much worse now, and gives an impression of complete neglect. The head is almost entirely silted up, the banks are falling in, worst of all, the head is now about 16 feet above the secured bed of the Ghaggar, which seems to be scouring out in that neighbourhood. The corresponding figure in 1910 was about 12 feet. Much water was always needed in the Ghaggar for the Rangoi to flow, but much more is now required. Nevertheless in good years the canal can do some irrigation, as I will show later.

8. I have had the figures of the Rangoi Circle shown in paragraph 21 of my assessment report brought up to date. They are as follows: the total area sown annually in the circle on the average of the years 1890—1897, being taken as 100. To facilitate comparison the figures given in that paragraph are also reproduced here:—

RANGOI CIRCLE.

Annual average of periods.	Description of Cultivation.						Total sown in year.
	Nahri Rangoi.			*Barani.*			
	Matured in year.	Failed in year.	Total sown.	Matured in year.	Failed in year.	Total sown.	
1890—1897 ..	19	6	25	40	35	75	100
1897—1903 ..	11	5	16	28	48	76	92
1903—1909 ..	9	5	14	54	38	92	106
1909—1916 ..	6	2	8	45	36	81	89
1916—1922 ..	8	3	11	47	42	89	100
1922—1927 ..	9	3	12	63	24	87	99

The figures show a general tendency for irrigation from the Rangoi to decline, compared with the figures of 1890—1897. But these averages of periods really give a wrong impression. Figures the Deputy Commissioner has kindly given me, show that for the period 1909—1916, in 1914-15, over 21,000 acres was sown in both harvests with the help of the Rangoi: in 1910-1911, 4,000 acres was so sown: in no other year of the period did the figure

exceed 1,900 acres. During the following period, 1916—1922, in 1917-18, over 14,000 acres was sown with the help of Rangoi water: in 1920-21 the corresponding figure was only 42 acres. Turning to the last period, nearly 2,700 acres was so sown in 1924-25: the figure for 1926-27 was 21 acres. The good years were of course those of exceptional floods.

4. The question for decision is what is to be done now. The matter has been referred to the Rural Sanitary Board. The views of the Superintending Engineer attached to the Board are—

"The present condition of the canal is simply hopeless. The Irrigation Department spent Rs. 34,000 in three years when they were in charge of the canal in 1901. While in the charge of the Irrigation Department the Rangoi Canal worked fairly well. But it never paid for its working, the reason being that, the water rates were very low and no canal can be made 'productive' with these rates. The Rangoi Canal or cut was originally made by the people themselves and they naturally resented any assessment on account of water rate on this canal when it was worked by the Irrigation Department.

The Executive Engineer has suggested that the existing Rangoi Canal should be scrapped and new canal and distributaries as proposed under the Bhakra Dam Project be made for the Irrigation of the Rangoi tract. He has suggested two alternative sites to feed this new canal by bund and approach channels, from the Ghaggar river; one higher up at the junction of the Para Nallah with the Ghaggar and the other at the junction of the Joya and Ghaggar Nallas. Both these sites are in the Patiala State. These schemes will have to be considered by the Irrigation Department and in view of the unsettled state of the Bhakra Dam Project, these are not likely to be investigated and worked out. I do not, therefore, recommend any of them.

The only question for decision now is whether the present Rangoi Canal should or should not be put in working order if the Bhakra Dam Scheme is not to be taken up in the near future. The following points call for consideration:—

(a) This canal, with the present water rate, cannot be made self-supporting. Should the water rate be increased so as to make the canal pay for the working expenses and bring it under the definition of protective work?

(b) Whether the Government should bear the working expenses and also spend the amount required for improvement of the canal. Roughly speaking it would cost between Rs. 30,000 and Rs. 40,000 to put the canal in working order.

(c) A masonry bar (or weir) in the Ghaggar is necessary to feed the canal in low supplies. It is found from the records that the Ghaggar is scouring the bed at this site and the bed there is now 4½ feet below the assumed bed level at the time when the Head Regulator of the canal was built. (The zero of the river guage was then 709·000 and now the scoured bed is 704·5. A low weir across the Ghaggar which will not cause high afflux above it is therefore necessary. Such a weir will not affect the villages situated on the Ghaggar below the Rangoi Head, nor will it adversely affect the Ghaggar Canal at Otu. This will cost about Rs. 50,000. The Patiala State should have no objection to such a work. This question will be discussed with the Irrigation Department and possibly with the Patiala State.

(d) In view of the opening of the closed drainage tract in the Karnal district the scheme for which has cost the Government over 4 lakhs of rupees in the development of the Sarusti Nallah, it is quite equitable for the British Government to utilize the water thus made available, in the Rangoi Canal; otherwise it will be used in the Patiala State and partly shared with the Bikaner State in the Ghaggar Canals at Otu.

(e) After the Rangoi Canal is put in order and masonry weir built (or not built) in the Ghaggar the maintenance of the Rangoi Canal will annually cost about Rs. 7,000.

(f) If the Rangoi Canal is to be put in working order, should it be given to the Irrigation Department to work or to the Rural Sanitary Board? It will be cheaper for the Irrigation Department, but the Rural Sanitary Board will also be willing to undertake the work if desired by the Government."

[Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain.]

The two proposals, which amount to the construction of a new head for the canal at one of two places in adjoining Patiala territory are undesirable, and I agree with the Superintending Engineer that both these proposals should be rejected.

5. But I consider that the canal might well be given to the Rural Sanitary Board to manage. Nothing could be worse than the present position. Indeed many of the cultivators in the neighbourhood told me they regretted greatly that the Irrigation Department had ceased to control it. The canal was taken from that Department and given to the district board to manage in 1911-12, in deference to their wishes. They have learnt by experience.

The Rural Sanitary Board manages the Sarusti Canal in Karnal. The Rangoi offers a much more difficult problem: but the Superintending Engineer of the Board thinks that it may be able to make something even of this canal on the lines suggested by him in paragraph 4, although of course none of his suggestions can be adopted without very much more detailed investigation than has yet been made. It appears in (*d*) of paragraph 4 that more water will soon be available for the Ghaggar, so the present time is opportune for the Rural Sanitary Board to take over the management of the Rangoi.

6. Care must of course be taken that nothing be done to help the Rangoi by building a high weir across the Ghaggar at its head, which might adversely affect the villages lower down whose lands are flooded by the Ghaggar when good rains fall, nor the Ghaggar Canals at Otu, still lower down in the Sirsa tahsil. The latter would certainly involve us in a dispute with Bikaner, some of whose lands are irrigated occasionally from the Ghaggar Canals. We have an agreement on the matter with that State. Nevertheless I think it may be possible to build a low weir across the Ghaggar at the Rangoi Head.

SARUSTI CANAL.

***1510. Lala Joti Parshad:** Will the Honourable Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) if it is a fact that the Sarusti Canal in the Karnal district is under the control and supervision of the Rural Sanitary Board;

(*b*) if so, when was it taken by the Rural Sanitary Board and what are the reasons for its acceptance;

(*c*) how much money has been spent by the Rural Sanitary Board on this canal, since its acceptance;

(*d*) what is the distinguishing feature between the Sarusti Canal and the Rangoi Canal, whereby one was accepted and the other was rejected;

(*e*) what further steps the Government has taken in the matter of Rangoi Canal being taken over by the Rural Sanitary Board?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : (*a*) No, it is under the control of Government.

(*b*) Government assumed control from kharif 1926. The canal was taken over as it is intimately connected with the Sarusti nullah drain, a work which was executed by Government at a cost of about Rs. 4½ lakhs and is maintained by Government.

(*c*) Government have spent about Rs. 68,700 on the canal since it was taken over.

(*d*) As already stated the Sarusti Canal is intimately connected with an important Government drainage work. The Rangoi Canal is a purely irrigation canal not connected with any Government drainage work. There was, therefore, no reason for taking it over.

(*e*) It is not proposed to take any steps in connection with the Rangoi Canal.

RURAL SANITARY BOARD.

***1511. Lala Joti Parshad :** Will the Honourable Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state in detail what work the Rural Sanitary Board has done in the Hissar district since its origin, and how much money they have spent ?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : No work has been undertaken in the Hissar district by the Rural Sanitary and Improvement Board since its constitution in 1926 as no complaints have been made as to water-logging or drainage difficulties.

ENGINEER, SIMLA MUNICIPALITY.

***1512. Lala Joti Parshad :** Will the Honourable Minister for Local Self-Government please state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the present Engineer, Roads and Buildings, of the Simla municipality, was temporarily appointed for six months on Rs. 700 per mensem *plus* Rs. 50 per mensem conveyance allowance, with effect from 3rd November, 1920 ;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that from 1st April, 1928 his pay was fixed at Rs. 800—50—1,000 per mensem *plus* Rs. 50 horse allowance ;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that after six years and five months he has been drawing a maximum of Rs. 1,050 per mensem, whilst the rate admissible to the Punjab Service of Engineers is Rs. 250—20—750 per mensem ;

(*d*) if the answer to (*a*), (*b*) and (*c*) be in the affirmative, what are the reasons for this preferential treatment ?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : The information required is being collected and will be communicated to the honourable member when ready.

SHAIKH AINUL HAQ, NAIB-TAHSILDAR.

*1513. **Lala Bodh Raj:** Will the Honourable Revenue Member please state if it is a fact that complaint was made to the Commissioner, Multan, against Shaikh Ainul Haq, Naib-Tahsildar, regarding his conduct in certain mutation cases of one Rup Nath of Muzaffargarh district in the year 1924 or 1925?

If so, what action has been taken by the Commissioner in the matter?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl i-Husain: (*a*) No complaint was made to the Commissioner, Multan, against Sheikh Ainul Haq, late Naib-Tahsildar, Multan district, regarding his conduct in certain mutation cases of one Rup Nath of Muzaffargarh district in the year 1924 or 1925, but this official was reduced in grade in 1914 owing to his action in connection with a mutation case of Rup Nath in 1914, and the honourable member is apparently post-dating the occurrence by ten years.

(*b*) Does not arise.

SHAIKH MANZUR ALI, NAIB-TAHSILDAR.

*1514. **Lala Bodh Raj:** Will the Honourable Revenue Member please state—

(*a*) if it is a fact that Shaikh Manzur Ali, Naib-Tahsildar, was reported against while at Mian Channu by the Deputy Commissioner, Multan, for being corrupt;

(*b*) if so, what action was taken against him on the said report?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: (*a*) No.

(*b*) Does not arise.

Does the honourable member feel quite sure that it is in public interest to make such allegations against individual officers? Government would have refused to answer the question on the ground that it is not in public interest to do so but for the fact that the name of the officer mentioned would have remained, so far as the public is concerned, in a cloud.

Mr. President: The honourable member was asked to undertake responsibility for the accuracy of the statement contained in his question and he has undertaken it.

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: The question is whether it is in public interest that any honourable member should put in a question of that sort against an individual officer, and that is what I have taken the opportunity of emphasizing.

Lala Bodh Raj: If the allegations made in the question are true, then it becomes a matter of public interest, and as the Honourable President has stated, I have undertaken responsibility.

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: I think it is clear from my answer to part (*a*) of the question, which is:

"If it is a fact that Sheikh Manzur Ali, Naib-Tahsildar, was reported against while at Mian Channu by the Deputy Commissioner, Multan, for being corrupt."

that no such report was received. My answer is No, a definite No.

Lala Bodh Raj: Will the party concerned proceed against me if he likes?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: I am afraid the number of people who can proceed against the honourable member is very large.

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang: Was that gentleman reported against while he was at any other station?

Lala Bodh Raj: My learned friend suggests the question whether he was reported against from any other station.

Mr. President: That is too vague.

Lala Bodh Raj: While he was a Naib-Tahsildar?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: Where and when?

Lala Bodh Raj: In Multan district.

Dr. Gokal Chand, Narang: Was he ever reported against?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: I am afraid, I cannot make enquiries about 'ever'.

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang: It is casuistry.

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: It is not casuistry. I consider it is highly unfair to put such questions.

PAYMENT TO MR. D. UPSON FROM FUNDS OF PUBLICITY BOARD.

*1515. **Chaudhri Baldev Singh:** (*a*) Will the Honourable Revenue Member be pleased to state whether any money has been paid to Mr. Daud Upson during the last two years or before from the funds at the disposal of Publicity Board?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, what is the amount of money so paid?

(*c*) What were the services rendered by Mr. Daud Upson for which payments were made?

(*d*) If the payments were made for any notes or articles, will the Honourable Revenue Member be pleased to lay them on the table?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: (*a*) Yes, when he was free journalist and was not on the staff of any newspaper.

(*b*) Rs. 125.

(*c*) He wrote a pamphlet on the Demonstration Train and an article on a brochure entitled "The Grand Trunk Road in the Punjab," published by the Keeper of the Records of the Punjab Government.

(*d*) The pamphlet and the article are placed on the table[1].

[1]Not printed.

Dr. Shaikh Muhammad Alam : Was he paid after the pamphlet was written or was he made to write the pamphlet before he was paid ?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : I do not see the distinction which the honourable member wants to suggest. Does he mean whether he was paid before or after the pamphlet was written ?

Dr. Shaikh Muhammad Alam : I mean whether he was made to write the pamphlet and then payment was given or whether the writing was made on account of inducement of payment.

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : I must say that I have still not followed the honourable member.

Dr. Shaikh Muhammad Alam : I want to know whether he wrote the pamphlet *suo motu*, or he was paid for it and then asked to write the pamphlet.

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : I will make enquiries if the honourable member thinks it worth while and if he thinks that he has raised some very important point, which I am not able to detect yet.

Chaudhri Baldev Singh : Was he paid from any other fund also ?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : Not that I know of. As a matter of fact, there are no other funds and my private purse is not full enough to be requisitioned.

MR. CHIRAGH DIN AND RESUMPTION OF GRANTS.

*1516. **Lala Bodh Raj :** Will the Honourable Revenue Member please state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the services of Mr. Chiragh Din and another head constable of Montgomery were dispensed with because they did not like to abandon their grants (being original inhabitants of Montgomery) ;

(*b*) whether they have now been re-instated by the orders of the Punjab Government and have been allowed to retain their grants as well ;

(*c*) if it is a fact that similar orders have not been passed in case of those whose grants have been resumed ;

(*d*) if so, the reasons for distinguishing the two sets of cases ?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow : (*a*) Certain Police Officers of the Montgomery district were given the option of resigning service or surrendering their grants of land. The case of Head Constable Chiragh Din has not yet come to the notice of Government.

(*b*) Some of those who resigned appealed against this decision and were allowed to remain in service and retain their land as they were original inhabitants of the Montgomery district.

(*c*) Other appeals have since been received and are being dealt with.

(*d*) Does not arise.

SAYAD NUR SHAH.

*1517. **Lala Bodh Raj:** Will the Honourable Revenue Member please state—

(*a*) if it is a fact that Sayad Nur Shah has been allowed to remain in service as well as to retain the grant in Montgomery;

(*b*) if so, what are the reasons for the departure from the general rule?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: (*a*) The honourable member presumably refers to a grant of land made in the names of the sons of Sayad Nur Shah, Extra Assistant Commissioner; if this is so, the answer to this part of the question is in the affirmative.

(*b*) It is not known to what general rule the honourable member refers. It may, however, be explained that Government has taken executive action where such action is possible in certain cases in which Government officials serving on the colony establishment of the Lower Bari Doab Canal or their relatives had obtained grants of land. This action took the form of requiring that the grants should be surrendered, or that the official concerned should retire from Government service. Where the grant had been in the possession of the grantee for more than three years, it was not, however, possible to take action under the Colony Act for the confiscation of the grant, and where the official concerned had been in service for less than 25 years, it was not possible under the Civil Service Regulations to require his retirement. These executive orders were not applicable to the officer in question since he was not on the colony establishment at the time the grant was made, and in any case the conditions precedent to action were not satisfied.

Lala Bodh Raj: Will the honourable member please state if the grant was *benami* in the names of sons of Sayad Nur Shah, or was it really in the name of the Extra Assistant Commissioner?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: It would certainly require a declaratory suit being brought by a public-minded person to determine that question.

SEPARATION OF JHANG FROM MAGHIANA MUNICIPALITY.

*1518. **Lala Bodh Raj:** Will the Honourable Minister for Local Self-Government please state—

(*a*) if any representation has been made by the people of Jhang to have a separate municipality from Maghiana;

(*b*) if so, what action has been taken thereon?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The matter is under consideration.

BHAI UDHAM SINGH OF VILLAGE JANDU SINGHA.

*1519. **Sardar Partap Singh:** (*a*) Will the Honourable Finance Member kindly state whether it is a fact that Bhai Udham Singh, son of Subedar Gurdit Singh, resident of village Jandu Singha, district Jullundur, was arrested in a Babbar Akali case ?

(*b*) If so, what were the reasons of his arrest ?

(*c*) What was the result of the case against him ?

(*d*) Was any witness produced before the committing Magistrate or the Sessions Judge that implicated him ? If so, the name of any such witness and the statement made by him may be laid on the table ?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) He was alleged to have sent a revolver to Kishan Singh, an accused, in the Babbar Akali case.

(*c*) He was acquitted.

(*d*) No. A witness, who had previously made a statement against him before a Magistrate, retracted his statement.

BHAI UDHAM SINGH OF VILLAGE JANDU SINGHA.

*1520. **Sardar Partap Singh:** Will the Honourable Finance Member kindly state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that Bhai Udham Singh on his release from the Babbar Akali case mentioned in question No. 1519 above was re-arrested under section 110, Criminal Procedure Code ;

(*b*) how long after his arrest the prosecution witnesses were produced against him ;

(*c*) what was the result of the case ?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow: (*a*) Udham Singh was arrested on the 14th June, 1925 under section 110, C. P. C., four months after his release in the Babbar Akali case. He was released on bail on the 26th June, 1925.

(*b*) The case was referred back to the Police for further enquiries and it was put up for trial on the 30th September, 1925. Witnesses against him were examined on the 12th and 17th November, and on the 5th and 10th December, 1925 and 11th and 27th January, 1926.

(*c*) He was convicted and ordered to furnish security and bond, each of Rs. 3,000.

The appeal was rejected.

BHAI UDHAM SINGH OF VILLAGE JANDU SINGHA.

*1521. **Sardar Partap Singh:** Will the Honourable Finance Member kindly state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that Bhai Udham Singh referred to in questions Nos. 1519 and 1520 above, has been placed on Police register No. 10 ;

(*b*) If so, what are the reasons ?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) All records connected with police surveillance are confidential, and Government is not prepared to give the information.

OFFICIAL RECEIVERS.

***1522. Sayad Mubarik Ali Shah:** Will the Honourable Finance Member kindly state—

(*a*) the total number of Official Receivers appointed in the Punjab;

(*b*) how many of such Official Receivers are Muslims?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow: It is regretted that the answer is not ready. Enquiries have been made from the Registrar, High Court of Judicature at Lahore and the result will be communicated to the honourable member when received.

OFFICIAL RECEIVER, JHANG.

***1523. Sayad Mubarik Ali Shah:** Will the Honourable Finance Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the District Muslim League, Jhang, has drawn the attention of the authorities concerned to the desirability of considering the claims of competent Muslim candidates from that district for the post of Official Receiver;

(*b*) if so, what action, if any, has been taken thereon?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow: (*a*) & (*b*) A telegram purporting to have been sent on behalf of the Muslim League and signed by its President was received by the honourable Judges and was duly considered at the time of selection.

DEFINITION OF "*BONA FIDE* AGRICULTURISTS."

***1524. Sayad Mubarik Ali Shah:** Will the Honourable Revenue Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government is aware that the expression "*bonâ fide* agriculturists" for purpose of Government service as defined ina recent Government order is calculated to exclude even statutory agriculturist if he happens to be residing within a "municipal, small town or notified area";

(*b*) whether it is a fact that a very large proportion of educated and qualified statutory agriculturists is living in such areas;

(*c*) if so, what action does the Government propose to remove this serious disability?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow: (*a*) The honourable member presumably refers to the definition of the term "zamindar" for the purpose o

[Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow.]
recruitment to certain Government services. The term "zamindar" was defined in paragraph 2 of the proceedings of His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab in the Home Department, No. 4572-S., dated the 3rd of October, 1919, as follows :—

"For the purposes of recruitment to certain services, the term 'zamindar' should include all hereditary proprietors or tenure holders of agricultural land mainly dependent thereon and residing in rural areas, as well as actual cultivators of such land."

The only change made recently by Government in this definition is to make it clear that the term 'zamindar' also includes the sons of persons specifically included in the original definition. The change has thus extended and has not restricted the original definition. It may be pointed out that where for a particular service the ultimate constitution of that service has been laid down so as to include 40 per cent. (say) of zamindars and 60 per cent. (say) of others, the facts that the definition of 'zamindar' does not include statutory agriculturists who have a residence qualification only in municipal and small towns and notified areas, and that such statutory agriculturists are therefore included in 'Others,' produce the result that instead of the percentage of statutory agriculturists being restricted to 40 per cent., the percentage may exceed this figure.

(*b*) While Government agrees that a number of educated statutory agriculturists do live in municipal and small towns and notified areas, it is not prepared to admit that these constitute a very large proportion of the total number of educated statutory agriculturists. It is believed that a number of those who do live in such places have also a residential qualification in rural areas.

(*c*) Having regard to the answer to part (*a*) of this question, Government does not consider that any action is necessary.

COLONY ROADS IN JHANG.

***1525. Sayad Mubarik Ali Shah :** Will the Honourable Revenue Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government is aware that the Jhang district suffers from the lack of good roads and communications, particularly in the Chenab colony area of that district ;

(*b*) what amount of money from the "Chenab Colony Fund" has been spent during the last 10 years on the improvement of communications in the colony area of that district ;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that the zamindars of the Jhang district approached the Honourable the Revenue Member during his recent visit to Jhang with a request to sanction a substantial grant of money for the development of colony roads in that district ;

(*d*) if so, what action has been taken or is proposed to be taken in the matter ?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Nothing, as no application for a grant-in-aid was received by Government from the district board, Jhang, during this period except the one for the Jhang-Lyallpur road, which was rejected on the ground that the road was outside the colony area.

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) The matter is under the consideration of Government.

FAILURE OF COTTON CROP.

***1526. Sayad Mubarik Ali Shah :** Will the Honourable Revenue Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government is aware that the cotton crop in the Jhang district has been affected by disease ?

(*b*) whether it is a fact that the zamindars of that district have had to meet with a succession of misfortunes in the shape of kungi, floods and bad kharif crop ?

(*c*) If so, does the Government intend to take any action in the matter ?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : (*a*) Yes, to some extent.

(*b*) Yes. The last wheat crop was damaged to some extent and suitable remissions of land revenue and water rates were given. Some small damage was done by floods last summer.

(*c*) The question is receiving the careful consideration of Government.

HAVELI PROJECT.

***1527. Sayad Mubarik Ali Shah :** In continuation of my question No. 1361[1] put on 8th May 1928, regarding the Haveli Project and the answer thereto, will the Government kindly state what further progress has since been made with the scheme ?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : The project is for the present not being proceeded with, but Government is bearing this project in mind and will take the earliest opportunity of obtaining sanction to it. In the meantime the surveys of the tract to be irrigated by this project are being carried out by the Survey of India and the question of supplies has been further considered.

MUSLIM AGRICULTURIST ZILLADARS.

***1528. Sayad Mubarik Ali Shah :** Will the Honourable Revenue Member kindly state how many Muslim agriculturists of the Jhang district

[1]Vol. XI, page 985.

[Sayad Mubarik Ali Shah.]

have been recruited during the last 15 years for the posts of Zilladars in the Irrigation Department ?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : One for certain and probably two.

ALLOTMENT OF LANDS TO INHABITANTS OF BAR.

*1529. **Sayad Mubarik Ali Shah :** Will the Honourable Revenue Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government contemplate the allotment of any more area of Government lands on the new colonies of the Punjab to deserving agriculturist classes ;

(*b*) If so, what steps does the Government propose to take to provide land to the agriculturists (the original inhabitants of Bar) of the Jhang district who were allotted no land in the colonised area of the district, during the colonisation operations and those whose lands have been affected by water-logging in that district ;

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) No special steps are contemplated.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

ACCIDENTS TO RAILWAY PASSENGERS.

752. **Pir Akbar Ali :** Will the Honourable Revenue Member kindly state—

(*a*) how many cases (*i*) of death, (*ii*) of serious injury on the North-Western Railway took place in the Punjab in 1927 ;

(*b*) who was responsible for such cases ;

(*c*) what steps Government proposed to take with a view to stop the recurrence of such incidents ?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : As the honourable member is aware, the administration of Railways is a central subject and the Provincial Government is not in a position to answer more than part (*a*) of the question, the answer to which is—

(*i*) 194.

(*ii*) 360 cases of injury occurred, but the Local Government has no information as to whether they were serious or not.

PEASANT GRANTS.

753. Sardar Partap Singh: (1) Will the Honourable the Revenue Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that in 1914 the Government granted land in chaks Nos. 47 and 48 L/5, district Montgomery, as peasant grant to those persons only who had very small holdings in Jullundur district;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that after some time it was found that the land of chaks Nos. 47 and 48 was of inferior quality and that the Government was pleased to grant a better type of land in chaks Nos. 72 and 78 to the abadkars of chaks Nos. 47 and 48 in addition to the land already given to them;

(*c*) the principle on which the additional grant was distributed;

(*d*) whether it is a fact that some families having large number of male members tilling the land with their own hands have been also ignored?

(2) If the answer to (*a*) to (*c*) above be in the affirmative, will the Honourable the Revenue Member be pleased to state how many persons in chaks Nos. 47 and 48 have not been given any land in the additional grant?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: I regret the answer to this question is not ready. It will be communicated to the honourable member when ready.

COTTON CROP.

754. Sardar Ujjal Singh: Will the Honourable the Revenue Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether he is aware of the fact that the present cotton crop in the colonies has totally failed and in some fields cotton sticks have been removed;

(*b*) whether he is also aware that the two previous crops were also damaged;

(*c*) If so, what steps does the Government propose to take in order to save the zamindars from this recurring calamity?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: (*a*) It is impossible to generalise about all the colonies. Cotton crop is, generally speaking, far below the expectations and in some places is below the normal yield assumed in the last settlement.

(*b*) The honourable member is a little vague in his assumptions. 1927 crop was not a bumper crop by any reasons, but it would be more correct to call it an average crop in the province as a whole. 1926 crop was below average in many areas and was dealt with, it is believed, in as suitable a manner as the conditions and circumstances permitted.

(*c*) A small committee of Specialist Officers of the Agricultural Department is investigating the cause of the cotton trouble from all aspects.

NOMINATION OF LADY CANDIDATES TO MUNICIPAL COMMITTEES.

755. Raizada Hans Raj: (1) Will the Honourable Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state, if a deputation of ladies waited upon him with the request that whenever practicable lady members be nominated to the seats falling vacant in the municipal committees?

(2) If so, will he kindly communicate to this House the assurance held out to them by him?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon: (1) Yes.

(2) The deputation was informed that Government were prepared to consider favourably the appointment of ladies as members of local bodies in places where suitable candidates for appointment were available.

NOMINATION OF LADY CANDIDATES TO MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE.

756. Raizada Hans Raj: (1) Will the Honourable Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state whether lady candidates volunteered to act as members of the municipal committees, Jullundur and Hoshiarpur, when seats fell vacant there?

(2) If so, will the Honourable Minister be pleased to state what were the circumstances that kept him back from filling up the vacant seats in these municipalities by lady candidates?

(3) Will the Honourable Minister further state what instructions he has issued and what steps he has taken so far, and what steps he intends to take in future towards the nomination of the lady members to the municipalities?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon: The information required is being collected and will be communicated to the honourable member in due course.

KING EDWARD MEDICAL COLLEGE, LAHORE.

757. Raizada Hans Raj: Will the Honourable Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state under what provision of law the women students are refused admission to the King Edward Medical College, Lahore?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon: No provision of law regulates the admission of students to the Kind Edward Medical College, nor is there anything in the prospectus of the college to debar female students from obtaining admission. Enquiries however are being made as to the exact position, and a further communication will be made to the honourable member in due course.

LALA SATYA NAND, PLEADER, JULLUNDUR.

758. Raizada Hans Raj: (*a*) Is the Government aware that Lala Satya Nand, Pleader, Jullundur, applied for a passport to England?

(*b*) Is the Government aware that his application was rejected and passport was refused by the Local Government, an intimation of which was given him by the District Magistrate, Jullundur, on 10th May 1928?

(*c*) Will the Government state the grounds on which his passport was refused?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow: (*a*) and (*b*) Yes.

(*c*) The passport was refused in exercise of the discretion vested in the local Government.

FODDER SCARCITY.

759. Raizada Hans Raj: (1) Will the Honourable Revenue Member be pleased to state whether the Government is aware that there is a good deal of scarcity of fodder in Jullundur and Ludhiana districts on account of failure of rains at the proper time and the people in those districts are experiencing great inconvenience, expense and trouble on that account?

(2) If so, will he please say whether the Government has taken any action to alleviate the situation?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: (1) Yes; a certain amount of scarcity of fodder exists.

(2) Government has sanctioned concession rates for the carriage by rail of fodder into these two districts.

WELLS IN JULLUNDUR DISTRICT.

760. Raizada Hans Raj: (1) Will the Honourable the Revenue Member be pleased to say—

(*a*) whether the Government is aware that the spring level in all the wells in the Jullundur district has gone down considerably and the supply of water has become very deficient on account of the (Sutlej and Beas) neighbouring Canal Projects;

(*b*) whether the Government is also aware that on account of deficient supply of water in the wells of the Jullundur district, the agriculturists have to meet the following difficulties and expenses—

(*i*) sinking of additional wells;

(*ii*) additional and heavy expenditure in drawing water for agricultural purposes;

(*c*) if so, whether the Government has made any inquiries to remove this grievance of the people? If so, through whom? Will the Government publish the report, if any, for the same?

(2) Will the Government also be pleased to state the steps it intends to take to remove this important grievance of Jullundur agriculturists?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: The honourable member's attention is drawn to the replies to starred question No. 1396[1] asked by Chaudhri Muhammad Abdul Rahman Khan and No. 1480[2] by Rai Bahadur Lala Mohan Lal on the subject.

MANDI HYDRO-ELECTRIC PROJECT.

761. Raizada Hans Raj: (1) Will the Honourable Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state, when the Mandi Hydro-Electric Project is expected to be completed?

(2) Will the Honourable Minister also be pleased to state—

(*a*) the arrangements for the distribution of the current in villages for agricultural purposes;

(*b*) the districts to which the supply of current will be extended;

(*c*) the special facilities in supply of current for agricultural purposes?

The Honourable Sardar Jogendra Singh: (1) The present programme of the Mandi Hydro-Electric Project shows the date of completion as October 1st 1931. This date cannot, however, be guaranteed at present.

(2) (*a*) No arrangements for the distribution of current in villages for agricultural purposes have been provided for in stage I of the Project.

(*b*) The towns by districts to which current will be supplied are as follows:—

Mandi State ..	..	1. Mandi.
Gurdaspur District	..	2. Gurdaspur.
		3. Dhariwal.
		4. Batala.
Amritsar District	..	5. Amritsar (including Cheharta).
		6. Tarn Taran.
		7. Jandiala.
Jullundur District	..	8. Jullundur.
Ludhiana District	..	9. Ludhiana.
		10. Phillaur.
Kapurthala State	..	11. Kapurthala.
		12. Phagwara.
Ferozepore District	..	13. Ferozepore.
Lahore District	..	14. Lahore (including Baghbanpura).
		15. Kasur.
Sheikhupura District	..	16. Sheikhupura.
		17. Chuharkana.
		18. Nankana Sahib.
Lyallpur District	..	19. Lyallpur.
		20. Jaranwala.

(*c*) The project does not provide special facilities for agricultural purposes, there being no indication at present of sufficient demand for such

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[1] Vol. XI, page 1059.
[2] Page 71 *ante*.

development. If this demand should be forthcoming in the future suitable arrangements would be made.

RECRUITMENT TO PUNJAB AGRICULTURAL SERVICE.

762. Raizada Hans Raj: (1) Will the Honourable Minister for Agriculture be pleased to lay on the table—

(*a*) a list of the persons taken in the Punjab Agricultural Service since 1924 with their full qualifications;

(*b*) lists of candidates who applied for these posts and their qualifications;

(2) Will the Honourable Minister also be pleased to state the basis on which candidates for these posts were selected?

The Honourable Sardar Jogendra Singh: (*a*) A list of the officers appointed to the Punjab Agricultural Service since 1924 showing their qualifications is laid on the table.

(*b*) Selection to fill these posts is made as vacancies occur either by the promotion of Agricultural Assistants in the Subordinate Service or by direct appointment of persons who appear to be qualified. The applications of unsuccessful applicants are not all retained, it being open to such men to make fresh applications for any future vacancy. But if the honourable member will specify the name of any applicant about whom he requires information, that information will be supplied if possible.

(2) The honourable member is referred to the reply being given to his question[1] No. 768.

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[1] Page 108 *infra*.

(a) *List of persons taken in the Punjab Agricultural Service since 1924, with their qualifications.*

Serial No.	Name of officer appointed.	Agriculturist or Non-Agriculturist.	Academic qualifications.	Post to which appointed.	Date of appointment on probation.	Remarks.
1	Q. Sami Ullah ..	Agriculturist ..	L. Ag. (Cawnpur) ..	Extra Assistant Director of Agriculture.	6-10-24	Promoted from the Subordinate Agricultural Service. Had about 14 years' satisfactory service as Agricultural Assistant in the Department.
2	Ch. Raj Singh ..	Do. ..	B.Sc. (Agri.), (Punjab) ..	Ditto ..	29-8-25	
3	Mr. H. G. Sadiq ..	Non-Agriculturist ..	B.A. (Oxford) in Agriculture.	Ditto ..	1-9-25	
4	M. Ijaz Ahmad ..	Agriculturist ..	B.Sc. Agriculture (Punjab)	Ditto ..	4-9-25	Has undergone (Government of India's) two years' post graduate course at Bangalore.
5	Bh. Sucha Singh ..	Do. ..	L.Ag. (Cawnpur) ..	Ditto ..	5-10-25	Promoted from the Subordinate Agricultural Service. Had about 14 years' satisfactory service as Agricultural Assistant in the Department.
6	M. Abdul Ghani Khan ..	Do. ..	L. Ag. (3 years) ..	Ditto ..	12-10-25	Promoted from the Subordinate Agricultural Service. Had about 13 years' satisfactory service as Agricultural Assistant in the Department.
7	M. Amanat Khan ..	Do. ..	B.Sc. Agriculture (Edinburgh).	Ditto ..	16-7-26	

8	Ch. Abdul Wahid ..	Do. ..	Lg. (P. A. C., Lyallpur), B.Sc. Agri. (Edinburgh), Diploma of Teaching in Agriculture from Provincial Training College, Edinburgh.	Ditto ..	16-7-26	
9	M. Abdul Hamid ..	Do. ..	B.Sc. Agri. (Glasgow), M.A., Mathematics (Glasgow).	Ditto ..	12-7-27	
10	Bh. Nand Singh ..	Do. ..	L. Ag. (Cawnpur) ..	Ditto ..	18-6-27	Promoted from the Subordinate Agricultural Service. Had about 16 years' satisfactory service as Agricultural Assistant in the Department.
11	M. Muhammad Hassan Khan.	Do. ..	L.Ag. (Cawnpur) ..	Ditto ..	23-8-25	Ditto ditto.
12	Bh. Harnam Singh ..	Do. ..	L. Ag. (Cawnpur) ..	Assistant to Cerealist.	1-10-26	Promoted from the Subordinate Agricultural Service. Had about 17 years' satisfactory service as Agricultural Assistant in the Department.
13	Dr. R. L. Chopra ..	Non-Agriculturist ..	B.A. (Punjab), M.A., English (Punjab), Ph.D., University College of Wales, Aberystwyth.	Assistant to Entomologist to Government, Punjab.	3-8-25	
14	Mr. H. R. Saini ..	Agriculturist ..	B.Sc. Honours in Botany (Punjab), M.Sc. in Botany (Punjab), B.Sc. Agriculture (Edinburgh).	Fodder Specialist	21-6-26	
15	M. Ghias-ud-Din ..	Do. ..	B.Sc., Agri. (Punjab), B.Sc. in Botany (London), Bar.-at-Law.	Assistant Professor of Botany.	15-3-27	
16	Khan A. Rahman ..	Do. ..	B.Sc. Agriculture (Edinburgh).	Assistant Professor of Entomology.	27-5-27	
17	L. Tehl Ram ..	Non-Agriculturist ..	L.Ag. (3 years), B.Sc. Agriculture (Punjab).	Extra Assistant Director of Agriculture.	18-8-28	Promoted from the Subordinate Agricultural Service. Had about 16 years satisfactory service as Agricultural Assistant in the Department.

RECRUITMENT TO AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT.

763. Raizada Hans Raj: Will the Honourable Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state whether any regard is paid to caste, creed, colour or tribe in the selection of candidates to higher posts in Agricultural Department?

The Honourable Sardar Jogendra Singh: No.

Technical qualifications are the main consideration and agricultural antecedents.

CONSTRUCTION OF RAILWAY STATION AT RAEKOT.

764. Raizada Hans Raj: Will the Honourable Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(1) whether the Government is aware that the people of Raekot, Ludhiana district, are very anxious to have a railway station there;

(2) if so, whether there is any chance of the construction of a railway station there in the near future?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: No, and it seems most unlikely that the people should want to have a railway station when the Railway does not pass that way.

SUB-JUDGE FOR RAEKOT.

765. Raizada Hans Raj: Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state, whether there is any prospect of a Sub-Judge being posted to Raekot in the Ludhiana district?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow: The reply is in the negative.

MACHHIWARA SAMRALA ROAD.

766. Raizada Hans Raj: (1) Will the Honourable Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to say—

(*a*) whether the Government is aware that the *pacca* road from Machhiwara to Samrala in Ludhiana district is in a very wretched condition, abounding in pits;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that in order to repair it, *kankar* has been lying alongside the roads since about a year;

(2) If the reply to parts (*a*) and (*b*) be in the affirmative, will the Government please state when do they intend to begin repairs?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon: 1. (*a*) The road is a district board road and Government have no definite information as to its condition, but, as apparently it is proposed to repair it, it may be presumed to be in need of repairs.

(*b*) No; *kankar* is reported to have been lying on the side of the road since July last only.

2. The contractors, it is understood, have been ordered to commence the work of consolidation at once.

CIVIL LINES, LUDHIANA.

767. Raizada Hans Raj: Will the Honourable Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(1) what amount does the Ludhiana district board spend annually on the maintenance of the town area known as "Civil Lines, Ludhiana" which is mainly used as a place of residence by the Civil Officers and private townsmen;

(2) whether there was, some years back, a suggestion by the district board or municipality, Ludhiana, to the Punjab Government (in address to the Governor or otherwise) about the said area being included in the municipality. And if so, with what result?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon: A report has been called for and the information required by the honourable member will be communicated to him in due course.

GOVERNMENT TANNERY, SHAHDARA.

768. Khan Bahadur Captain Sardar Sikandar Hayat Khan: Will the Honourable Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(*a*) what decision they have arrived at with regard to the disposal of the Government Tannery, Shahdara, which was closed in December last;

(*b*) whether any good enquiries have come in response to the advertisements which appeared in the various papers in India regarding the disposal of the tannery;

(*c*) if the reply to part (*b*) is in the affirmative, when final negotiations are likely to be completed;

(*d*) if no good enquiries have come what action does Government contemplate to take in the matter?

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal: (*a*) Advertisements have been issued twice inviting tenders for sale or lease of the tannery. Government is anxious to dispose of the tannery, but has not so far received any reasonable offer.

(*b*) & (*c*) 19 enquiries asking only for the details of the machinery installed at the tannery have so far been received, but there has been no definite offer and accordingly it cannot be said when final negotiations are likely to be completed.

(*d*) It is premature to say anything at this stage.

ADMISSION TO MACLAGAN ENGINEERING COLLEGE.

769. Doctor Sir Muhammad Iqbal: Will the Honourable Minister for Agriculture please state—

(*a*) whether in 1928 a special principle of selection was adopted for admission to (A) and (B) Classes of the Maclagan Engineering College, Lahore?

(*b*) if so, what was that principle;

(*c*) whether it has been abandoned now?

The Honourable Sardar Jogendra Singh: (*a*) 'A' Class, 'B' ,, } Yes.

(*b*) 'A' Class.—Competitive examination for this class was not held in 1928 as the Director of Public Instruction stated that it would entail considerable inconvenience to students to sit for the entrance examination shortly after having passed the F. Sc., which was the standard of education fixed for 'A.' Class entrants. The Advisory Committee accepted the objection put forward by the Director of Public Instruction for that year and it was decided at a meeting held on the 6th June 1928 to make a selection that year from among applicants who had reached the requisite educational standard.

'B.' Class.—Entrance to the college was by competitive examination, but in 1928 the same procedure as for A Class was followed.

Those finally selected for both A and B Classes were required to be passed as medically fit before being allowed to enter the college.

(*c*) The procedure now followed is :—

For 'A' class.—Competitive examination and in addition three special admissions by selection without examination.

For 'B' Class.—Competitive examination and in addition five special admissions by selection without examination.

Entrants to both classes are required to be passed as medically fit.

Special admissions are selected from applicants by Honourable Minister for Agriculture and approved of by His Excellency the Governor.

MACLAGAN ENGINEERING COLLEGE.

770. Docotor Sir Muhammad Iqbal: Will the Honourable Minister for Agriculture please state—

(*a*) the number of students community-wise in the A and B classes of the Maclagan Engineering College in the years 1924, 1925, 1926, 1927 and 1928;

(*b*) the number of A Class students community-wise taken by special admission in the years mentioned in (*a*)?

The Honourable Sardar Jogendra Singh: A statement showing the information is laid on the table.

STATEMENT SHOWING THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS IN THE MACLAGAN ENGINEERING COLLEGE.

Year.	Number of students in "A" Class by communities.									Number of students in "B" Class by communities.									Number of students in "A" Class by communities and by special admission					Remarks.
	Government Nominees.				*Railway Nominees.*					*Government Nominees.*				*Railway Nominees.*										
	Hindus.	Muslims.	Sikhs.	Christians.	Hindus.	Muslims.	Sikhs.	Christians.	Total.	Hindus.	Muslims.	Sikhs.	Christians.	Hindus.	Muslims.	Sikhs.	Christians.	Total.	Hindus.	Muslims.	Sikhs.	Christians.	Total.	
1924 ...	4	1	3	2	1	...	...	2	13	9	10	5	1	9	1	1	9	45	1	...	1	1	3	
1925	6	2	..	...	2	..	1	2	13	9	1	5	2	4	2	4	10	45	1	2	...	...	3	
1926 ...	10	2	1	...	4	...	...	...	17	12	3	10	3	6	3	2	9	47	3	1	..	...	4	
1927 ...	9	1	2	...	3	1	...	...	16	16	8	3	..	6	9	...	5	47	2	...	1	...	3	
1928 ...	7	2	2	...	2		...	...	13	13	7	3	2	10	3	5	2	45	1	1	1	...	3	
Total ...	36	8	8	2	12	1	1	4	72	59	37	26	7	35	18	12	35	229	8	4	3	1	16	

COMMUNAL REPRESENTATION AMONG STUDENTS IN MACLAGAN ENGINEERING COLLEGE.

771. Doctor Sir Muhammad Iqbal: Will the Honourable Minister for Agriculture please state the proportion of Muslim students to non-Muslim students in the A Class of the Maclagan Engineering College?

The Honourable Sardar Jogendra Singh: The proportion of Muslim students to Non-Muslim students in the "A" Class of the Maclagan Engineering College is—

1 : 7 including those nominated by the North-Western Railway and

1 : 5.75, excluding those nominated by the North-Western Railway.

REMUNERATION FOR CONVICT LABOUR.

772. Doctor Sir Muhammad Iqbal: Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state—

(*a*) whether the convicts in the various jails in the Punjab are paid for the work they do in the jails;

(*b*) if the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, the average rate at which they are paid per day;

(*c*) he average annual expenditure per convict?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow: (*a*) & (*b*). Since 1926 all prisoners sentenced to labour are eligible to earn a wage at the rate of Rs. 1-4-0 per mensem. This wage is reckoned on a daily basis and confined to the working days of the week. The wage is only earned by a prisoner on completion of a full and approved daily task occupied with exemplary conduct. The daily amount earned must, therefore, vary slightly.

(*c*) The system has not been in force sufficiently long to estimate the average annual expenditure per convict.

AIDED SCHOOLS.

773. Doctor Sir Muhammad Iqbal: Will the Honourable Minister for Education please state—

(*a*) the total number of aided schools in the Province;

(*b*) the number of Muslim aided schools;

(*c*) the number of Christian aided schools;

(*d*) the number of aided schools in educationally backward areas?

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal: Attention of the honourable member is invited to the statement of grants sanctioned for aided Indian Schools during 1923-24 to 1927-28., published by the Education Department, a copy of which has already been sent to him.

ASSAULT BY LAHORE POLICE.

774. Raizada Hans Raj: (1) Will the Honourable Finance Member be pleased to say whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to Lala Lajpat Rai's remarks published on page 2 of the *Hindustan Times*

of the 3rd November 1928 calling the official version of the assault by the Police on Lala Lajpat Rai and others a "despicable lie"?

(2) If so, will the Government be pleased to state the name of the person on whose statement the official version was based?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow: (1) Government has seen the account of the interview with the late Lala Lajpat Rai, published on page 2, of the "Hindustan Times" of the 3rd of November 1928.

(2) The honourable member in referring to the official version presumably means an account of the incident that appeared in the "Tribune" of November the 1st, 1928, and which was described as the official version. It is understood that this account was based on information supplied to a representative of the Associated Press by the Deputy Commissioner, Lahore, on the evening the incident occurred and represented the information then in the possession of the Deputy Commissioner. The only *communiqué* issued by the Punjab Government was dated the 7th of November after departmental enquiry had been held.

MEMORIALS BY ZAMINDARS OF LUDHIANA.

775. Chaudhri Duli Chand: Will the Honourable Revenue Member kindly state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that a memorial has been submitted to the Government, Punjab, by about 15,000 zamindars of Ludhiana district;

(*b*) what is it about?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) It related to assessment on well lands, chaukidar tax, thikri pahra, principles of assessment of land revenue, water rates and other taxes, and the general economic condition of the rural population.

PUNJAB ZAMINDAR LEAGUE.

776. Chaudhri Duli Chand: Will the Honourable the Revenue Member be pleased to state whether the Punjab Government have received a copy of the resolutions passed by the Punjab Zamindar League at Lyallpur in its 4th Annual Session held on the 20th and 21st October 1928?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: Yes.

RESOLUTIONS.

RESOLUTION RE: PUNJAB REGULATION OF MONEY-LENDERS' ACCOUNTS BILL.

Chaudhri Duli Chand [Karnal (Non-Muhammadan), Rural], Urdu: Sir, with your permission I move the following resolution:—

"This Council recommends to the Government that the new Punjab Regulation of Money-Lenders' Accounts Bill be introduced by Government in the next session of the Council."

[Chaudhri Duli Chand.]

Regarding the Bill I should like to mention three points, *viz.* :—

(1) its history,

(2) the necessity of such a measure,

(3) the effect that will be produced by such a bill being passed.

About points (2) and (3) more than sufficient was said when the Bill was under the consideration of the Council. So I shall confine myself to the third point.

On the 18th of November, 1924 Mir Maqbul Mahmud introduced the Money-Lenders' Registration Bill which was circulated for the purpose of eliciting public opinion thereon. It contained three important items :—

(1) The compulsory registration of money-lenders.

(2) The maintenance of regular accounts.

(3) To acquaint the debtors with details of the accounts.

These were highly important things. But its opponents seriously objected to compulsory registration in and outside the Council. Accordingly it was again introduced on the 11th of December 1925, when the item of compulsory registration was cancelled and many other changes made. After three days' discussion it was referred on 14th December 1925 to a Select Committee which made further amendments in it and renamed it the "Borrowers Protection Bill." When the Bill emerged from the Select Committee it was presented to the Council on the 30th June 1926 for consideration under its new name. It remained under discussion for seven days, during which time many further amendments were made in it. When these amendments were incorporated in the Bill, it assumed such a different form that its existing name did not appear to be very suitable and accordingly its name was changed to "the Regulation of Accounts Bill," the reason being that it no longer advocated essentially the protection of zamindars, but had as its purpose the regulation of accounts. Thus the Bill passed the Council, but the Governor refused assent to it announcing on the 25th October 1926 at the time of the dissolution of the 2nd Punjab Legislative Council that he could not forward it to the Governor-General in Council with his recommendations, on account of certain important considerations, and he assured the House that a similar bill, somewhat simpler, would soon be introduced by the Government. Two years have since elapsed, and no such bill has been introduced by the Government. In spite of the pressing demands of the zamindars and the numerous questions that have been put in the Council from time to time, the idea of introducing a new bill has not materialised. In his speech of 26th of November 1928, the new Governor not only did not give a time limit to the introduction of the bill, but also stated in plain terms that his speech would not in any way affect any future debate regarding the bill in the Council. Therefore, it was considered necessary to invite the attention of the Government to the advisability of introducing a new bill in the next session of the Council by means of this resolution. I have carefully gone through the previous Governor's speech. Therein the reasons for not forwarding it to the Governer-General in Council are stated but it does not contain satisfactory reasons for not returning the Bill to the Council for reconsideration. The Government can argue that its action is hampered

by the difficulties of drafting the new bill. If no capable man is available in the Legislative Department for the purpose, a suitable person might well be engaged from outside or the services of some expert in drafting might be obtained. The Council is ready to sanction the necessary funds. But it is only an excuse on the part of the Government. The truth is that the present Government is growing weaker. It has lost its former solidarity. It no longer takes the same interest in the zamindars as it used to do. As a result the zamindars are also becoming estranged from the Government. The Government is afraid of the press and the platform and thinks that the press and the platform are the only true representatives of the public mind. The Government has failed to gauge public opinion because it consists of persons not in touch with masses. They should know that the press and the platform only represents the opinion of the urban population and village money-lenders and are monopolised by them. If the Government is better informed there is no reason why two years should pass without the introduction of the promised bill. At present the services of capable officers like Mr. Calvert and Mr. Strickland who are favourably disposed towards the zamindars and who could have helped in the drafting of the bill are not available. The Co-operative department is being packed with persons of the baniya temperament who themselves oppose it. A show of sympathy is being kept up but in reality the policy of the Government is to admit the opponents of the movement into the department. I mean to attack the policy of the Government. The Co-operative department was established in order to help the zamindars, but at present persons are being admitted to it who are opposed to the very spirit of the movement. The Governor fixed no time limit and as to the Government, I don't think it has decided to take any measures. This is the reason for the introduction of this resolution. With these words, I commend my resolution for the acceptance of the Council.

Mr. President : The resolution moved is :—

> "This Council recommends to the Government that the new Punjab Regulation of Money-Lenders' Accounts Bill be introduced by Government in the next session of the Council."

The question is that that resolution be adopted.

Mir Maqbool Mahmood [Amritsar, (Muhammadan,) Rural] : Mr. President, Sir, I feel that the supporters of the Regulation of Accounts Bill as also those who were opposed to it owe an expression of gratitude to His Excellency the Governor for the very graceful reference he made to it in his speech. Whether some of us feel that that reference was not adequate or others still feel that it was not definite, it is a matter where difference of opinion will and must exist. But the fact that His Excellency the Governor in his very first address to the Council as Governor has thought fit to assure us of his anxiety in the matter is a matter for which we are genuinely grateful. I, Sir, as the mover of the original Money-Lenders' Bill am also grateful to my colleagues of the Council and more particularly the honourable member from Karnal for trying to expedite the pace of the promised Bill. I hope, Sir, he will forgive me if I say that nobody is more anxious than myself to see this Bill brought to light and I hope he will also appreciate when I tell him that nobody realises perhaps more than I do the difficulties involved in the drafting of a Bill of this nature. I have had something to do with its drafting in its original phase and I know, Sir, that even with the

[Mir Maqbool Mahmood.]

best of intentions, a legislation of that kind cannot be rushed through. But I feel that the Council and those particularly who supported the Bill have the right to ask the Government to expedite the measure over which they have practically slept for two years. If the Government talent could devise a machinery even on such an important and controversial measure like the Gurdwaras Bill in a very short span of time, we refuse to accept that the Government intellect and the Government's legal talent has gone so bankrupt that they could not expedite the measure beyond what they have done so far. I understood, Sir, from the speech of His Excellency, though unfortunately I was not here then but read the speech, that the Government welcomed any constructive suggestion for the drafting of a Bill. We, on this side of the House, I mean those who support such a Bill shall always be prepared to do it, be it in the form of a committee or in the form of individual suggestions, provided we know what are the lines on which the Government propose to bring forward the Bill. But if the Government propose to keep their line of action secret, let them leave it to a committee of non-official members to draft a Bill and pass it on to them for such consideration as they may like. But in the absence of a definite clue, or any definite gesture from the Government that they are prepared to take us into their confidence as to the lines on which they propose to move and the difficulties before them more definitely than obviously His Excellency the Governor could suggest, it is impossible for the supporters or the opponents of the Bill to come forward with any suggestion. More than that, Sir, I feel that the unfortunate controversy over the old Money-Lenders' Bill which unhappily took a communal turn would be most unsuited in the present circumstances of the province and I think that should the Government give us an opportunity, it is not only the supporters of the Bill but even the opponents that should be consulted in the informal stage to come forward with any constructive points which they may have for or against the measure, because, I am keen that we should not, after two years' waiting, come forward in the Council with a Bill which the Government might, for certain political considerations, have to refuse at the last stage. Therefore, I would make a personal appeal to the honourable member in charge of the Bill and I do so with all sincerity because I am aware of the genuine efforts taken by the present Governor when he was a member here in charge of the old Bill, that he should without losing time take this measure through and ask his assistants to put "immediate" slips to the files on the subject. I know, Sir, how with all good intentions Government measures are sometimes delayed because there is not this "immediate" slip on the file. If only the Member for Government now in charge of this subject makes up his mind and directs his subordinates to put up that slip, if he assures this House that now and hereafter he would give his immediate attention to the question of bringing it forward as soon as possible, and more than that, he would invite both the supporters and the opponents to come forward and give advice on matters on which he feels some difficulty,—and if he finds that there are legal technicalities involved for which useful advice is not forthcoming in the Punjab, he may even take the trouble of referring the matter to Mr. Graham of the Government of India who I know had so much to do with the destinies of the Bill on the last occasion when it was passed by the Council, for it is ultimately the Government of India who are finally shaping the measure,

I hope, Sir, if all this would be done by the honourable member in charge of the Bill and if he would in his reply give an assurance to this effect, it might be possible, for my honourable friend, the mover of the resolution to withdraw this resolution.

Mr. V. F. Gray (Punjab Chamber of Commerce and Trades Association, Commerce): I am sorry I cannot support this resolution. After the reference made to this matter in the address of His Excellency , it would have been rather more graceful if this resolution had not now been moved. We have been told by His Excellency that the Government are doing their very best to evolve a bill that would be fair and acceptable to all. His Excellency had a great deal to do with the old Bill at the time this Council passed it and he thoroughly understands the difficulties. The last speaker has asked the opponents of the Bill to express their views. But surely, Sir, he must be quite aware of the objections raised against the old Bill. We spent over a week in Simla fighting the old Bill clause by clause, there are reams of literature expressing our views and reasons in the Punjab Council Debates of that time. The objections raised at the time the old Bill was before the House still stand and unless the new Bill meets those objections it will not be fair to all parties, and if the objections are met the promoters of the Bill will be dissatisfied. The same difficulties apply. You cannot legislate for the man, who to borrow Rs. 500 gives a bond for Rs. 1,000. Education is the only remedy.

The intention of the Bill is to legislate on the assumption that the lender is a rogue and the borrower a fool, and restrictions to cover this make the Bill at once a measure that will interfere with daily ordinary business.

The Bill as it stands is communal and until the agriculturist money-lender is included it would remain communal.

The various laws to-day, including the Usurious Loans Act cover all that is necessary to borrow and to be reasonably protected.

It would be unfair to press this resolution and thus try to force Government to give us once more an imperfect Bill before they are ready. We have the assurance that they are trying to meet all wishes and will introduce a Bill as soon as a fair one can be evolved. Cannot we leave it at that?

I cannot, Sir, support the resolution.

Rai Bahadur Lala Mohan Lal [North-East Towns (Non-Muhammadans), Urban]: Sir, I am sorry that a resolution on which we had to speak for a number of days in this House two years ago has again been touched by Chaudhri Duli Chand. Perhaps he is not satisfied with the speech made by His Excellency the Governor in this House at the opening of the session in which it was made clear and that the matter is receiving Government's attention. His Excellency the Governor, if I remember aright, said that the Government have been trying to find a solution for some technical difficulties, and that owing to those difficulties they have not been able to make up their mind whether a bill can be framed and if one can be framed, in what form it should be. The question of the regulation of accounts of money-lenders in the Punjab is such an important one that leaving the communal question aside it is to be seriously considered from the economic point of view. My friends have been making speeches in this House and brought forward a measure the object of which was to throttle the money-lending

[Rai Bahadur Lala Mohan Lal.]

classes. Those who sit on these benches would welcome any such measure if it is proved that really there is any hardship which calls for a legislation. We have asked them several times before to let us have statistics to show that the evil in money-lending has gone to such an extent as to require legislation to check it. No body can deny that stray cases undoubtedly exist in which courts have found some money-lenders to have been dishonest in their dealings with their clients. At the same time there are cases also in which the other side has taken the law in their own hands; they have committed murders and robberies and stolen account books. Having regard to that it cannot be said that the money-lending class as a whole is dishonest just as it cannot be said that the whole of the borrower class, because some of them take the law in their own hands, as a class are all rogues and scoundrels. After all, these are stray cases and are bound to exist in society.

I ask again if my friends on the opposite benches do sincerely believe that a Bill by which the money-lending classes are put to trouble will do the villagers any good. My personal view is that so long as Government are sponsors of this measure and do not find the means and ways by which the daily necessities of the villagers in the villages can be met, no measure of this kind will be of any use. If you bring forward a measure which will affect the money-lending classes adversely, the result will be that the villagers who are in need of money at marriages or other occasions will not be able to get the money they want when necessary, and if there is a check on their demands and the money-lending class refuse to meet these demands of the villagers, there will be more crime in the Punjab in the form of dacoities and murders. I am referring to this as I want to show how important the question is and that it requires various considerations on the part of Government. I would welcome any measure which is brought forward either by Government or the opposite benches, which does not cause any unnecessary hardship to the moneylenders. Nobody can deny that if it is possible to introduce such a measure it should be supported. I would myself strongly oppose any measure which would give any advantage to any one class over the other, or which would have the effect of putting obstacles in the matter of present dealings that are held between village money-lenders and the villagers who reside there. The relations between the village money-lenders and the villagers, so far as I know and the members of the House know, are at present friendly. There may be a few cases in which there is friction, but generally speaking they are good. I am of opinion that the measure should not be introduced in the Council in hot haste. Government should give due consideration to it first and when it has been approved by all sections of the House it can be brought before the Council. I trust that those who are in favour of the Bill will not be in hot haste and will not force the hands of Government to bring forward a measure which will create the scenes that we had in 1926. Pray, do not be in haste. I would appeal to my friends not to bring in any measure which will create discord.

With these few words, I oppose the motion. At the same time I would assure my friends that they will have our support if they bring forward a measure which will be reasonable.

Dr. Sir Muhammad Iqbal [Lahore City, (Muhammadan), Urban], Urdu: Sir, what I understand from the speech of the honourable member

for Simla is that he is against the introduction of any Bill of this kind into the Council, although another construction could also be put on the words used by him. The main object of the resolution that is at present before the House, is that as the Government gave an assurance to introduce such a Bill, they should fulfil their promise. His Excellency the Governor referred the other day to certain difficulties in the way of its introduction. I admit that there are technical difficulties, but they must be overcome. My honourable friend says that since at the present moment money-lenders and zamindars are living amicably the introduction of the proposed measure would disturb these peaceful relations. So far as I know, these two classes were never on the best of terms in the past, are not on good terms now, and if the present state of affairs continues, there is very little chance of any improvement in that way. There is, however, some possibility of improvement if some such measure as the proposed Regulation of Accounts Bill is passed by the Council. The Bill will surely result in the betterment of the relations between the borrowers and the lenders by affording protection to the borrowers against the wiles of the money-lender. It is the duty of Government to mitigate as far as possible the evils of capitalism. More than two years have elapsed, and during this time questions regarding the Bill have been repeatedly asked in the Council, and the answer has always been the same—that the measure is under the consideration of the Government. This state of affairs is in no way commendable. Government should put an end to all this delay, and if need be, consult experts in the matter of drafting the Bill, with a view to introduce the Bill at the earliest opportunity. I request the Government to shake off its lethargy and introduce the Bill during the next session.

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang (North-West Towns (Non-Muhammadan), Urban): Sir, it was a most inappropriate moment for moving a resolution of the kind which my learned friend has thought fit to move in this Council. We are on the eve of what we expect important changes in the constitution of the country including our own province.

The fate of the country is almost entirely in the hands of others over whom we have at the best very little control, and what we are going to get would depend very much on how we behave in the country at the time when the question of a revision of the constitution is in hand. Those honourable members who were members of the previous Council would know what a bitter controversy raged round this question when a Bill of a similar kind such as the one that is expected was before the House. I have been in this Council for five years and I cannot remember a single occasion on which so much bitterness was created in this House. The relations of the two communities, whether you take the religious division or the economic division, were extremely embittered, by the discussions in the Council over the last Bill. If some measure of that kind is introduced in this House, I have not the slightest doubt that unless, as my honourable friend Rai Bahadur Lala Mohan Lal has pointed out, that Bill is before its introduction approved of by those who opposed the last Bill, unless that is done and a Bill of this kind is introduced in this House, all the bitterness would be revived. We are very thankful to Providence and to certain circumstances that the communal bitterness in this House has at any rate for the time being subsided. Accordingly people who take

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any steps to revive that bitterness and to bring about that state of affairs would really be the enemies of their country. It does not require a prophet to foresee what the result of that kind of agitation if it is revived will be on our constitutional future. Those who have been watching the progress of events would know that provincial autonomy is the object that the people in various provinces have in view. The only fear that has been expressed by some people who have not encouraged the idea of the introduction of provincial autonomy in the Punjab has been that there is a danger of a majority community oppressing and tyrannising over the minority communities. Whether that majority community consists of a religious party or an economic party, the result would be the same. Keeping that in view, I think the honourable mover of the resolution would have been well-advised to wait until these constitutional changes had been introduced in the country. Otherwise I am afraid. . . . (*Dr. Sir Muhammad Iqbal*: Wait for five years?) I do not know. I do not expect the revision of the constitution would take another five years. But if Sir Muhammad Iqbal is right in his estimate of the time that would be taken for the revision of the constitution, even then I would say that if the question is kept pending for five years, it would be to the advantage of the country. It is really childish and idle to expect that another nation that has to sit in judgment upon our nation would think that our country is fit for any considerable instalment in constitutional advance if it finds that the country is so divided and the relations between the two main communities are not friendly. That is really an axiomatic truth which every one who takes any interest in the affairs of the country ought to know. I would, therefore, submit that this is a highly inappropriate occasion for introducing a measure of this kind. I have not been satisfied that any case has been made out for the immediate or even an early introduction of a measure of this kind. When we find that the Government is not sleeping over the question altogether and is doing its best, I do not think any useful purpose would be served by hurrying and hustling the members of the Government or its officers. No one whips a horse when it is already running at a fairly quick pace and I think when definite assurances have been given that the Government has not forgotten its promise, it would not serve any useful purpose by precipitating things. The question of drafting, as every one who took any part in the debates on the last occasion would know, is really an extremely difficult matter. My honourable and learned friend, Mir Maqbool Mahmood, has himself admitted that it is a very difficult thing, as he knows from his own personal experience. He, however, does not think that that difficulty is not surmountable. No difficulty is really such that it cannot be got over. But this measure he would be pleased to admit is really unusually difficult to draft. He has given an illustration of another Bill which he says was drafted in a very short time and enacted into law. He meant the Sikh Gurdwaras Act. Probably he is now working in a different and new sphere and does not know what practical difficulties have arisen in the administration of that Act. It is not infrequently in fact, almost every day before the Sikh Gurdwara Tribunal, defects in the drafting of the Bill are noticed and made a grievance of. Neither the Sikhs who clamoured for some measure of this kind nor those who are adversely affected by it are at all satisfied

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with that Act. My learned friend can take it from me, as I have considerable personal knowledge of the working of this Act. Leaving that, I think there is no case made out by the country on the whole that such a measure is of urgent necessity. If I am not mistaken, I have not seen any meetings held either in the rural areas of Rohtak or in the rural areas of Muzaffargarh or of other districts where the poor zamindars are more than usually hard-pressed by the wily baniyas, nor have I seen any outcry raised in the press,—not the press which is represented by those gentlemen behind us (referring to the press representatives in the gallery), but even in the press which is controlled by representatives of the rural classes. If there were such a necessity for this measure, by this time thousands of meetings would have been held all over the province and the press, that section of it which is controlled by the representatives of the rural areas, would have cried itself hoarse over this question. I would, however, say that this is not a hint to those people now to begin to cry in the rural areas and to express their grievance or supposed grievance on this point. If they want to take this as a hint, they are quite welcome to do so. But we should see whether there is any genuine desire for a measure of this kind.

There is another point and a point in which the Government is directly concerned. I think the Government will be well-advised not to precipitate the thing. It is not my function nor my privilege to criticise the speech of His Excellency the Governor which was delivered to this House, but one thing I must point out and that is this, the reference to this Bill or to some legislation of this kind is liable to a great deal of misunderstanding. You know that in this country where a foreign bureaucracy is ruling, attacks have very often been made against the Government that it is always sowing seeds of discord between the two communities in this country, and that they are always acting on the policy of divide and rule. A reference to this measure at this time followed immediately by the resolution of my honourable friend is greatly liable to be misunderstood and to be considered as an attempt to revive the discord and disunity between the two communities in this province, and particularly at a time when the good relations between the two communities would be deemed almost a condition precedent to the revision of the constitution of this country. I would, therefore, say that both from the point of view of the Government and the point of view of the people of this province it is an extremely unwise step to move a resolution of this kind at this stage. If my honourable friend had been wiser he ought to have known that under any revised constitution for this province it is very likely that the rural party would probably be in a majority, that is at least what they desire, and they may well hope for it. If he had shown a little more tact and wisdom he would have waited until the ground was perfectly clear. Then they would have had their own way. Even now, those who understand things ought really to advise him to withdraw the resolution and wait for a better opportunity, when all those official members will, as we hope, be no more members of this Council, at any rate so far as voting is concerned, and thus be free from any liability or responsibility and will leave it to Chaudhri Duli Chand and his friends to carry things in any way that they like best. Therefore, it is in the interests of the Government also to wait and see and leave everything to the members of this Council either to make their future or to mar

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their future. They should not allow their hands to be forced and to get a bad name at the end of their legislative career. It is also good for the party that my learned friend Chaudhri Duli Chand has the honour to represent to wait and not to get a measure which may only be a half measure if it comes through the Government and would not be a full measure when the power is entirely in their hands. Otherwise I may submit that if the hands of Government are forced and my learned friend and his honourable colleagues want to precipitate the measure, I can almost predict that this House will witness the same scenes of bitterness and keen controversy which it saw in 1925 and 1926, over the defunct measure.

Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq [Amritsar City (Muhammadan), Urban]: Sir, the resolution which is now before the House simply asks that a certain measure should be brought forward which should enforce the regulation of accounts. It has been said that this question raises the war cry between the Hindus and the Muhammadans. But I cannot see anything of communalism in the resolution. Let us see what will happen if this resolution is passed. A Bill was brought forward by my friend from Amritsar, it was considered fully by the Government, it was amended at the instance of the Government, Government took full responsiblility for the Bill. It was passed, not rushed through, by the Council. It took two years to get through this Bill in the Council. Now, after four years Government say that they are not able to bring this Bill again into the Council, because they do not know how to draft it. I ask the Government, was it fair on their part to lend support to the former Bill if they did not want to make it an Act of the Legislature? No doubt there was an outcry of Hindu-Muhammadan difference. This was, however, a false cry of communalism. Everybody knows that it was a golden opportunity for my honourable friend sitting opposite (Mir Maqbool Muhmood) when he introduced his Bill. If it gave prominence to the Punjab it gave prominence to this Council. At that time he wanted it. Now of course his purpose having been served, he does not want it. At that time it came as a boon to him. He tried his best to turn it into a communal question.

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang: Is the question whether it was a boon to me or not relevant to the resolution now under discussion?

Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq: I may tell the House that it was originally not a communal question, but it became one later on. It had the full support of members representing the rural areas, whether Hindu, Sikh or Muhammadan. It was opposed by urban members, by members who were friends of the *baniya*, who were friends of capitalism, by members who did not want that the rural areas should be uplifted in any way, and by those who lived on the life blood of the poor villagers. I am very sorry that the subject matter of this resolution on which such a hard battle was fought last time should be so weakly supported by members now. I do not know why they are afraid to give their unqualified support to it. I wanted to suggest one or two amendments, but I was told by certain gentlemen that Government was not ready to accept this amendment because it would weaken the Bill? I ask the Government why, if they are already supporting the principle of the Bill, such an extraordinary delay should occur in drafting a new Bill. Are the Government bereft of the necessary legal

talent to draft a small Bill ? The Maharaja of Kashmir drafted a Bill within 24 hours. Here we are paying the Government members very high salaries and yet they cannot draft a simple Bill. The Maharaja of Kashmir has no knowledge of law or of legislature. He does not possess the great legal resources which the Government of the Punjab possess, and yet he got a Bill drafted within 24 hours and had it passed and put into operation in his State with a view to relieve the poor people from the oppression of the *baniyas*.

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : Do you know the volume of agitation that was created there ?

Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq : All the agitation was started only by gentlemen in Lahore. I did not see much agitation in Kashmir itself, unless it be in Lahore itself from my honourable friends sitting in this House. The people of Kashmir did not agitate at all. The Maharaja had a strong will and he did the right thing and he would stick to it at any cost. Formerly my honourable friends were adorning these benches and now they have changed sides and crossed the floor. For certain reasons they have gone to the other side. That shows their consistency in politics. They say that this Bill should be brought forward with the full consent and approval of the opposition. This is the first time I hear that in any legislature a Bill should be brought forward by the Government with the approval of the party opposite. I say, Sir, no Bill can be passed and no Bill is worth passing if it is to be brought forward with the full consent of the opposition. It will be a nullification of the principles and purpose of the Bill. My honourable friend wants to give facility to the *baniya*, not to the agriculturists. My honourable friends evince lip sympathy for the villagers and the agriculturists, but in their heart of hearts they are in favour of the *baniyas*. I am sorry even those gentlemen on the other side who are agriculturists show half sympathy to the agriculturists and half to the *baniyas*. When the time comes for supporting a measure to alleviate the distress of the poor agriculturists, they do not support it. Look at the sad condition of things. My honourable friend who has just spoken belongs to the High Court bar. He does not know anything about petty cases which we poor ordinary lawyers fight in small cause courts. If he would only condescend to leave for some time the High Court Bar and visit the lower courts, he would know how the poor agriculturists are ruined by *baniyas*. I am not against *baniyas*. His Excellency Sir Malcolm Hailey when he addressed this Council some time ago said that a Bill to regulate money-lenders accounts would be brought forward as soon as possible. More than two years have elapsed since he made that promise and we do not sight even the draft of a Bill. My honourable friend says it is too sudden and too soon to expect a Bill now. Does it take more than two years to draft a simple Bill ? I have never heard of legislation remaining in the drafting stage for such a long time as this Bill. The arguments used by my honourable friend are quite the same as those generally used by the opponents of a measure. This kind of argument should not lead the Government to postpone the Bill. The Government owe a duty to the public and the villager from whom they draw their main revenue. They should discharge their duty to the people concerned. It is absolutely wrong to wait till the new reforms are inaugurated. I must say that we should start with a clean slate when the new reforms

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are granted. We must fight all our hard battles before we enter upon new reforms. All these things should be settled now and here. Why should my honourable friends be afraid if the *badnami* goes to the officers of Government? My honourable friend Dr. Narang is a new panther.

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang: What do you mean?

Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq: What I mean is Narang is changing. His name connotes new panther, or it may connote nine colours, or it may mean new colour always fresh. He is always changing his colours.

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang: I must protest against this insinuation. This council, with due deference to my honourable friends should not degenerate into a cock-pit of personal attacks. That is a game at which more than one can play. He does not know my name. My name is *na rang*, absolutely colourless.

Mr. President: No personal attacks, please.

Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq: Every word that I say I will justify.

Mr. President: Order, order. I think the remark made by the honourable member implied an insinuation. At least it has been so understood by the honourable member concerned. Therefore, I ask the honourable member to withdraw his remark.

Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq: I only meant it in a political sense. That is, he held one opinion while he was sitting on these benches and he has changed his opinion after crossing the floor and after he occupied the opposite benches.

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang: Is this apology or aggravation?

Mr. President: I request the honourable member to withdraw his remark.

Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq: I do withdraw those remarks. I may say, Sir, that political opinions of my honourable friend change very often. I hope he will not take this as a personal insult.

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang: It is wrong and absolutely false.

Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq: That he changed his seat from this side to the opposite side is false. He was formerly a Swarajist and leader of the Nationalist but now he has gone over to the other side. He says it is absolutely wrong. Whether he is wrong in his denial of my statement or whether I am wrong in my statement it is for the House to decide. What I do want to say is that this Bill was passed by this House with the help and support of the Government. Now the honourable members on the other side want to drive the thin end of the wedge into the ranks of the supporters of this Bill. So the responsibility lies heavily on the Government to mend the mischief which has been done by not allowing this Bill to become law. I want the Government to follow the enlightened policy of the Maharaja of Kashmir. As my honourable friend said there was a lot of hue and cry raised only in the Punjab against that measure being enacted in Kashmir. There was some agitation from the people of Jammu, but when the law was put into operation, they found that it was not after all so very harmful as they at first feared and now they have become used to this law. We do

not want a Bill of that kind here in the Punjab. What the honourable mover of this resolution wants is that a Bill should be brought into force which should make it obligatory on the part of the money-lenders to keep regular accounts of their transactions. I do not see why there should be such bitter animosity against that measure and why should communal passions be roused if this resolution is pushed through the House with the help of all agriculturists, whether Hindus or Muhammadans or Sikhs. Unless an artificial kind of campaign is inaugurated by honourable members on the other side, I do not see how the passing of this resolution would create bitterness. If my honourable friends on the other side were serious in their opposition to this resolution, the benches on which they sit would be full. The very fact that there is sich a thin attendance in those benches goes to show that they are after all not very earnest in their opposition to this resolution. If they had been serious they would have packed benches. They put up this fight simply as propaganda. I hope the House would pass this resolution.

Chaudhri Zafrullah Khan (Sialkot Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I may concede rightaway, as my honourable and learned friend Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang, pointed out that generally according to him at any rate, that everything said on this side is unwise and tactless and that wisdom and tact are reserved for my honourable friends on the opposite benches. Nevertheless, I am sure my honourable friend will concede that even unwise and tactless people are permitted to make efforts possibly awkward and clumsy as a result of their unwisdom and tactlessness with a view to protect their own interests. My learned friend has put forward several arguments in support of the position taken up by him, that this resolution is ill-timed, that it is unwise and possibly dangerous not only to the peace but to the constitutional advancement of this province. I have been very glad to hear propounded from the lips of my honourable friend the principle that particularly at this moment and till the constitutional future of this country is settled, we should do nothing that would savour of irresponsibility. That is a declaration which might be very useful at times when members of this House are apt to act in an irresponsible manner. (Hear, hear). Another argument put forward by him, which was practically a corollary of the first argument was that if you press this matter and insist upon Government bringing in this Bill at an early date it is bound to lead to communal bitterness, and consequently adversely affect the opinion of the British nation concerning the capacity of the people of this country or of this province to be entrusted with further political power. Now, Sir, that sounds very plausible that we should do nothing at the present stage which is likely to prejudice the constitutional future of this country; at any rate we should not for the sake of comparatively unimportant matters endanger matters which are of far greater importance. On analysis, however, the argument reduces itself to this. Apart from the desirability or undesirability of any measure that might be before this House the argument of my learned friend is: "if you put forward a measure which we oppose that will create bitterness and consequently prejudice our future political rights. Therefore wisdom and tact consist in this that whatever you propose which we are likely to oppose, you should withdraw and as a further corollary to it, whatever we propose and you desire to oppose you should not oppose because that will create bitterness" That really is the argument of my learned friend. My

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learned friend keeping in mind the sense of responsibility which he was trying to impress upon members on this side of the House threw out a challenge to the House and said, if you have this measure introduced, I tell you, you will have opposition from us more bitter than the opposition which you had three years ago over the original measure. So the question reduces itself to this: my learned friend says, if you persist in this thing, we shall make it extremely awkward for you both in this House and outside and spoil not only the present atmosphere but also any chance which this province has of making constitutional progress. Sir, if that happens.....

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang: On a point of personal explanation. I did not say so. I said they would spoil the future by making such efforts.

Chaudhri Zafrullah Khan: Sir, I was not repeating what my learned friend actually said. I was only analysing his arguments and I hope I was correct in my analysis. I was further saying that if that argument of my learned friend were analysed, it would come to this, that if this side persisted in having a measure of that kind brought in at an early date, then my honourable freinds on the opposite side would behave in such a manner as to create bitterness. Secondly, there would be great prejudice to the future advancement of this province. And as I said, Sir, if such a situation arises, if, as I say, apart from the merits or demerits of any measure, that situation were created by a section of this House I leave it to the House and to the general public to judge on whom the responsibility for the bitterness would lie (Hear, hear). My honourable friend says that fortunately at the present moment communal bitterness has susbsided and he gives a warning to those who are supporting this resolution not to seek to revive it. Now, Sir, what is the object of this resolution? The object is to request the Government to introduce a measure embodying the principle which the Government admitted ought to be included in such a measure, at an early date. That is to say, Government promised that they would bring forward before this House a measure which would attempt at remedying the evils that admittedly existed and would yet be so framed as to exclude features which were likely to affect the commercial prosperity of the Province or other interests which were really not in their nature evil. That is the promise which the Government made and the resolution only asks the Government to bring forward the promised measure at an early date. My learned friend on the other side does not contend that a Bill even of this kind would be a communal Bill, and if that is all that is demanded, without knowing the merits or the provisions of any such Bill which might be brought forward by the Government, it did not lie in my honourable friend's mouth to tell us that such a measure would arouse far bitterer differences and opposition than the original measure which was introduced by my honourable friend from Amritsar. And if without knowing the provisions he did mean to convey that threat, that in itself is the strongest argument for introducing a measure of that kind, because then it means that anything which is called Money-lenders' or the Regulation of Accounts Bill irrespective of its provisions is anathema to my learned friend. He warned the members here of the danger of a majority seeking to oppress a minority. That argument I suppose involves that it is the Muhammadan members or the rural members alone that

are anxious that such a measure should be brought in. That may be so. But how does that argument reconcile itself with the argument so often advanced by members on that side of the House from which my honourable friend spoke who are always at pains to remind us that the Land Alienation Act has failed in its object as it has created a class of rural or zamindar money-lenders? It is often said that the measure which was meant as one of economic protection has created a specially favoured money-lenders class. If that is so, if the arguments advanced on such occasions have any support in facts then by this measure we are seeking to regulate not only money-lenders who are not agriculturists, but also money-lenders who are agriculturists. The measure would include within its scope not only Hindu money-lenders, but also Muhammadan money-lenders, not only urban money-lenders, but also rural money-lenders. Therefore, there would be no question of a majority seeking to oppress a minority of any kind. Then my learned friend said that there has been no desire shown in the country by holding meetings or making other similar demonstrations that a measure of this kind should be brought forward. Therefore, my learned friend thinks that there is no necessity for passing such a measure at such an early date. The necessity for such a measure was amply shown at the time when it was first introduced. If my learned friend wants me to further enlighten him as to the necessity of such a measure I would only request him to read no more than three books written by, I may venture to submit, impartial judges and observers. I refer to the books of Mr. Calvert and Mr. Darling and the latest addition to that literature made by Mr. Trevaskis in his book called "The Land of the Five Rivers.' He might then be able to understand perhaps the necessity for such a measure. As to his objection that meetings have not been held and demonstrations have not taken place, I would in my turn give him a warning. I may tell him that when the country is about to enter upon a stage of constitutional advance in which a far greater burden of responsibility will be laid upon this House I should ask him not to invite the kind of demonstration to which he has referred in that part of his speech before he would support any measure of relief, not always to insist that there should be meetings, demonstrations, non-co-operation and all the other activities that follow it before he will concede that the province is genuinely in need of a particular measure of relief. Let him be content with this that representatives of those classes who are affected by the evils which the Money-Lenders' Bill seeks to control in this House in a legitimate and constitutional manner have for a certain number of years continuously pressed upon this House the necessity of such a measure and if my honourable friend wishes demonstrations of any kind before being convinced of its necessity, he would be asking for trouble. Those classes who are to be afforded protection by a measure of this kind and those who are affected by the methods of money-lenders have not yet learnt to inconvenience the Government in the manner which my learned friend seems to be so fond and desirous of.

My learned friend then, in the end said that the charge is generally brought against the bureaucratic Government that its existence is made possible only by the policy of divide and rule and that people might impute motives to the Government as a result of this resolution coming up for

[Chaudhri Zafrullah Khan.]

discussion so quickly after the reference to the Money-Lenders' Bill by His Excellency in his speech. I assure my honourable friend and those who are likely to share this misapprehension that there was no conspiracy of the kind between the Government and the member who has moved this resolution. He must have understood as a member of this House that the resolution must have been sent in long before any reference on this matter was made by His Excellency.

In the concluding portion of my friend's speech he made some remarks which I am inclined to think were sardonic rather than serious. My learned friend is likely to be offended if I impute any such desire to him and I shall, therefore, put the best construction upon his remarks and take them as seriously as he would wish me to take them. He told the House not to press for a measure of that kind immediately because a Bill of that kind if brought in while the official members have the right to vote in this House and sponsored by the Government, is likely to be a half measure. Therefore he advised the members of this House to wait till, as he was pleased to put it, the rural members obtained an absolute majority in this House when any Bill passed by the House would be a full measure. If my honourable friend by this remark meant—as I have said I shall take him seriously—really that a measure of relief was necessary and that it was better to have a full measure of relief rather than a half measure, he should certainly not have opposed the half measure being passed now and the full measure being passed by way of amendments later on. If he was genuine in his desire to give relief, he should not have opposed this first step. If on the other hand he was merely sarcastic and he meant that after the amended constitution comes into force, he apprehends that the rural members may be in a majority and be able to push forward such a measure with the full concurrence of the House, and without the concurrence of the official members, even then I should tell him that he should welcome the introduction of this Bill at this stage, for, it may not affect him and those whom he fears it will affect, to such a degree as any measure brought five years hence in this House is according to him likely to do. I should have thought that he should support rather than oppose the resolution on this ground.

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang: A half-hearted oppression is not sufficient to rouse the people.

Chaudhri Zafrullah Khan: One other argument of my learned friend which I should like to reply to before I resume my seat was this, that after the reference to this measure by His Excellency in his speech it really was not graceful to bring in a resolution of this kind. My learned friend said that the Government are doing their best to push forward this measure and asked, why whip a willing horse, to quote his own words. Here again, was my friend serious in adopting that position and is he himself in support of that position? If he thinks the Government are doing their best, that they in this respect are acting like a willing horse, it means that whether this resolution is brought forward or not a Bill of this nature will be brought before the House at the earliest possible opportunity; and if that is so, does my learned friend support the position that we should be content with that and not press that it should be brought in at the

earliest possible opportunity ? Does he mean that if Government of their own accord without a resolution of this kind bring forward such a Bill before the House, then all those arguments which he has set forth in support of retarding the measure would fall to the ground. If they would, does not that by itself show that those arguments were not convincing enough even for himself, much less for those members of the House who are still thinking as to how to vote upon this matter.

With these few remarks, I support the resolution. (Applause).

Sardar Harbakhsh Singh (Hoshiarpur and Kangra, Sikh-Rural) : Sir, if we look at the resolution before the House, a little bit dispassionately, we will find that there is nothing wrong in it. The only thing which has reasonably surprised some of my honourable friends here is of course the fact that this resolution should have so closely followed the reference made to the subject by His Excellency in his speech the other day, or should have been urged in spite of the assurance contained therein. But the mover of the resolution has made it clear that he wanted to move it nevertheless, and he had duly chosen to move a resolution which he had sent up much earlier. All of us well remember, and I give out no secret in saying this, how great was the perturbation among the non-zamindar population of this province when the ill-fated Bill, passed last time in this House, did not receive the assent of His Excellency the Governor. It was generally considered at that time that in fact the Government were afraid that the non-zamindar class in this province, who had the press and the platform in their possession, would move heaven and earth over the matter which was so close to their heart if the Bill became an Act, and that the assent was, therefore, withheld.

It is wrong to say that there is no demand for the Bill among the people and that the motion for the resolution is, therefore, unnecessary or unjustifiable. When the last Bill was introduced and passed by this Council, there was great stir and bustle among the zamindars of the province which showed that the Bill was very popular and was greatly demanded, for which there was a wide-spread agitation all over the province by means of speeches and by means of open meetings held everywhere. Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang, has said or implied that by introducing the measure of the kind of the the last Bill, Government wanted to divide and rule. Had that been the case, would Government have withheld its assent to it ? No, that would not have been the attitude of Government. On the other hand, Government wanted to soothe the feelings of one community against the other. Government is not so foolish as to deprive a population of measures of improvement in the administration of the country on account of any show of the so-called " bitterness " created in constitutional bodies like this Council. Nor will they judge us for Reforms by such criticisms. But it is the present sort of attitude which these people have shown against such a measure which will give the Government a clue to judge the state of affairs which will be prevailing in this province if we are left to ourselves. The Government will certainly know that these people who have admittedly got much better brains and are called urban people really want to be so unreasonably selfish as to devour their ignorant and innocent rural people by leaving the state of affairs to be as it was. The Government will, therefore, think twice before it gives any further measures of Reform which tends to strengthen them. They will think that these people who are clever people will ruin the masses if

[Sardar Harbakhsh Singh.]

they assume power, and that if they were the real well-wishers of the people, they should have thought it otherwise than to selfishly oppose such a just and equitable measure. They should have assumed an attitude which was on the face of it good and just and given a manifestation that they were going to treat us in the name of King and God as their own brethren, and that, therefore, we would be able to work hand in hand for the good of the province, under a full measure of Reforms. These are the points by which the people outside and the benign Government would judge the state of affairs of the people of this province and not any transitory bitterness. But I have digressed a little, on this point. What I wanted to say was that the mover of the resolution simply wished that this matter should be considered at a very early opportunity, and that no further procrastination should be shown in the matter. The mere fact that His Excellency the Governor made a reference to this matter in his speech on the 26th of this month shows and proves the importance of the matter. It also shows that His Excellency and His Excellency's Government have this matter at heart. The last words referring to this subject are full of meaning: "We shall welcome any helpful suggestions from those interested in such a measure, and the Home Member will be glad to discuss any suggestions which the latter may desire to make." It clearly shows that Government, although it had its difficulties, is still quite ready to consider the point and to bring a measure before this House at as early a date as possible. Of course, a principle has also been laid down in the speech and that part of the speech reads: "At the same time we desire to avoid, as clearly undesirable, firstly, any unnecessary degree of regimentation which might tend unduly to harass the lender and actually to constrict the facilities for credit so useful in our rural system of economy, and, secondly, interference with accounts connected with trade and commerce." Therefore, I may say that we have really no dispute with the principle. But the simple difficulty which has been shown to exist is that it is very difficult to frame a bill which would bring in and include this principle in very clear terms, and, therefore, it has been added in the speech: "We have also been aiming at framing provisions in such a way as to be simple of interpretation and not to add to the volume of complexity of civil litigation." I have full concurrence with this view, more so because the judiciary of this province is overwhelmingly non-zamindar and if some ambiguous Bill or Act is passed, it will leave the zamindars at the mercy of their ingenious interpretations and we will thus be undone. That sort of a measure would be useless. Therefore Government is right in thinking that the terms of the Act should be so simple and clear as not to leave a loop-hole for more than one interpretation.

In these circumstances, my humble submission is, Sir, that this matter should not be shelved for any longer period because already two years have elapsed. Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang, spoke of the coming Reforms and showed us the platitudes of provincial autonomy, and said that this Council should go, as a matter of fact, to a long sleep and wake up only when the new Reforms come into existence, and then this measure may come up with greater certainty. It is all very well to ask that a thing be postponed when it is beneficial to one's opposite community, but I think it is a peculiar thing to put before a sane House that it should give up all its present authority

and function. My submission briefly is this, Sir, that the mover of the resolution has by moving the resolution under the circumstances, only emphasised that this matter be taken in hand at the earliest possible opportunity; and we have no objection to the suggestion made by the opposite benches that when the new Bill is going to be framed, the representatives of both views should meet the Home Member. That is a reasonable thing, but the matter should not be postponed for a long time now. It should come up before the House in the next session if possible, so that this long-felt desire of the zamindars may be fulfilled, and some protection may be afforded to them against the money-lending class in matters of account, etc.

Mr. President : Some speakers have argued that as His Excellency the Governor had made, in his speech delivered on the 26th instant, a statement with regard to the Money-Lenders Bill, it was improper on the part of the mover of the resolution under discussion to move it. I may point out that His Excellency the Governor is the Governor, and as such is the head of the Government, but is not Government by himself. As regards any reference to his speech, in Parliament the Royal Speech is answered by an address, for which provision is made in S. O. 75, of this Council. But it is unconstitutional to use His Majesty the King's name to influence the judgment of the House. In India the Governor of a province represents His Majesty the King. Therefore, no member should make any reference to him with the object of influencing the decision of the Council. If any member out of deference to His Excellency's remarks does not wish to support the resolution, he is at liberty to do so, but an attempt should not be made to influence the opinions of the honourable members of this House by referring to what His Excellency said the other day.

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow (Finance Member) : Sir, the opposition of Government to this resolution, if this attitude can be called opposition, is confined to the last words of the resolution, " in the next session of the Council." The Government's position is that before the technical difficulties of drafting can be surmounted, and these difficulties have not been exaggerated, the number of interests which will have to be consulted is so large that it would be in the highest degree unbusinesslike, if not actually dangerous, to be bound by such a time limit as the resolution proposes. A discussion as the one we have heard this afternoon in this Council is of the greatest value and will receive full consideration from those who are responsible for drafting the bill. As you heard on Monday, the Home Member is ready to discuss any suggestions which may be made by those who are interested in the measure. I may say that I have already had a talk with one honourable member who is thoroughly interested in the subject and I have arranged to meet him on a day in the week after next. I hope the House will not regard the fact that it is not next week, as an intention on my part to delay proceedings. I shall hope to meet the honourable member and many others who are interested in this matter, and I may say that the word is " interested," that is to say, I shall welcome criticisms from those who are in favour of the bill and from those who are opposed to it. I think if a combined effort of the best brains in this House can be made there is no reason why, as has already been remarked, the difficulties of drafting should not be surmounted.

Dr. Sir Muhammad Iqbal : Can the Government fix time ?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow: That is a matter to which I have already alluded. I can assure the honourable mover of the resolution that Government will spare no pains in drafting a bill and drafting it as soon as possible. (Hear, hear). But it must be a satisfactory Bill, and if this result is to be attained, it is impossible at this stage for Government to bind itself to a definite time limit such as that proposed by the honourable mover. I hope I have made it plain that there will be no intentional delay of any sort or kind, that the work will be taken up as it has already been taken up and carried out as soon as possible with due attention to the many points which will require the most careful consideration.

Chaudhri Duli Chand: Sir, in view of the assurance given by the Honourable Finance Member, I beg leave to withdraw the resolution.

The resolution was by leave withdrawn.

RESOLUTION RE: EXTENSION OF THE LIFE OF THE PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Dr. Sir Muhammad Iqbal: Sir, in view of a more definite resolution coming up before this Council I have decided not to move my resolution.*

4, P. M.

RESOLUTION RE: IRRIGATION PERCENTAGE IN THE ARA SUB-DIVISION ON THE LOWER JHELUM CANAL.

Chaudhri Yasin Khan (Gurgaon-*cum*-Hissar, Muhammadan, Rural (Urdu): Sir, I beg to move that —

> "This Council recommends to the Government that the irrigation percentage in the Ara Sub-Division on the Lower Jhelum Canal be equalised with the percentage provided for the colony area."

Sir, as is evident from the resolution my object in moving it is to request the Government that the irrigation percentage or what is technically called intensity of irrigation may be levelled up in the Ara Sub-Division on the Lower Jhelum Canal. I need hardly say that my request is based on a very simple and reasonable ground. As will be readily admitted by the Government, there are two kinds of areas in the Ara Sub-Division, colony area and the area that was under cultivation before the canal irrigation was introduced in this ilaqa. Now it so happened that for some unknown reasons, just before the introduction of the canal, irrigation percentage for the old *abadi* comprising of an area of 151,672 acres was fixed at 40 and that for the colony area comprising of 21,500 acres of land was fixed at 75. At that time the zamindars of the old *abadi* did not protest against this distinction because though the percentage was fixed at 40, the old *abadi* used to get more water than was fixed for it. Since the opening of the Upper Jhelum Canal they do not get water sufficient even to irrigate 40 per cent. of their lands and in consequence of the scarcity of water for irrigation purposes, the zamindars of the old *abadi* are very much agitated over this question. Just as an instance I may point out that at the time of kharif and rabi of 1927, only 26 per

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*"This Council recommends to the Government to take steps to extend the life of the present Council till such time as the new constitution comes into force so as to enable the next elections to be held under the new constitution."

cent. of the area in the old *abadi* was irrigated and the cultivated area in kharif 1927, amounted only to 8 or 9 per cent. Now the Government and at least the zamindar members are fully aware that 8 or 9 per cent. cultivation in kharif means that no more than fodder crop can be grown and that too only in quantity sufficient to feed the bullocks, etc. I hope I have made it clear that the grievance of the zamindars of the old *abadi* is genuine and I think I need not dilate on this point any further. In conclusion I may be permitted to say that equalising of irrigation percentage will not cost much to the Government as the remodelling of the rajbahas flowing into the area in the old *abadi* has already been done and, therefore, with a very little extra cost the grievance of these zamindars can be removed. It is hardly necessary to say that we are not jealous of our neighbourers. What we want is that similar treatment should be accorded to the zamindars of the old *abadi* as is being accorded to the colony area. With these few words, I commend the resolution for the acceptance of the House.

Mr. President: The resolution moved is:—

> "This Council recommends to the Government that the irrigation percentage in the Ara Sub-Division on the Lower Jhelum Canal be equalised with the percentage provided for the colony area."

The question is that that resolution be adopted.

Khan Bahadur Mian Muhammad Hayat, Qureshi (Shahpur West, Muhammadan, Rural), (Urdu): Sir, I rise to support this resolution and I hope I will take only a few minutes of the time of the Council while supporting it. In the Ara Sub-Division a comparatively small portion of land was under cultivation before the Lower Jhelum Canal was opened. The greater portion consisted of Jangal Sarkar or Crown land and this was to be colonised. I can very well understand the desire on the part of the Government for colonising that area, and, therefore, for fixing a much higher irrigation percentage for the colony area and I will not say that that desire on the part of the Government was in any way not worthy of it. But now that that area has been colonised there appears to be no justification for continuing that distinction, particularly because, since the opening of the Upper Jhelum Canal, the zamindars of the old *abadi* are not getting 40 per cent. of irrigation as was originally fixed for them. The honourable mover of the resolution made a reference to this point and in support of it he quoted the figures of percentage of irrigation for the year 1927-28. With the permission of the Chair I would like to explain this point at a little length. Without mincing matters I will at once admit that before the opening of the Upper Jhelum Canal, not only 40 per cent, but sometimes 50 or 60 or even 65 per cent of the area of the old *abadi* used to be irrigated and in consequence the preferential treatment accorded to the colony area was not keenly felt. But, as I have said before, with the opening of that canal the irrigation percentage for the old *abadi* has been going down and down so much so that in 1927-28 the irrigation percentage came down to 26. In other words in 1927-28 out of 89,100 acres of land under the permissible intensity of irrigation 83,000 acres of land were irrigated and the area under matured crop in that year was only 75,000 acres. Now as is generally the case only one-third of the area is cultivated in *kharif* and the remaining two-thirds is reserved for the *rabi* crops. If, therefore, we were to take the latter point also into-

[Khan Bahadur Mian Muhammad Hayat Qureshi.]

consideration the cultivated area in *kharif* of 1927-28 comes to only about 8 or 9 per cent. Now as was explained by the honourable mover, if water is enough to irrigate only 8 or 9 per cent. of the area in *kharif*, only fodder crop can be grown sufficient to feed the bullocks, etc., of the zamindars. With this irrigation percentage cotton, rice or other valuable crops cannot be grown and so was actually the case in *kharif* 1927. Under the circumstances it is rightly demanded that permissible intensity of irrigation should be equalised at once in the Ara Sub-Division.

It may be argued on the other side that this contention, that the zamindars of old *abadi* had or have 26 per cent. of irrigation, is wrong as the average of irrigation percentage for the last so many years comes to about 47. In reply to it I may say that I have no dispute with regard to this average and I have made it clear in the beginning of my speech that before the opening of the Upper Jhelum Canal, the irrigation percentage for this particular tract was generally higher than that fixed for it. Our complaint is that the low irrigation percentage fixed for this tract has been felt only lately and, therefore, this is no satisfactory reply to our demand. Those, who may be inclined to oppose this resolution, may also retort that these zamindars should sink wells to supplement the irrigation by the canal. That is true, but the difficulty is that the well water in this ilaqa is saltish and if it were used for irrigation purposes, the lands will become unculturable. Another objection that, in my opinion, can be raised against this proposal is that there is the danger of the lands in this ilaqa becoming water-logged in case the water-supply is increased for the benefit of the zamindars. As to that I may assure those who are likely to oppose this resolution on that ground, that there is not even a ghost of a chance for this tract of land becoming water-logged. It occupies a very favourable position and is surrounded on the west by a river, on the east by Rani Wah and in the middle of it runs a channel which is 8 or 9 feet deep. Besides the land in this tract is very hard and there is no danger of the water percolating to its lower bed. The water that will flow into this tract will always remain on its surface or will dry up. I may add that that is not my opinion, but it is the opinion of the experts and I hope the Honourable Chief Engineer will bear me out so far as this contention goes.

It may also be contended that water in the river is not sufficient to increase the supply in the canal. With regard to it I may point out that in summer seasons water in the river is always more than sufficient. As regards winter seasons I may remind the opponents of this resolution that canals run turn by turn in winter and not simultaneously and I can assure them, if assurance is needed, that there is no dearth of water to enable the Lower Jhelum Canal to run with full supply in its turn in the winter seasons. I may here add that there is no need of widening the canal either and, therefore, Government need not be afraid of a large sum of money being spent to meet our demand. Of course a few alterations and extensions will have to be made in the water-courses running in the area in the old *abadi*, but the money spent for this purpose will be very small in comparison to the benefit that will accrue both to the Government and the zamindars. I have very well considered over this question and I think no valid argument can be put forward in opposition to this resolution unless opposition is offered to it for

opposition's sake. I may also point out that the present supply of water in the canal will do even if our request is acceded to. It has been recently held by the Engineering Department that one cusec foot of water running in a canal is sufficient to irrigate 264 acres of land and not 210 acres as was considered before. The Lower Jhelum Canal was constructed with a design to irrigate 210 acres of land with one cusec foot of water. It means, therefore, that the canal with the present supply of water is able to irrigate another 54 acres per cusec foot of water and that is why I say that even if the irrigation percentage for the old *abadi* is increased to 75, as proposed, everything will go as smoothly as before.

In consideration of all the reasons detailed above, I strongly support the resolution now before the House. The zamindars of the old *abadi* are as loyal servants of the Crown as those of the colony area. Both sections of the population live side by side and in many cases one of the two adjoining fields gets 75 per cent. of irrigation and the other 40 per cent. and even less. It is a state of affair which should not be allowed to be continued any longer. I take my seat with the hope that no opposition will be offered to this resolution.

Mr. J. B. G. Smith (Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, Irrigation Branch): Sir, the area which this resolution deals with is a riverain one situated largely in the Shahpur District and partly in the Jhang District. The water level there is at a depth of from 5 to 15 feet. The irrigation percentage referred to by the honourable mover in his resolution is known generally and technically as the permissible intensity of irrigation. This was fixed as low as 40 per cent. when the project was first matured, because of the comparatively high sub-soil water-level. The permissible intensity of the Bar area was fixed at the same time at 75 per cent. The honourable mover now desires that the 40 per cent. intensity in this particular tract should be raised to 75 per cent., the same as that of the Bar area. Some honourable members of this House would probably like to know why this difference was made. It is not necessary to explain why to the agriculturist party or to those of other parties who are agriculturists, but it may be necessary for those whose only acquaintance with the Bar land is a post-colonisation acquanitance. They can have no conception of the conditions that existed in the Bar tracts prior to the canal. Whereas in the Ara tract water was near at hand, in the Par area the water was 70 to 80 feet deep. In the Khadir tracts, cultivation and well irrigation was met with frequently but in the Bar area you could drive for miles and miles before coming across an acre or two of irrigation. It was because of this great difference in the physical conditions and aspects that Government, when it decided to colonise this tract gave it a much higher intensity of irrigation than it gave to the Khadir tracts. Even at that date, however, thirty years ago, Government was aware of the possibilities of the evil of water-logging that would come by too lavish a supply of water all over the Doab, and for that reason it differentiated between the allowance it gave to the Bar areas and the Khadir areas. It might be said that Government should have foreseen that if it gave this large percentage to the Bar tract, it would tend to hasten the trouble which we now have with us of water-logging. I can only say that less than a year ago when discussing the question of water-logging at the Nabi Shah Jhil, with which every body in the Lower Jhelum

[Mr. J. B. G. Smith.]

tract is familiar, an officer who has now risen to very high office but who was with me in the early days of the Lower Jhelum Canal asked me to cast my mind back 30 years with regard to this particular area. He said he was frankly aghast when he visited the site about two years ago and reflected that it had never occurred to him or to any other officer in Government who dealt with that scheme at that particular time, that there would be a possibility of the conditions arising which now exist at the Nabi Shah Jhil or the areas round about that tract.

This question of water-logging has been mentioned more than once in this House. One of the major schemes which we have in hand for dealing with this is that of extensive closures on this canal. Now the principle underlying this measure is to reduce the addition of water to the sub-soil water table. That is the first principle, in fact it is the main principle which has led the Government to adopt the system of closures on this canal. If we were to accede to the request before the House, it would mean that we are deliberately cutting at the roots of that principle. The honourable member who has moved this resolution and the honourable member for Shahpur who supported it have only thought of the particular locality in which they are interested. The Government has to look at it not from their point of view alone but from the point of view of the whole Lower Jhelum Doab. It is quite true that the increase in the rise of the water level is comparatively considerably less in the Khadir tracts than those over the main Doab. That is only natural. In the main Doab (the Bar) before the canal came, with the river water at a particular level, the water level in the Khadir was lower and in the Bar area the water level was still lower. That is, the sub-soil water in pre-canal days flowed from the river and the Khadir tract into what we thought were the inexhaustible depths below the Bar. What happens now? The water in the Bar area has risen from its former position to a much higher level, while the water in the Khadir tracts has only risen to a small extent. But the more you allow the water level to rise in the main Doab the more you are going to accentuate the flow into the Khadir because you must have a gradient for the water to flow back to the river. Formerly the water flowed from the river into the depths of the Doab. Now, they flow from the Doab through the Khadir tract back into the river. So, although the contention of the honourable member for Shahpur is quite correct that the imminent fear of water-logging is not so persistent in his tract and would not be increased there very largely by the slight increase of water in his tract, yet what the Government has to consider is that the more water you pour into that sub-soil, the higher would the level rise in the Doab, the main Doab, that is in the old Bar land. That is where the fear lies of increasing the supplies on this canal through this Doab.

The honourable member for Shahpur suggested a levelling up of the intensity of irrigation. Now, if we do it for the particular tract for which this resolution is being moved, it means an addition of about 170 cusecs. Now, if that is conceded and we grant that, what about the other Khadir areas? The area under discussion at present is a matter of about 146,000 acres, but the total area of the Khadir tracts on this canal under conditions similar to that which the honourable member has alluded to amounts to 412,000 acres. If the Ara tract is given this increase in intensity, by what

manner of justice can you refuse to extend a similar intensity to the other Khadir area? Obviously you cannot. You must give it to others, if you give it to the Ara tract. This means an increase of no less than 500 (five hundred) cusecs which is equivalent to an increase of 1/8 or 12½ per cent. on the supplies which are already going down in the Lower Jhelum tract, Now, having decided that it is necessary to reduce the water going into this Doab will this House not condemn us if we inconsistently on the one hand have closures for the whole canal to reduce the water going into the sub-soil and on the other, deliberately increase the supply of Khadir tracts by as much as 12½ per cent. of the total canal supply? The honourable member for Shahpur has advanced another argument. He says that according to the project the allowance of water given for the canal areas was at the rate of one cusec for 210 acres of irrigation, but that subsequently, recently, it has been decided to give water on the basis of a cusec for 264 acres of irrigation. And if this were done there would be sufficient water for the increase required in the Ara tract. So far as the decision taken by the department goes, the honourable member is quite correct. A considerable amount of controversy has recently raged around this latter factor, however, that is one cusec for 264 acres. The opposition to it, rightly or wrongly is another matter, the opposition to it is intense, particularly on the Lower Chenab Canal and it is extremely unlikely that the department will be able to enforce the decision which it made some three or four years ago. That matter has to be separately considered and a decision has to be reached on that. So you cannot take credit for any water to be obtained in that way because it may not eventuate.

The comparison made by the honourable member for Shahpur of the unequal treatment given to areas side by side is partially correct. But it affects a very small area. And it is not so much "side by side" right through the Ara tract as he would have us understand. The total area of the colony land in the Khadir tract is 27,000 acres while that in the Ara tract is only 18,000 and the bulk of that is up towards the head of the Suki branch and not scattered about "side by side" "on the same water course," "on the same distributary" all over the tract. It is unfortunate perhaps that these colony areas have a 75 per cent. intensity, but the fact remains that these lands were once wanting colonists. They were not sufficiently attractive with a 40 per cent. intensity. The Khadir lands had been populated for generations and it was difficult to bring colonists in to work and live alongside a lot of people who were strangers to them. The former considered the colonists as interlopers into their own preserve. They would rather have had those colony tracts given over to them to cultivate and improve. But there are very few such areas and Government had to increase the intensity in them to 75 per cent. to make them sufficiently attractive to the new colonists. The bulk of that colony area is up towards the head of the Suki branch as I have said and so the argument does not apply with the amount of weight which the honourable member put behind it.

I have said that the Government should rightly resist any proposal to increase the supply of water put into the Doab as a whole. But should pumping schemes on any very large scale mature, there will be no objection to using that water on the land in addition to the canal water given, because it would then be using water extracted from the soil. I hope to put before

[Mr. J. B. G. Smith.]
this House at its next session two schemes for dealing with pumped water in this area on the Suki branch. One of the schemes is largely experimental and we cannot, therefore, at present expect a very large quantity of water pumped up. We have to move slowly in these matters. Some people say that the water pumped up from tube wells will be salt and that it will ruin the land. We have got to demonstrate whether it will or will not. My own personal belief is that if you go deep enough you will avoid salt water. However, as I said the scheme is purely an experimental one. It would raise about 18 cusecs of water. Another scheme is for relieving the situation in what is known as the Bhek area. That will produce about another 10 cusecs of water. There is yet a third scheme. At present the water in the Mona Seepage Drain runs uselessly into the river and we propose that even that small quantity should be conserved and put back on to the land. We would put it first into the Suki branch or into one of its distributaries so that if it should contain a small proportion of salt, by being mixed with river water it will not do any damage to the land. From these schemes we hope to be able to establish whether the water that we extract from the soil there will be salt or not. If it is not, then there is no limit to the increase in supplies that can be secured. Naturally of course as these schemes have not yet been sanctioned and there is no knowing whether they will materialise or not, no definite assignment can be made for the 35 cusecs of water which we hope to be able to get within a couple of years or so. Should of course the schemes materialise it will be for our consideration whether we might not give that to the Ara tract. (Applause).

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain (Revenue Member): The chief point made by the supporter of the resolution is, why give proprietary land only 40 per cent. and colony land 75 per cent.? That is the practice which prevails not only on the Lower Jhelum Canal, but on all canals; and there is no secret about the reason for that distinction. The reason is that proprietary lands which were *barani* lands were in many cases banjar lands, and they gained what is economically called unearned increment in value by the mere fact of a canal passing through them. Colony lands are Crown lands and inasmuch as they had to be colonised, they were in many cases sold in auction or given on peasant grant terms and naturally the State puts a certain value on those lands and that value depends upon the intensity of irrigation allowed to them. The higher the intensity the more the price it fetches and *vice versa*. That is the reason why in all the colony lands we have higher intensity than that allowed to proprietary lands. One way of equalising this difference is to charge higher water rates for proprietary lands as against lower rates for Crown lands. But that leads to complications when transfers take place and, therefore, on the whole, it has not been considered advisable to do so. That is the reason for the difference in treatment and it has existed during the last twenty-five or thirty years.

I have taken some pains in going through this case with the object of seeing how far it is possible to meet the wishes of those who are interested in this resolution and I find that so far as kharif is concerned although water is available and although Government stand to gain if that water is given, yet the Government cannot possibly run the risk of water-logging by agreeing to the wishes of the honourable members for the resolution. Therefore,

although water is available, although financially it is in the interest of the Government to give water and make money, prudence demands that the Government should not prefer the immediate gain for a year or two to a loss thereafter both to the zamindar and to the Government. As regards (rabi irrigation), water is allotted and not a drop of water is available. Honourable members here would not like me to agree to give more irrigation to this area reducing the irrigation of people who are auction purchasers or colonists and who came to this tract on the understanding that they shall have 75 per cent. irrigation and who have enjoyed that irrigation during the last thirty years. If the Council makes a recommendation that the colonists and auction purchasers who have been enjoying 75 per cent. irrigation during the last thirty years should now have their irrigation reduced with the object of giving this sub-division of the proprietary area more irrigation than before, it is of course open to the Council to do so, but it will be very difficult for me to accept it. The question then is, what can be done. The conclusion, Sir, I have arrived at is that if the three schemes mentioned by Mr. Smith who spoke before me materialise—and their materialising is contingent upon two things, the schemes being accepted by this Council and the experiments proving successful—I would be prepared to consider giving that spare water, something like 35 cusecs for the benefit of this sub-division. This is the utmost extent to which it is possible for me to go to meet the wishes of those interested in this area. That I believe will assure the Council that every effort is being made to discharge our obligations justly and it will never do to make promises which cannot be fulfilled or the fulfilment of which involves doing harm to others.

Mr. President: The resolution moved is:—

> "This Council recommends to the Government that the irrigation percentage in the Ara Sub-division on the Lower Jhelum Canal be equalised with the percentage provided for the colony area."

The question is that that resolution be adopted.

The Council then divided: Ayes 25, Noes 29.

AYES.

Mir Maqbool Mahmood.
Khan Bahadur Captain Sirdar Sikander Hyat Khan.
Mian Ahmad Yar Khan, Daultana.
Sardar Buta Singh.
Sayad Mubarik Ali Shah.
Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram.
Chaudhri Zafrullah Khan.
Maulvi Sir Rahim Bakhsh.
Dr. Sir Muhammad Iqbal.
Khan Bahadur Nawab Muhammad Jamal Khan.
Shaikh Faiz Muhammad.
Chaudhri Duli Chand
Pir Akbar Ali.
Chaudhri Ali Ahmad.
Chaudhri Yasin Khan.
Khan Bahadur Malik Muhammad Amin Khan.
Malik Khan Muhammad Khan, Wagha.
Khan Bahadur Mian Muhammad Hayat, Qureshi.
Chaudhri Umar Hayat.
Makhdumzada Sayad Muhammad Raza Shah, Gilani.
Khan Muhammad Abdullah Khan.
Chaudhri Muhammad Abdul Rahman Khan.
Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq.
Sardar Harbakhsh Singh.
Sardar Habib Ullah.

NOES.

Col. C. A. Gill.
Mr. H. D. Craik.
Mr. C. A. H. Townsend.
The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon.
Khan Bahadur Nawab Muzaffar Khan.
Mr. W. R. Wilson.
Mr. R. Sanderson.
Mr. A. R. Astbury.
Mr. M. A. Ghani.
Mr. J. B. G. Smith.
The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal.
The Honourable Sardar Jogendra Singh.
The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow.
The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain.
Mr. J. G. Beazley.
Mr. J. D. Penny.
Mr. H. M. Cowan.
Mr. D. Milne.
Dr. (Mrs.) M. C. Shave.
Khan Bahadur Shaikh Sir Abdul Qadir.
Mr. S. L. Sale.
Mr. Labh Singh.
Chaudhri Baldev Singh.
Rai Bahadur Lala Ratan Chand.
Mr. V. F. Gray.
Sardar Bahadur Capt. Daljit Singh.
Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sheo Narain Singh.
Sardar Sahib Sardar Fateh Singh.
Mr. E. Maya Das.

The motion was lost.

The Council then adjourned till 2 P. M. on Friday the 30th November 1928.

187 & 192 PLC—620—18-12-28—SGPP Lahore.

PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

3RD SESSION OF THE 3RD PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Friday, the 30th November, 1928.

The Council met at the Council Chamber at two of the clock. Mr. President in the Chair.

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

COLONY LAND TO THE LANDED GENTRY.

***1530. Sayad Mubarik Ali Shah :** Will the Honourable Revenue Member kindly lay on the table a list showing—

(*a*) the total area of Government land granted in the canal colony areas to the landed gentry of the Punjab ;

(*b*) the total area thus granted to the gentry of each district of the Province ?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : To prepare the list the honourable member asks for will involve a great deal of time and industry and the corresponding gain does not appear to justify it. A comparison by districts does not appear to serve any public purpose.

FODDER SCARCITY.

***1531. Lala Joti Parshad :** Will the Honourable Revenue Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that there is general scarcity of fodder in the Hissar district generally ;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that the Deputy Commissioner moved the Local Government to obtain concession rates from the Railway Board for importation of fodder into Hissar district ;

(*c*) if so, does the Government intend to take any steps in the matter ?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) Concession rates for the carriage of fodder into the Hissar district were first sanctioned by Government in August 1928 and withdrawn in October 1928, when it was reported by the Deputy Commissioner that owing to good rain the scarcity of fodder had ceased. The Deputy Commissioner, Hissar, has recently asked for the re-introduction of the concession rates and the proposal has been sanctioned and orders issued.

FINE FOR CATTLE IMPOUNDED.

*1532. **Lala Joti Parshad:** (*i*) Will the Honourable Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state whether it is a fact that any special fine or penalty is realized by the Superintendent, Government Cattle Farm, Hissar, in addition to impounding charges from the owners of the cattle impounded?

(*ii*) If so, will the Honourable Minister please state—

(*a*) the authority, rule or section of the Act under which it is imposed;

(*b*) the total amount realized during the month of August 1928 on each kind of animal impounded;

(*c*) the total number of cattle impounded in the same month for which the said amount was realized;

(*d*) the maximum amount that has been imposed on any single animal since June last?

The Honourable Sardar Jogendra Singh: (*i*) No special fine or penalty is realised by the Superintendent of the Farm, in addition to impounding charges from the owners of the cattle impounded but the compensation in lieu of damages done to the Bir or cultivation is levied according to the amount of damage done.

(*ii*) (*a*). The compensation is recovered under section 67 of the Forest Act.

(*b*) and (*c*):—

	Number of animals.	*Amount.* Rs. A. P.
(1) Cows, bullocks, calves and bulls, etc.	609	1,618 6
(2) Pony, mares, etc.	9	14 0 0
(3) Donkeys	4	8 0 0
(4) Goats	63	11 12 0
(5) Buffaloes	15	62 12 0
Total ..	700	1,714 14 0

SUPPLY OF FORMS, ETC., BY "CIVIL AND MILITARY GAZETTE".

*1533. **Lala Joti Parshad:** Will the Honourable Minister for Local Self-Government please state—

(*a*) whether there are any rules under which it is incumbent on the municipal committees or the district boards to place their indents for forms, etc., with the *Civil and Military Gazette* Press;

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) be in the affirmative, why preferential treatment is accorded to the *Civil & Military Gazette* Press?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan Noon : (*a*) The rules require local bodies to obtain forms from a contractor selected by the Accountant-General in the Local Audit Department.

(*b*) Preferential treatment is not accorded to the *Civil and Military Gazette* Press, which happens to be the contractor whose tender was accepted on the last occasion when tenders were called for.

CRIMINAL CASES IN BHIWANI AND HISSAR POLICE STATIONS.

***1534. Lala Joti Parshad :** Will the Honourable Finance Member be pleased to place on the table a statement showing—

(*a*) the total number of cases registered at the City Police stations, Bhiwani and Hissar, during the current year ;

(*b*) the number of cases tried and challaned ;

(*c*) the number of cases which are still under investigation ;

(*d*) the number of cases left untraced ;

(*e*) the number of cases cancelled ?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow :

	Hissar City.	*Bhiwani City.*
(*a*) The total number of cases registered during current year	108	50
(*b*) The number of cases tried and challaned ..	51	23
(*c*) The number of cases which are still under investigation	8	6
(*d*) The number of cases left untraced ..	22	8
(*e*) The number of cases cancelled ..	27	14

FIGURE GAMBLING.

***1535. Lala Joti Parshad :** Will the Honourable the Revenue Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that figure gambling is at present prevalent in Hissar district, particularly in the towns of Hissar and Bhiwani;

(*b*) if so, why the police of these places have not taken any steps to stop this evil ?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : (*a*) Yes, and in other parts of the Punjab also.

(*b*) Whether under the existing law the police have the necessary powers to deal with this evil is being considered.

SEARCH OF MR. PEARYE MOHAN, OF THE "TRIBUNE."

*1536. **Lala Joti Parshad:** Will the Honourable Finance Member please state—

(a) whether Government issued any passes to the representatives of the *Tribune*, *Hindu Herald* and *Bande Matram* for admission to the Railway platform on the occasion of the arrival of the Simon Commission at Lahore on 30th October;

(b) whether the Superintendent of Police or other Police Officers questioned the genuineness of these printed passes and refused admission to the Railway platform to all or any of these gentlemen;

(c) whether Mr. Pearye Mohan, representative of the *Tribune*, was kept in confinement at the Railway Police *thana* where his person was searched and the papers found on him were taken by Police?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow: (a) Yes.

(b) & (c) In the case of the representative of the *Tribune*, the Senior Superintendent of Police questioned whether he was the person in whose name the pass had been issued. Pending his identification, the *Tribune* representative was taken to the rear of the Police at the barrier. An inexperienced Probationary Assistant Sub-Inspector of Police mistaking the order took him to the Railway Police Station and proceeded to search him. In the meantime another gazetted Police Officer received information that a mistake had been made, went himself to the Railway Police Station, released the Press representative and restored him his papers.

Lala Bodh Raj: Is it a fact that the search of his person was made under the orders of his immediate officers, I mean the immediate officers of the Sub-Inspector concerned?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow: Not that I am aware of.

Lala Bodh Raj: Was any action taken against the Sub-Inspector concerned who made the mistake?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow: Which Sub-Inspector is the honourable member referring to?

Lala Bodh Raj: The probationary Assistant Sub-Inspector of Police.

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow: There is another question relating to this incident. Perhaps the honourable member might wait until I have given a reply to that.

RAMLILA IN KAITHAL.

*1537. **Lala Joti Parshad:** Will the Honourable Finance Member please state—

(a) whether it is a fact that Ramlila was not celebrated at Kaithal this year;

(b) if so, why;

(c) whether the Muhammadan officers put in any conditions on the playing of band this year which were never imposed before?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) In 1924—26 a clause was inserted in the Dussehra license prohibiting the playing of music within 20 paces of all places of worship at prayer times. In 1927 this clause was omitted from the license as the feeling between the two communities was cordial and an agreement had been come to between them that the procession was not to pass any mosque at prayer time. This year, relations being no longer cordial, the clause was re-inserted, and the Hindus abandoned the Dussehra celebrations as a protest.

(*c*) No.

FAILURE OF CROPS IN JULLUNDUR.

*1538. **Chaudhri Muhammad Abdur Rahman Khan:** (*i*) Will the Honourable Revenue Member kindly state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that owing to the absence of rainfall this year in the Jullundur district, a good deal of damage has been done to the crops;

(*b*) whether he is also aware of the fact that the cotton crop has also yielded poor outturn this year?

(*ii*) If the answers to (*a*) and (*b*) above be in the affirmative, will the Honourable Member kindly state what steps the Government intend to take in the matter of giving relief to the affected zamindars?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: (*i*) (*a*) The crops in Jullundur district last harvest were below normal, owing to shortage of rain.

(*b*) Cotton picking have not yet concluded, reports so far show that the crop will be somewhat below normal.

(*ii*) The district authorities will doubtless apply the ordinary rules of land revenue administration designed to meet such cases.

CONSOLIDATION OF HOLDINGS.

*1539. **Chaudhri Muhammad Abdul Rahman Khan:** Will the Honourable Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*i*) the number of villages in the Punjab, if any, in which the work of consolidation of holdings was started, but did not prove successful;

(*ii*) what are those factors which have stood in the way of this work being accomplished;

(*iii*) whether Government intend to take any steps to remove these obstacles?

The Honourable Sardar Jogendra Singh: It is regretted that the reply to this question is not yet ready. It will be communicated to the Honourable member when ready.

FAMINE ALLOWANCE TO GOVERNMENT SERVANTS.

*1540. **Chaudhri Muhammad Abdul Rahman Khan:** (*a*) Will the Honourable Finance Member be pleased to state whether there are any rules in existence according to which Government servants drawing low salaries are eligible to get famine allowance at time when the prices of food stuff rise considerably?

(*b*) If so, will he kindly lay a copy of these rules on the table?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow: (*a*) If by "famine allowance" the honourable member alludes to grain compensation allowance, the answer is in the affirmative.

(*b*) A copy of the rules contained in Volume II, Punjab Financial Handbook No. 2—rule 14·6 of the Subsidiary Rules, is placed on the table—

"14·6. (*i*) Grain compensation allowance is a compensatory allowance given only to whole-time Government servants under the administrative control of the Punjab Government whose pay lies within certain limits to compensate them from time to time for the high prices of food-grains. It is not, however, admissible to the charas establishment at Leh in the Kashmir Residency.

Grain compensation allowance.

(*ii*) With the sanction of a competent authority in each case the allowance will be admissible according to the following scales:—

RATE OF PAY OF WHOLE-TIME GOVERNMENT SERVANTS.		AMOUNT OF GRAIN COMPENSATION ALLOWANCE ADMISSIBLE IF AVERAGE PRICE OF PRINCIPAL FOOD-GRAINS OF THE DISTRICT IS	
Not more than	But more than	Dearer than 7 seers per rupee, but not dearer than 6 seers per rupee (1st scale).	Dearer than 6 seers per rupee, but not dearer than 5 seers per rupee (2nd scale).
Rs. per month.	Rs. per month.	Rs. per month.	Rs. per month.
32	31	..	1
31	30	1	2
30	16	2	3
16	0	1	2

Note.—The term "pay" does not include a compensatory allowance,—*vide* Fundamental Rules 9 (*5*) and 9 (21).

No allowance will be admissible if the average price of the principal food-grains of the district is not dearer than 7 seers per rupee.

(*iii*) The principal food-grains of a district will be taken to be those shown in the following table under the district concerned. They include all those shown opposite "obligatory grains" and two of the grains shown opposite "optional grains". The selection of the two optional grains

will rest with the Deputy Commissioner of the district concerned who will select the two cheapest grains available in sufficient quantities:—

	Simla.	Karnal, Shahpur, Rawalpindi, Jhang, Multan and Dera Ghazi Khan districts.	All other districts.
Obligatory grains ..	Wheat ..	Wheat ..	Wheat.
	Gram ..	Gram ..	Gram.
	Barley ..	Jowar ..	Barley.
Optional grains ..	Bathu ..	Bajra ..	Jowar.
	Masur ..	Maize ..	Bajra.
	Maize ..	Rice ..	Maize.
	Rice ..	..	Rice.

(*iv*) For calculating the average price, the average retail rate prevailing as ascertained from the fortnightly prices current, published in the *Punjab Gazette*, during the last fortnight of the month preceding and the first fortnight of the month for which the allowance is due, will be taken.

(*v*) These prices are recorded in seers and *chhittacks* per rupee and the average price will be taken as the average of these recorded quantities.

(*vi*) If in any month any one of the obligatory grains is not available, the cheapest of the optional grains prescribed should be substituted for it.

(*vii*) For Government servants serving in Indian States the average price of the principal food-grains will be taken to be—

For the Phulkian States and Kalsia, as for Ambala.
For Bahawalpur, as for Multan.
For Faridkot, as for Ferozepore.
For Maler Kotla, as for Ludhiana.
For Loharu, as for Hissar.
For Dujana, as for Rohtak.
For Pataudi, as for Gurgaon.
For Kapurthala, as for Jullundur.
For Sirmur and the Simla Hill States, as for Simla.
For Mandi, Suket and Chamba, as for Kangra.

(*viii*) Grain compensation allowance will be admissible to whole-time Government servants holding temporary posts and therefore regard must be had to this fact in fixing the pay of such temporary posts.

BOARDING ARRANGEMENTS FOR STAFF OF OFFICIALS ON TOUR.

*1541. **Chaudhri Muhammad Abdul Rahman Khan:** Will the Honourable Revenue Member kindly state, whether any adequate arrangements exist for the supply of food and lodging to the staff which accompanies the officials on tour?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: Government has no reason to think otherwise. If the honourable member has information to the contrary, I will be glad if he communicates to the Financial Commissioner Revenue.

ALI BAKHSH, PETITION-WRITER.

*1542. **Chaudhri Muhammad Abdul Rahman Khan:** Will the Honourable Revenue Member kindly state whether it is a fact that one Ali Bakhsh, petition-writer, submitted an application on 28th September, 1928, to the Copying Agency in the Jullundur district for obtaining a copy of some judgment or other record, and that he did not get the copy applied for till 25th October, 1928?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: An application from one Ali Bakhsh was received in the Copying Agency, Jullundur District, on the 1st October, 1928, but it was returned to him on the 4th October for furnishing correct particulars. He returned it on the 10th October 1928, with the correct particulars. The relevant file was sent for from the Record Room and it reached the Copying Agency on the 15th October. The document to be copied was a lengthy one, and, as the applicant had not paid an urgent fee, it was prepared by the 17th October. The applicant did not call for the copy till after working hours on the 19th October. The office was closed for the Dussehra holidays from the 20th to 24th October. On the 25th October the applicant called and took delivery of the copy. There was thus no undue delay for which the Copying Agency can be held responsible.

SATTA GAMBLING.

*1543. **Chaudhri Muhammad Abdul Rahman Khan:** Will the Honourable Revenue Member kindly state—

(1) whether it is a fact that *Satta* gambling is considerably practised in the Punjab;

(2) if so, does Government intend to take any steps to stop this?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Measures for the prevention of the evil are under the consideration of Government.

PUNISHMENT OF CORRUPT OFFICIALS.

*1544. **Chaudhri Duli Chand:** Will the Honourable Member for Finance kindly state for each department separately the names of officials punished and the nature of the punishment inflicted upon them for proved or suspected corruption for the year ending the 31st March, 1928?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow: The honourable member is referred to the answer given to Council questions Nos. 1435[1] and 1554[2].

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[1] *Vide* pages 12—16 *ante*.
[2] *Vide* page 152 *infra*.

CROWN LANDS.

*1545. **Chaudhri Duli Chand :** Will the Honourable Member for Revenue kindly state—

(a) whether any facilities have been provided to the members of notified agricultural tribes with small holdings to purchase Crown lands in the new canal colony on fixed prices payable by easy instalments ;

(b) if not, why ?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : Peasant grants answer the purpose the honourable member has in view much better than his idea which he probably has not had the time to develop and judge.

REGULATION OF MONEY-LENDERS' ACCOUNTS BILL.

*1546. **Chaudhri Duli Chand :** Will the Honourable Member for Finance kindly state when he intends to introduce the new Punjab Regulation of Money Lenders' Account Bill ?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow : The date for the introduction of the Bill depends on the time taken to produce a satisfactory draft.

The honourable member may rest assured that Government will do all in its power to produce as satisfactory a bill as possible in the shortest time.

POPULATION OF KARNAL DISTRICT.

*1547. **Chaudhri Duli Chand :** Will the Honourable Minister for Local Self-Government kindly state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the population of Karnal district has decreased during the Census of 1911 and 1921 ;

(b) if there is a decrease, what are the causes ; and

(c) what measures have been taken to stop this steady and heavy decrease ?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : (a) During the decade from 1901—1911 the population decreased by about 80,000. In the following decade there was an increase of nearly 30,000.

(b) Plague and malaria were chiefly responsible for the decrease between 1901 and 1911.

(c) No steady decrease is revealed by the figures ; and during recent years special measures have been taken to combat plague in this district and to improve drainage conditions with a view to rendering the district less malarious.

FEVER EPIDEMIC IN KARNAL.

*1548. **Chaudhri Duli Chand :** Will the Honourable Minister for Local Self-Government kindly state—

(a) what is the yearly number of deaths from fever epidemic in Karnal ;

(b) what causes the epidemic ;

(c) what measures, if any, have been or are intended to be taken to check the epidemic ?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : (*a*) It is not clear from the question of the honourable member whether he refers to Karnal town or Karnal district. The numbers of deaths from "fevers" in both during the years 1922—1927 inclusive were as follows :—

	Karnal town.	*Karnal district.*
1922	479	20,689
1923	668	26,958
1924	490	24,521
1925	877	26,822
1926	890	26,264
1927	298	17,822

I must, however, remind the honourable member that the diagnosis of village chaukidars and lambardars who constitute the reporting agency in respect of deaths in rural areas is not very scientific, and it is not to be assumed that all deaths recorded under the head "fevers" are due to malaria.

(*b*) The chief cause of the high death-rate from "fever" in the Karnal district is the fact that, as the result of water-logging and poor economic conditions, the district is at all times highly malarious and sometime experiences epidemics of the disease, *e.g.*, there were epidemics in the years 1923, 1925 and 1926.

(*c*) The measures taken to combat the disease comprise extensive drainage works undertaken by the Rural Sanitary Board on the Sarusti and other nullahs with the object of reducing the level of the sub-soil water and of improving the fertility of the soil ; the opening of sixteen rural dispensaries during the past six years ; special arrangements for the free distribution of quinine ; and health propaganda and "up-lift" work in rural areas.

CO-EDUCATION OF BOYS AND GIRLS.

*1549. **Chaudhri Duli Chand :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education kindly state, what measures have been taken or will be taken to encourage co-education of boys and girls in the province ?

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal : (*i*) The headmasters of reliable and well established boys' schools in which girls can be admitted without any fear of trouble, are encouraged to admit little girls.

(*ii*) Men teachers are encouraged to allow their wives, if educated, to teach girls in boys' schools.

(*iii*) Men teachers are encouraged to educate their wives and daughters with a view to their employment as in (*ii*) above.

(*iv*) The attention of commissioners and district authorities has been again and again invited to the great desirability of encouraging the admission of little girls with their little brothers to boys' schools in rural areas.

A number of districts have already made a good beginning in this direction and the success achieved particularly in the Gurgaon district is encouraging, though it is very difficult to enlist public opinion in favour of this innovation.

It would be interesting to note that up to the 31st March, 1928, 6,672 girls had been admitted in public institutions for males and 3,871 in private institutions for males, the total being 10,543.

VILLAGE PANCHAYATS.

*1550. **Chaudhri Duli Chand :** Will the Honourable Minister for Local Self-Government kindly state—

(*a*) whether he is aware of the fact that on the recommendation of a *Panchayat* officer for the formation of a *Panchayat* in a village, the money-lenders of the village raise objections to the formation of the *Panchayat*, and

(*b*) if so, what steps do Government intend to take to eliminate the delay caused by such objections ?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : (*a*) No such case has been brought to the notice of Government.

(*b*) Does not arise.

RIDING CLASSES IN SCHOOLS.

*1551. **Chaudhri Duli Chand :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education kindly state whether under the rules in force—

(*a*) a riding class attached to a school is a part of education ; and

(*b*) a grant-in-aid is permissible for it ?

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal : (*a*) No.

(*b*) No.

DAMAGE BY CHHAUNCHH KHUD.

*1552. **Chaudhri Ram Singh :** (*i*) Will the Honourable Revenue Member kindly state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the lands of the zamindars of Ban Hatarian and Kandrori in tahsil Nurpur, district Kangra, have been destroyed by the action of the Chhaunchh Khud ;

(*b*) whether it is also a fact that these zamindars had represented to the Government for help, and that an enquiry was also made on their representation ?

(*ii*) If the answer to (*a*) and (*b*) above be in the affirmative, will Government kindly state the result of that enquiry and also state what action it proposes to take in the matter ?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : The question has necessitated certain enquiries from the local officers, whose replies are awaited. The answer will be communicated to the honourable member when it is ready.

GRANT OF LAND IN NILI BAR.

*1553. **Chaudhri Ram Singh :** (*i*) Will the Honourable Revenue Member kindly state whether it is a fact—

(*a*) that many villages in the Hoshiarpur and Kangra districts suffer great losses from the floods from the river Beas every year ;

(*b*) that some of these villages have been totally washed away by these floods ;

(*c*) that the Government has been occasionally helping such zamindars of other districts of the Punjab, whose lands had been washed away, by granting them lands in the new colonies ;

(*d*) that some time back such zamindars of the Kangra and Hoshiarpur districts, whose lands have been washed away by the action of the rivers, had made a representation to the Government requesting grant of land in the Nili Bar ?

(*vi*) If the answer to the above be in the affirmative, will Government kindly state how much land has been granted to such zamindars in the Nili Bar during the last three years ? If no land has been granted, will it kindly state the reasons for the same ?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : I regret the answer to this question is not ready. It will be communicated to the honourable member when ready.

PROSECUTION FOR CORRUPTION.

***1554. Chaudhri Ram Singh :** Will the Honourable Member for Finance, kindly state—

(*a*) the number and names of the officials of each Government department who were prosecuted for corruption during the last three years ;

(*b*) how many of such cases have resulted in convictions and how many of them are still pending in courts ?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow : (*a*) & (*b*) The attention of the honourable member is invited to the answer given to Council question No. 1435[1] and to Council question No. 198 of 1927[2]. The names of the officials concerned have not been ascertained and cannot now be ascertained without an amount of trouble disproportionate to the result.

RECRUITMENT OF TEACHERS WITH WAR SERVICE.

***1555. Chaudhri Ram Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education kindly state—

(*a*) whether there are any among the S. V. teachers who are at present working as Assistant District Inspectors of Schools who have rendered military service to the Government ;

(*b*) if the reply to the first part be in the negative, what steps does Government intend to take to encourage the recruitment of teachers with war service for such posts ?

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal : The information is being collected and will be communicated to the honourable member when ready.

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[1]Pages 12—16 *ante*.

[2]Vol. X-A. page 629.

MILITARY GRANTEES.

*1556. **Chaudhri Ram Singh:** (*i*) Will the Honourable the Revenue Member kindly state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that it is compulsory for the military grantees in the Nili Bar to reside where they have been granted lands;

(*b*) whether it is also a fact that they cannot absent themselves from their lands even on the plea of illness without submitting a medical certificate from a civil surgeon, and that those who have been appointed *lambardars* are not allowed to engage *sarbarahs* in their places?

(*ii*) If the answer to (*a*) and (*b*) above be in the affirmative, will the Government kindly state whether these disabilities will be removed, and if so, when?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: (*i*) (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Temporary absence is not objected to provided the absence is only temporary and for some good reasons. Permanent exemption from personal residence is allowed at the discretion of the Colonization officer to those who are physically incapacitated from being good colonists.

The appointment of *sarbarahs* by lambardars is governed by Land Revenue Rules 26 to 30.

(*ii*) In view of the answer to (*b*) above, does not arise, but in other connection the matter is under consideration.

"DARRA" GAMBLING.

*1557. **Rai Bahadur Lala Mohan Lal:** Will the Honourable the Revenue Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it has been brought to his notice that there is prevalent in the Jullundur division and other places of the Punjab a form of gambling known as "*Darra*";

(*b*) if so, what steps does Government intend to take to stop this evil?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: The honourable member is referred to the answer to question No. 1548.[1]

ALLEGATIONS AGAINST A MAGISTRATE IN ROHTAK.

*1558. **Lala Bodh Raj:** Will the Honourable Member for Finance please state if his attention has been drawn to an article appearing in *Hariana Tilak*, local paper of Rohtak, dated 19th June, 1928, styled as "Kainchi" containing certain allegations against a Magistrate? If so, has any enquiry been made into those allegations and with what result?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow: The attention of the Punjab Government has been drawn to the article in question only as a result of this question. The allegations in the article are very vague and Government does not consider it necessary to make any enquiry into them.

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[1] *Vide* page 148 *ante*.

APPOINTMENT OF MR. JAN MUHAMMAD AS HONORARY MAGISTRATE.

*1559. **Lala Bodh Raj:** Will the Honourable Member for Finance please state—

(a) if it is a fact that Mr. Jan Muhammad, Contractor, has been recommended by the Deputy Commissioner, Rohtak, for appointment as an Honorary Magistrate;

(b) what are the special reasons for recommending him for the appointment of an Honorary Magistrate?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow: (a) & (b) The composition of the bench of Honorary Magistrates at Rohtak is under consideration. Government sees no reason to disclose any recommendation that may have been made by local officers.

HARASSMENT OF FOREST DEPARTMENT.

*1560. **Rana Firoz-ud-Din Khan:** Will the Honourable Revenue Member be pleased to say whether it has been brought to his notice that after the last rainy season's floods in the river Jhelum, the forest department officials have begun to challan people under section 411, Indian Penal Code, for possession of stolen property?

If so, what action Government has taken to put a stop to this general harassment?

[Not asked by the honourable member.].

PENSION RULES.

*1561. **Lala Bodh Raj:** Will the Honourable Member for Finance please state with reference to reply to question No. 368[1], asked on 21st July, 1927—

(a) if the rules referred to in the first part of the answer have been approved by the Government of India and if not, what are the reasons;

(b) if the rules referred to in the latter part of the said answer have been drafted and approved by the Local Government and if not, what are the reasons for the delay?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow: (a) No. Government are not aware of the reasons for the delay.

(b) No. Government awaits the issue of the rules to be promulgated by the Government of India.

HARI SINGH, PRISONER.

*1562. **Lala Bodh Raj:** Will the Honourable Member for Finance please state—

(a) if Hari Singh, prisoner, who was convicted under sections 121, 224, Indian Penal Code, on 30th March, 1916, is still undergoing his sentence in Multan Central Jail, while Arjan Singh of Jagraon, who was convicted under similar circumstances and for the same term of imprisonment with Hari Singh, has been released from Central Jail, Multan;

[1] Vol. X-B, page 893.

(*b*) if so, what are the reasons for this differential treatment ?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The matter is in the discretion of Government. Each case of a convict sentenced for life is decided on its merits.

HARNAM SINGH, PRISONER.

***1563. Lala Bodh Raj :** Will the Honourable Member for Finance please state—

(*a*) if Harnam Singh, prisoner, who was convicted under section 121, Indian Penal Code, and whose roll for release was submitted to the Government and returned on 26th January, 1928, is still undergoing his sentence in Multan Central Jail, while Maharaj Singh of Kaser, district Amritsar, who was convicted under similar circumstances and for the same term of imprisonment with Harnam Singh, has been released from Lahore Central Jail ;

(*b*) if so, what are the reasons for this differential treatment ?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The matter is in the discretion of Government. Each case of a convict sentenced for life is decided on its merits.

CHANAN SINGH, PRISONER.

***1564. Lala Bodh Raj :** Will the Honourable Member for Finance please state—

(*a*) if Chanan Singh convicted by the Court Martial is still undergoing his sentence in Multan Central Jail, while Bishen Singh of Dhoyan, district Amritsar, convicted under similar circumstances with him and for the same term of imprisonment has been released from Poona Jail ;

(*b*) if so, what are the reasons for this differential treatment ?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The matter is in the discretion of Government. Each case of a convict sentenced for life is decided on its merits.

PROHIBITION OF PROCESSIONS IN LAHORE.

***1565. Lala Bodh Raj :** (*i*) Will the Honourable Member for Finance please state—

(*a*) if any orders were issued by the District Magistrate, Lahore, on 29th October, 1928, prohibiting the organisation of processions on 30th October, 1928 ? If so, what were the reasons for the promulgation of such order ;

(*b*) if the said order was subsequently amended ?

(*ii*) Will the Honourable Member please lay on the table the copies of both the orders ?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow: (*a*) No orders were issued by the District Magistrate prohibiting the organisation of processions on the 30th of October, 1928. An order was issued by him regulating the organisation of processions. The reasons for the order were as follows:—

Firstly, having regard to the Manmad bomb case and to the bomb outrage which occurred on the occasion of the Dusehra festival on October the 23rd last at Lahore, and to other information in the possession of the Punjab Government, this Government considered it essential that the most thorough precautions should be taken for the safety of members of the Statutory Commission and of the Committee of the Central Legislatures;

Secondly, former experience had shown that without such regulation it was not possible for the Police to exercise supervision over individual members of a crowd;

Thirdly, unless the crowds were controlled, it was not possible for the Police to prevent an evil-disposed person acting under the cover of a crowd from committing an outrage.

For these reasons the Punjab Government considered that it was necessary to control crowds of sight-seers and demonstrators, whether they were hostile or friendly. It may be added that the action of Government was not taken because of any apprehension that any member of a political demonstration would permit or countenance any outrage; the action was taken because the mere presence of the crowd might, as was proved on the occasion of the Dusehra, give a person so disposed the opportunity of committing an outrage.

(*b*) The order to which reference is made in part (*a*) of the question was not subsequently amended. Supplementary orders were issued stating the limits within which processions would be permitted.

(*c*) Copies of the relevant orders are placed on the table.

ORDER UNDER SECTION 144 OF THE CRIMINAL PROCEDURE CODE.

Whereas it appears to be necessary in the interests of good order to regulate the holding of processions within the limits of the Lahore Municipality on October the 30th, 1928, I hereby direct that the public or any member of the public shall abstain from organising or joining any procession which has not been permitted by the Senior Superintendent of Police, Lahore, within the limits of the said Municipality on that day.

Whereas it is further necessary in the interests of good order to control the assembly of crowds in the vicinity of the Railway Station of Lahore junction, on the Empress and Egerton Roads and the roads adjacent thereto, I hereby direct the public that they shall not assemble within the precincts of the Railway Station or on the roads above mentioned, except at such places as the Senior Superintendent of Police may permit.

F. H. PUCKLE,

29th October, 1928. *District Magistrate, Lahore.*

INSTRUCTIONS IN RELATION TO ORDER ISSUED UNDER SECTION 144, CRIMINAL PROCEDURE CODE.

1. Processions within the Circular Road round the City will not be interfered with unless they contravene the law by riotous or obstructive behaviour.

2. Processions will be absolutely prohibited from crossing the Circular Road between Taksali Gate and Brandreth Road. They may proceed along with Circular Road and towards the Railway Station *viâ* Brandreth Road or Landa Bazar Road. If any procession attempts to defy this order, it will be broken up, arrests being made if necessary.

3. All persons arrested shall be sent immediately under escort by lorry to the District Police Lines, where they will be taken over by men held in reserve for the purpose.

4. Processions, like individuals, will be held up at the cordon line at the Railway Station Chowk provided they remain peaceful there they will not be molested.

If they attempt to force the cordon or to move elsewhere along the route, arrangements will be made from the general reserve to check them.

5. Officers on duty in the City and Anarkali area must keep the Deputy Inspector-General and Senior Superintendent of Police fully informed by telephone messages to the Railway Station (No. 2808) of the movements of processions and all other developments in the situation.

J. M. EWART,

The 29th October, 1928. *Deputy Inspector-General of Police, Central Range.*

CLOSURE OF PUBLIC HIGHWAYS TO RAILWAY STATION.

*1566. **Lala Bodh Raj:** Will the Honourable Member for Finance please state—

(*a*) if it is a fact that the public highways to railway station, Lahore, were closed to public traffic on the day of Simon Commission's visit to Lahore on 30th October 1928;

(*b*) if so, what were the reasons for closing the public highways?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow: (*a*) Yes, for a few hours only.

(*b*) The honourable member is referred to the answer to question No. 1565 above.

Lala Bodh Raj: Will the Honourable member specify the hours during which the public highways were closed?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow: I have the information here, Sir. On October 30th the police began holding up traffic proceeding in the direction of the railway station from 1-15 P.M., but up to 2–25, P.M., the holding up was not absolute as a number of passengers were allowed to proceed in either direction. At 2-25 the traffic in the vicinity of the railway station was completely stopped and it was so till 3-15. It was thus closed for about 2 hours on the whole.

BARBED FENCING NEAR NAULAKHA THANA STATION.

*1567. **Lala Bodh Raj:** Will the Honourable Member for Finance please state—

(*i*) if it is a fact that barbed fencing was set up on the highway near Naulakha thana station, and that a space of four or five feet was left open towards the south of this fencing;

(*ii*) if so, with what object was this space left open?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow: (*i*) Yes.

(*ii*) The place in question was not at first closed by barbed wire fencing, because an opening was necessary, firstly, to bring wired hurdles required at any other point, and secondly, to allow the ingress and egress of passengers to and from the Railway Station. The space was closed by a cordon of police pending the fixing of barbed wire but the procession arrived before this could be done.

Lala Bodh Raj: Will the honourable member please state the time at which the space was closed by a cordon of police pending the fixing of barbed wire?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow: I understand that this question will be raised in the course of the debate which is to take place shortly on the subject.

Raizada Hans Raj (in Urdu): Is it the same place at which Mr. Scott assaulted the demonstrators?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow: I have to give the same reply as I gave to the last supplementary question.

ASSAULT BY THE POLICE, LAHORE.

*1568. **Lala Bodh Raj:** Will the Honourable Member for Finance please state—

(*i*) if it is a fact that Lala Lajpat Rai, M.L.A., Doctor Gopi Chand, Bhargava, Raizada Hans Raj, Doctor Muhammad Alam, members of the Council, were assaulted along with Doctor Satya Pal, General Secretary, Punjab Provincial Congress Committee, and other members of the procession by police officials, including the Superintendent himself;

(*ii*) if so, what were the reasons for this assault?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow: The Punjab Government is not prepared to admit that the circumstances in which a clash occurred between the gentlemen named and the police on October the 30th last constituted an assault by the Police.

EUROPEAN OFFICERS ON DUTY AT RAILWAY STATION.

*1569. **Lala Bodh Raj:** Will the Honourable Member for Finance please state—

(*a*) the names of such European officers as were on duty at the railway station at the time of the arrival of the Simon Commission on the 30th October, 1928, when Lala Lajpat Rai and others were assaulted;

(*b*) the names of such European officers as assaulted or participated in the assault?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow: (*a*) Immediately previous and subsequent to the arrival of the Statutory Commission at the Railway Station on the 30th of October, the following European Officers were on duty at or in the immediate vicinity of the Railway Station in one capacity or another :—

Mr. Stead, Inspector-General of Police.
Mr. Puckle, Deputy Commissioner.
Mr. Ewart, Deputy Inspector-General of Police, Central Range.
Mr. Slattery, Deputy Inspector-General of Police, Criminal Investigation Department.
Mr. Evans, Assistant Inspector-General, Government Railway Police.
Mr. Scott, Senior Superintendent of Police.
Mr. Wace, Assistant to the Deputy Inspector-General of Police, Criminal Investigation Department.
Mr. Jenkins, Superintendent of Police, Political Branch, Criminal Investigation Department.
Mr. Wakefield, Assistant Commissioner.
Mr. Saunders, Assistant Superintendent of Police.
Mr. Neal, Assistant Superintendent of Police.
Mr. Morris, Deputy Superintendent of Police.
Mr. Ward, Sergeant.
Mr. Roblin, Sergeant.

(*b*) The honourable member is referred to the answer to question No. 1568 above.

Lala Bodh Raj: Will the honourable member please state which of these European officers were on duty near the barbed fencing where the leaders were assaulted ?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow: Sir, I understand this will also come in the debate on this point to be raised shortly. I should have to make a further enquiry to give an answer to the question; by that time the debate will already have taken place.

ARREST OF THE REPRESENTATIVE OF "TRIBUNE".

*1570. **Lala Bodh Raj:** Will the Honourable Member for Finance please state—

(*a*) if it is a fact that the representative of the *Tribune* who wanted to seek admission to the railway station, Lahore, with the permit given him by the authorities on the day of Simon Commission's visit to Lahore on 30th October, 1928, was arrested and detained in police custody;
(*b*) if so, what were the reasons;
(*c*) if any enquiry has been held into the conduct of such officials as are responsible for his arrest and detention;
(*d*) what action has been taken against the said officials ?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow: (*a*) & (*b*) The honourable member is referred to the answer to question No. 1586[1].

(*c*) An enquiry was made into the facts. Having regard to the precautions that were necessary for the safety of members of the Statutory

[1] Page 144 *ante*.

[Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow.]

Commission and of the Committee of the Central Legislatures, the Senior Superintendent of Police was acting within his duty in requiring the identification of the Press representative. The mistake made by the Probationary Assistant Sub-Inspector of Police was due to a misunderstanding and to inexperience, and no disciplinary action seems to be required. The incident would have been avoided had arrangements been made for the identification of Press representatives at the barrier, but the Police were not responsible for the failure to do this, and instructions have been given that on similar occasions, in future, officials of the Director of the Information Bureau should be present at suitable places to identify Press representatives to whom passes have been issued. The Punjab Government regrets that this incident should have occurred and has expressed its regret to the editor of the *Tribune*.

Raizada Hans Raj (in Urdu): Were there any other persons besides the press representatives who were thus insulted?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow: Sir, I do not see how it arises out of this question.

Lala Mohan Lal: Who was responsible for not making arrangements for the identification of the people who had passes?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow: The responsibility rests with the Government, Sir.

CRIMINAL CASES IN MULTAN.

*1571. **Lala Bodh Raj**: Will the Honourable Member for Finance please state—

(*a*) the number of cases challaned by the Police, Multan, under Section 107, Criminal Procedure Code, from 1st January, 1928, to the end of September 1928;

(*b*) the number of cases in which the proceedings were withdrawn at the instance of Police;

(*c*) the number of cases in which the persons concerned were bound down under section 107, Criminal Procedure Code;

(*d*) the number of cases which were dismissed by the Magistrates?

The Honourable Mr A. M. Stow:

(*a*) 196 persons were sent up for trial.
(*b*) Nil.
(*c*) 28 persons;
(*d*) 88 persons.

PROSECUTIONS IN MULTAN UNDER SECTION 107, CRIMINAL PROCEDURE CODE.

*1572. **Lala Bodh Raj**: Will the Honourable Member for Finance please state—

(*a*) the number of persons proceeded against under section 107, Criminal Procedure Code, in connection with the Muharram of 1928, at Multan;

(*ii*) the number of such persons as were bound down under section 107, Criminal Procedure Code;

(*iii*) if it is a fact that the persons referred to in (*i*) were kept in the lock-up and were not let on bail?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow:

(*i*) 89.

(*ii*) None.

(*iii*) These persons were received by the City Magistrate from a second class magistrate and were detained by him in custody under section 107 (4) of the Code of Criminal Procedure until he was able after the Muharram holidays to proceed with the enquiry.

Lala Bodh Raj: Will the Honourable member please state if the enquiry was proceeded with after the Muharram holidays?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow: I want notice of the question, Sir.

VEDIC KANYA PATHSHALA, SHAHPUR.

*1573. **Lala Bodh Raj:** Will the Honourable Minister for Education please state—

(*a*) if it is a fact that the Vedic Kanya Pathshala, Shahpur City, has been on the grant-in-aid list since the year 1919-20;

(*b*) if it is a fact that the grants-in-aid sanctioned by the Inspectress of Schools, Western Circle, Lyallpur, for the Pathshala has not been paid by the local body concerned for the last more than three years? If so, what are the reasons for the non-payment of the sanctioned grant?

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Yes; want of funds is pleaded, but the reason appears to be lack of interest on the part of the local body in girls education.

MOTOR CAR CHAUDHRI.

*1574. **Lala Bodh Raj:** Will the Honourable Revenue Member kindly state—

(*a*) if it is a fact that the Deputy Commissioner, Rohtak, appointed in June 1928 one Motor Car Chaudhri and permitted him to realise three pies per passenger from every taxi-driver;

(*b*) if so, has the amount thus realized been paid into the Government treasury or has it been kept by the Chaudhri with himself;

(*c*) under what provision of law was this procedure adopted by the Deputy Commissioner;

(*d*) what is the monthly income realised on this account?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The amount was kept by the Chaudhri as remuneration for his services;

(*c*) The District Magistrate believed that, as the controlling authority under rule 2 (*b*) of the Punjab Motor Vehicles Plying for Hire Rules, 1922, he had the power to appoint the Chaudhri for controlling the traffic and seeing that the licensees observed all the rules of the licenses. By his order, dated the 6th August 1928, he cancelled the authority to make realizations.

(*d*) This is not known. The realization of three pies per passenger was abolished under District Magistrate's order, dated 6th August 1928.

TRANSFER OF SUPERINTENDENT, DEPUTY COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE, GURDASPUR.

***1575. Mr. Din Muhammad:** Will the Honourable Revenue Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the period, after which the Superintendent of a Deputy Commissioner's office should be transferred, is fixed;

(*b*) for how many years beyond that period has the present Superintendent of Deputy Commissioner, Gurdaspur's office, been in that district and why;

(*c*) when is it proposed to transfer him?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: (*a*) No.

(*b*) and (*c*) Do not arise.

MUSLIM REPRESENTATION IN DEPUTY COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE, GURDASPUR.

***1576. Mr. Din Muhammad:** Will the Honourable Revenue Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) how many officials are employed in the office of the Deputy Commissioner, Gurdaspur;

(*b*) how many of these officials are Muslims?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: (*a*) 128.

(*b*) 58.

HINDU DISTRICT INSPECTORS OF SCHOOLS.

***1577. Mr. Din Muhammad:** Will the Honourable Minister for Education please state—

(*a*) how many Hindu District Inspectors of Schools are employed at the end of 1926;

(*b*) how many Hindu District Inspectors of Schools are employed at present?

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal: The honourable member is referred to the answer to the starred Question No. [1]1492, given on the 29th

[1]Page 80 *ante*.

November 1928. In addition the position is that the number of Hindu District Inspectors excluding Delhi, employed in a permanent substantive capacity on both the dates referred to in the question was 5.

KASUR MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE.

*1578. **Mr. Din Muhammad:** Will the Honourable Minister for Local Self-Government please state—

(1) whether Mr. Lincoln was deputed in 1927 or 1928 to report regarding the working of the Municipal Committee, Kasur;

(2) whether he submitted any report to Government;

(3) if so, whether any action has been taken on it;

(4) whether he will be pleased to lay that report on the table?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon: (1) Yes.

(2) The report was forwarded to Government in connection with the question of the financial condition of the committee.

(3) The question of granting a loan to the committee so as to assist it in improving its finances is under consideration.

(4) Government regret that they are not prepared to lay the report of one of their officers on the table.

MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE, KASUR.

*1579. **Mr. Din Muhammad:** Will the Honourable Minister for Local Self-Government please state—

(1) whether it has been brought to his notice that any resolution was passed by the municipal committee, Kasur, requiring Doctor Bodh Raj, municipal commissioner, to indemnify the committee under section 50, Municipal Act;

(2) if so, whether any suit for compensation under the said section has been sanctioned by the Commissioner or by the Secretary of State for India in Council?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon: (1) No, but it has now been ascertained that such a resolution was passed.

(2) No: the matter is under consideration.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

RECEIPT OF PANCHOTRA BY DISTRICT BOARD MEMBER.

777. **Chaudhri Duli Chand:** Will the Honourable Minister for Local Self-Government kindly state—

(a) if it is a fact that under the present District Board Rules no one can stand for election or remain a member who has drawn or did draw any remunerations for services rendered to the Board;

[Chaudhri Duli Chand.]

(*b*) if there are any members who received Panchotra as a remuneration from the District Board, Ludhiana, for collection of Hasiyat tax;

(*c*) if so, what action does Government intend to take with regard to them under the rules?'

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon: It is regretted that the answer to this question is not yet ready. It will be communicated to the honourable member in due course.

HORSE-BREEDING GRANTEES.

778. Sardar Hira Singh: Will the Honourable Revenue Member kindly state—

(*a*) whether the grievances of the horse-breeding grantees of the Sargodha Colony, published on page 10 of the *Akali*, dated the 2nd September 1928, have been brought to his notice;

(*b*) if so, what steps does Government intend to take in the matter;

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: (*a*) No, not before now.

(*b*) The matter is under consideration.

WOMEN'S HOSPITALS.

779. Khan Bahadur Captain Sardar Sikandar Hayat Khan: Will the Honourable Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of hospitals for women in each district of the Rawalpindi Division;

(*b*) the accommodation available for indoor patients in each hospital;

(*c*) whether the accommodation for indoor patients as shown by cases has been sufficient;

(*d*) the average number of outdoor patients treated at these hospitals daily in each case;

(*e*) the grant-in-aid given by Government in each case?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon: A statement giving the information required by the honourable member is laid upon the table.

Name of district.	(a) Name of female hospital under the charge of female sub-assistant surgeon.	(b) Number of beds available.	(c) Daily average attendance of indoor patients.	(d) Daily average attendance of outdoor patients.	(e) Grants given by Government during— (1) 1926-27. (2) 1927-28. (3) 1928-29.
					Rs.
Gujrat	Female Section of the Civil Hospital, Gujrat.	12	5·63	48·21	
Shahpur	1. Mission Hospital, Sargodha.	20	5·32	60·54	..
	2. U. P. Mission Hospital, Bhera.	8	2·12	41·55	..
Jhelum	1. Good Samaritan Mission Hospital, Jhelum.	45	24·33	59·19	1926-27 5,000
	2. Female Hospital, Bhaun	4	2·92	38·33	..
Rawalpindi	1. Female Section of the Civil Hospital, Rawalpindi.	16	25·28	68·26	..
	2. St. Catherine Zenana Mission Hospital, Rawalpindi.	17	5·70	5·20	..
Attock	*Josephine Hospital for Women at Hazro.	2 (now 7)	4·51	42·87	1926-27 10,000 (for building). 1927-28 25,000 (for building). 1928-29 6,000 (for equipment).
Mianwali	Victory Memorial Women's Hospital, Mianwali.	8	3·74	61·76	..

*The number of beds at the Josephine Hospital for Women at Hazro has since 1928 been raised to 7, but the information in respect of daily average attendance of indoor and outdoor patients is not at present available.

GOVERNMENT COLLEGE, LAHORE.

780. Khan Bahadur Malik Muhammad Amin, Khan: Will the Honourable the Minister for Education please state with what object is the Government College, Lahore, maintained?

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal: To impart collegiate and post-graduate education.

GOVERNMENT COLLEGE, LAHORE.

781. Khan Bahadur Malik Muhammad Amin Khan: Will the Honourable the Minister for Education please state—

(*a*) How many students was the Government College, Lahore, building intended originally to accommodate?

(*b*) How many students are now in that college?

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal: (*a*) There is nothing on record to show what the maximum accommodation was intended to be when the college was built in 1874. But, at that time, there were about 110 students.

(*b*) On November 1st, 1928 there were 926 students on the rolls of the college.

GOVERNMENT COLLEGE, LAHORE.

782. Khan Bahadur Malik Muhammad Amin Khan: (*a*) Will the Honourable the Minister for Education please state how many students were refused admission last year to the Government College, Lahore, and its two hostels owing to congestion?

(*b*) Does Government intend to take steps to remove the congestion?

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal: (*a*) 268 and 65, respectively.

(*b*) The opening of Government Intermediate Colleges in mofussil has considerably relieved the congestion at the Government College, Lahore, and Government is still developing this policy.

Questions Nos. 783-784 cancelled.

LAHORE CONSPIRACY CASE PRISONERS.

785. Sardar Ujjal Singh: Will the Honourable Finance Member please state—

(*a*) the number of prisoners convicted in the Lahore conspiracy case and released during the current year and the number of prisoners still remaining in jail;

(*b*) whether there are any released prisoners in the Lahore conspiracy case whose property was confiscated by Government and has not yet been restored to them after their release;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that, in accordance with paragraph 5-1 (6*b*), of the Punjab Jail Manual, the release of prisoners, after completion of the term of 14 years, was considered by the Punjab Government;

(*d*) if so, how many prisoners were released? If none, will the Government please state the grounds for not releasing such prisoners?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow: (*a*) The number of prisoners convicted was *140*, released during the current year *2* and still in jail *29*.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) Certain prisoners were released after completion of the term of 14 years including remissions, but the exact number cannot be ascertained without an amount of labour disproportionate to the result.

TAXI MONOPOLY ON TALAGANG-INJRA ROAD.

786. Sardar Ujjal Singh: Will the Honourable Revenue Member be pleased to state, with reference to the answer given to question No. 701,[1] put by Raizada Hans Raj in the Punjab Legislative Council on 22nd November 1927, regarding taxi monopoly on Talagang-Injra Road :—

(*a*) under what law is the present contractor enjoying his monopoly;

(*b*) if there is no monopoly, will he please state the names of the owners, drivers and the police numbers of vehicles which applied for licenses for the said road after April 1928, and which of them were accepted and which rejected;

(*c*) how many lorries in all are working on the said road and what are the names of the owner or owners?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: (*a*) Under the Punjab Motor Vehicles Plying for Hire Rules, 1922, which are rules framed by the local Government under section 11 of the Indian Motor Vehicles Act, 1914.

For the information of the Honourable Member I may add that Government is now preparing revised rules under the Act, by which it is probable that the licensing of motor vehicles plying for hire will be placed on a systematic and uniform basis, and has, therefore, informed the Deputy Commissioner that any arrangements made by him must be regarded only as temporary.

(*b*) Does not arise.

(*c*) (*i*) Four on the line Talagang-Injra, owned by Sh. Mohammad Din.

(*ii*) One on the line Pachnand-Injra, which passes over a portion of the same road. This is owned by Ghulam Mahbub Shah.

LICENSE FOR MOTOR CARS ON TALAGANG-INJRA ROAD.

787. Sardar Ujjal Singh: Will the Honourable Revenue Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the Governor, Punjab, in reply to the following telegram of 14th May 1928: "Deputy Commissioner refusing licenses Talagang-Injra Road. Creating more

[1] Vol. X-B, page 1197.

[Sardar Ujjal Singh.]

monopolies. Contractor earning Rs. 150 per day, other motor owners and drivers starving. Pray intervene. Deputation requests Your Excellency audience. Pray grant time and place interview, Gurdas Mal," wired back: "Your telegram forwarded to Commissioner whom you should approach on subject, Private Secretary, Punjab";

(*b*) since then what steps have been taken by the Commissioner, Rawalpindi, to remove the grievances mentioned in the above telegram?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: If the honourable member had questioned Gurdas Mal mentioned in his question, he should have been able to inform him.

LICENSE FOR MOTOR CARS ON TALAGANG-INJRA ROAD.

788. Sardar Ujjal Singh: Will the Honourable Revenue Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the Deputy Commissioner, Campbellpur, on 14th May 1928, in reply to the following telegram: "Two lorries each ready for plying between Talagang and Injra on both sides Swan (a river) may bring licenses for endorsement if you make it. Hem Raj, Fateh Chand," wired back: "Answer your telegram is in negative, Deputy Commissioner"?

(*b*) If so, by what law the licenses for the said road were refused.

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The Punjab Motor Vehicles Plying for Hire Rules, 1922, framed by Government under the Indian Motor Vehicles Act, 1914.

Questions Nos. 789—793 cancelled.

DISTRICT BOARD, AMBALA.

794. Pandit Nanak Chand: Will the Honourable Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) The number of elected and nominated members of the district boards of Ambala and Karnal districts?

(*b*) Whether it is a fact that no non-agriculturist has been elected during the recent election of District Board, Ambala?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon: (*a*) In the Ambala District Board there are 32 elected and 10 appointed members and in Karnal, 35 elected and 10 appointed members.

(*b*) No. One non-agriculturist has been elected as a member.

HASIYAT TAX.

795. Pandit Nanak Chand: Will the Honourable Minister for Local Self-Government please state, whether it is a fact that the District Board, Ambala, proposes to levy a hasiyat tax in Ambala district?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon: Yes.

DARYA-BURD LANDS.

796. Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram : Will the Honourable Revenue Member be pleased to state how much land has become *darya-burd* in the districts of Multan, Jhang and Muzaffargarh, respectively, and what steps does Government intend to take to help the owners of those lands ?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : The honourable member surely does not expect me to institute research into an undefined past.

LAND PRICE IN LYALLPUR.

797. Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram : Will the Honourable Revenue Member please state—

(*a*) whether Government has received representations from the shopkeepers in the Lyallpur district that the price offered to them for obtaining proprietary rights of the land under the shops is too high ;

(*b*) if so, whether Government intends to take any action in the matter ?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The matter has already been investigated.

HAVELI PROJECT.

798. Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram : Will the Honourable Revenue Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) when does Government contemplate taking the Haveli project in hand ;

(*b*) whether Government proposes to hold a conference in this connection ?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : (*a*) When the scheme is ready for presentation to the Government of India and has been sanctioned.

(*b*) Government does not propose to hold a conference in this connection, because nothing would, under present condition, be gained.

LAND ALIENATION BY CHRISTIANS.

799. Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram : Will the Honourable Revenue Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that Government issued a notification No. 266 in *Government Gazette*, dated the 14th November 1918, that Christians cannot alienate land to non-Christians ;

(*b*) if it is a fact that alienations are taking place to non-Christians in Lyallpur, Montgomery and Jhang districts in spite of the above notification ;

(*c*) if so, what steps does Government intend to take to stop such alienations ?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : The question has necessitated certain enquiries from the local officers whose replies are awaited. The answer will be communicated to the honourable member when it is ready.

SUB-JUDGE'S COURT AT OKARA.

800. Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram: Will the Honourable Finance Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the High Court has received representations from the people of Okara, District Montgomery, to establish there a court of Sub-Judge;

(*b*) has the High Court addressed the Government in this matter;

(*c*) if so, what steps does Government propose to take in the matter?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) No.

(*c*) Does not arise.

MALIK GHULAM RASUL, SHAUQ.

801. Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram: Will the Honourable Minister for Education be pleased to state for how many years has Malik Ghulam Rasul Shauq been District Inspector of Schools in the Dera Ghazi Khan district?

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal: Five years and four months.

GRANT-IN-AID.

802. Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram: Will the Honourable Minister for Education be pleased to state if grants-in-aid have been sanctioned to the following schools:—

(*a*) D. A.-V. High School, Karor, District Muzaffargarh;

(*b*) Middle School Taunsa, District Dera Ghazi Khan?

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal: The question of bringing schools on the grant-in-aid list for the current year is under consideration.

SUB-DIVISIONAL OFFICER AT RAJANPUR.

803. Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram: Will the Chief Secretary to Government please state—

(*a*) whether Deputy Commissioner of Dera Ghazi Khan asked the Government to post a European Sub-Divisional Officer at Rajanpur;

(*b*) if so, why;

(*c*) what action has Government taken in the matter?

Mr. J. G. Beazley (*a*) No.

(*b*) & (*c*) Do not arise.

SUBORDINATE EDUCATIONAL SERVICE.

804. Lala Kesho Ram, Sekhri: (*i*) Will the Honourable Minister for Education lay on the table preliminary enquiries and calculations made with a view to ascertain whether the time scale be introduced in Subordinate Educational Service as promised on 5th August, 1924, by the then Honourable Minister for Education in answer to question No. 607[1] (*e*) of Professor Ruchi Ram Sahni?

(*ii*) Will the Honourable Minister for Education lay on the table the recommendations of the Education Sub-Committee which was required to report regarding—

(*a*) the possibilities of introduction of time scale in the Subordinate Educational Service as notified in *Punjab Gazette* No. 46, dated 5th May, 1925;

(*b*) the grievances of members of the Subordinate Educational Service if the above were recorded by the said Committee as stated above?

(*iii*) if no such enquiry was made, the reasons for the same?

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal: (*i*) Attention of the honourable member is invited to the appendices to the proceedings of the Standing Committee of the Punjab Legislative Council on Education, dated February 19, 1925, printed in Part V of *Punjab Government Gazette* of May 8th 1925.

(*ii*) The Standing Education Committee ultimately recommended that more posts in the Rs. 140—10—190 grade be created, and that really deserving J. A.-V. teachers should not be debarred from promotion to the Rs. 80—4—100 grade.

(*iii*) Does not arise.

SUBORDINATE EDUCATIONAL SERVICE.

805. Lala Kesho Ram, Sekhri: Will the Honourable Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether he is aware that in filling up several new posts of different grades in the Subordinate Educational Service sanctioned by the Government in 1927 and 1928, juniors have been made seniors?

(*b*) If the answer to question (*a*) is in the affirmative, does the Honourable Minister intend to right the wrong?

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal: (*a*) The honourable member's question is not quite clear, but if he wishes to enquire whether junior officers have in some cases been selected for promotion in preference to their seniors, the answer is in the affirmative.

(*b*) I am examining cases of promotion in the Subordinate Educational Service during the years 1927 and 1928 to see whether any promotions to which serious exception can be taken have been made, and if so, what action is possible to set any genuine grievances right and to devise steps to prevent this in future.

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[1] Vol. VII, page 104.

DISTRICT INSPECTORS AND DEPUTY INSPECTORS.

806. Lala Kesho Ram, Sakhri: Will the Honourable Minister for Education kindly state—

(*a*) The number of the posts of the District Inspectors and Deputy Inspectors which have been filled by men who are neither trained nor experienced either as Head Masters or as Assistant District Inspectors;

(*b*) the reasons for giving preference to new men;

(*c*) whether the claims of experienced and trained men will be considered in future?

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal: (*a*) One.

(*b*) The administrative and other qualities displayed by this officer.

(*c*) The claims of experienced and trained men are and always will be considered.

HYDRO-ELECTRIC DEPARTMENT.

807. Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram: Will the Honourable Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether his attention has been drawn to the grievances of the Hindus of the Hydro-Electric Department, Punjab, voiced in the *Hindu Herald*, dated the 22nd April, 1st June and 5th June, 1928;

(*b*) what are the qualifications of the gentlemen holding the appointments of Superintendents in the Hydro-Electric Department;

(*c*) Why was no chance given to a Hindu?

The Honourable Sardar Jogendra Singh: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The following are the qualifications of Superintendents in the Hydro-Electric Branch:—

Superintendent A.—Matriculated Punjab University. For seven years a clerk and head clerk in the Military Engineer Services and for six years a head clerk and Superintendent in the Hydro-Electric Circle.

Superintendent B.—Government High School Examination for European Schools. On loan from the Irrigation Branch.

Superintendent C.—For 15 years a clerk in various Government and other offices.

Superintendent D.—Matriculated Punjab University. On loan from Irrigation Branch.

(*c*) The posts were filled by promotion from within the Hydro-Electric Branch of the Department or by loan from other branches of the department, or by selection from among the best men available without reference to community. The opportunity for selection was the same for all, Hindus or otherwise.

MACLAGAN ENGINEERING COLLEGE, MOGHALPURA.

808. Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram : Will the Honourable Minister for Agriculture kindly state—

(*a*) the total number of students reading in the Maclagan Engineering College, Moghalpura ;

(*b*) the number of students referred to in (*a*) coming from each of the five revenue divisions ;

(*c*) the number of nominations made in each of the two classes (A and B) since 1924 ;

(*d*) the number of nominations that have gone to each of the five divisions ;

(*e*) the number of statutory agriculturists who have been nominated since 1924 ?

The Honourable Sardar Jogendra Singh : (*a*) The total number of students reading in the Maclagan Engineering College is 301.

(*b*) The number of students coming from the five revenue divisions is :—

Ambala	25
Jullundur	47
Lahore	151
Multan	36
Rawalpindi	24

(*c*) The number of nominations made in each of the two classes (A and B) since 1924 is 16 in "A" Class and 27 in "B" Class.

(*d*) The number of nominations that have gone to each of the five divisions is :—

Ambala	4
Jullundur	6
Lahore	23
Multan	8
Rawalpindi	4

(*e*) The number of statutory agriculturists who have been nominated since 1924 is 11.

RASUL SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING.

809. Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram : Will the Honourable Minister for Agriculture kindly state—

(*a*) in exact words the rule which regulates the admission of statutory agriculturists to the Rasul School of Engineering ;

(*b*) whether the rule referred to in (*a*) has been acted upon in practice, and if so, with what results in the actual admissions to the school, and if not, why not ?

The Honourable Sardar Jogendra Singh : (*a*) The exact wording of the rule which regulates the admission of statutory agriculturists to the Government School of Engineering, Punjab, Rasul, are :—"Forty-five students from the British Punjab by competition in the admission examination, of whom at least twenty-two will be agriculturists, provided they are up to the required standard."

Note.—'Agriculturist' means a member of an agricultural tribe notified under the Alienation of Land Act.

(*b*) The rule has been acted upon in practice and the following are the results :—

Year.	Total admissions.	Number of agriculturists.	Remarks.
1926	45	22	
1927	53	26	
1928	50	24	

RASUL SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING.

810. Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram : Will the Honourable Minister for Agriculture kindly state—

(*a*) whether it is proposed to raise the standard of minimum educational qualifications for admission to the Rasul School of Engineering ;

(*b*) if so, whether the Principal of the Rasul School of Engineering and heads of both branches of the Public Works Department were consulted as to the advisability or necessity of this change ;

(*c*) whether it was considered how the change would affect the admission of statutory agriculturists ?

The Honourable Sardar Jogendra Singh : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) Yes.

RASUL SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING.

811. Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram : Will the Honourable Minister for Agriculture kindly state—

(*a*) whether it is proposed to have recourse to out-and-out competition for determining admissions to the Rasul School of Engineering, except in respect of four or five candidates who will be nominated ;

(*b*) if so, whether it has been considered how the proposed method will affect the admissions of statutory agriculturists ;

(c) whether the Principal of the Rasul School of Engineering and heads of both branches of the Public Works Department have been consulted with regard to the advisability of the change?

The Honourable Sardar Jogendra Singh: (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) Yes.

VETERINARY COLLEGE.

812. Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram: Will the Honourable Minister for Agriculture kindly state—

(a) whether it is not a fact that Veterinary officers have to work mostly among agriculturists;

(b) whether the standard of minimum educational qualifications for admission to the Veterinary College has been raised from Matriculation to F. A. or F. Sc.;

(c) whether admissions to the Veterinary College this year have proceeded mostly on the basis of the new standard;

(d) what is the total number of candidates admitted to the Veterinary College this year and how many of them are statutory agriculturists?

The Honourable Sardar Jogendra Singh: (a) Yes.

(b) Yes, with the provision: "Matriculates in the 1st Division only may be taken if vacancies remain after taking the F. Sc.'s or F. A.'s"

(c) Yes.

(d) Total number admitted, 46; Statutory Agriculturists 18.

LYALLPUR AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE.

813. Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram: Will the Honourable Minister for Agriculture kindly state—

(a) whether it is contemplated to raise the standard of minimum educational qualifications for admission to the Lyallpur Agricultural College;

(b) whether the Principal and Professors of that College were consulted or invited to express any opinion or had at any time occasion to express their opinion as to the advisability of raising the standard of education for admission, and, if so, whether they were unanimously or by a majority in favour of or against the change, and, if not, whether Government has any intention to ascertain their views on the subject;

(c) whether Government has considered what effect the raising of the standard will have on the admission of statutory agriculturists to the College?

The Honourable Sardar Jogendra Singh: (*a*) It has been decided that in future the standard required for admission to the College will be the F.A. or F.Sc. examination.

(*b*) It is not the practice of Government to disclose the opinions expressed by individual officers on administrative measures. The decision to raise the standard of admission to the college was taken by Government after the question had been considered in all its bearings by a committee consisting of the following members :—

The Financial Commissioner, Development,
The Director of Agriculture,
The Principal of the College,
The Principal of the Government College, Lahore,
The Principal of the Punjab Veterinary College,

and the three elected members of this Council.

(*c*) Yes. And as a temporary measure it has been decided that for the first three years not more than one-third of the total number of vacancies may be reserved for First Class Matriculates who belong to Agricultural Classes at the discretion of the Principal.

LYALLPUR AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE.

814. Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram: Will the Honourable Minister for Agriculture kindly state—

(*a*) whether simultaneously with the raising of educational standard of admission to the Lyallpur Agricultural College it is intended to retain the four years' course also ;

(*b*) whether Government has consulted any experts on the question of the relative value of preliminary instruction in relevant subjects of science in an ordinary arts college and the same instruction in initial years in an agricultural college in an agricultural atmosphere ;

(*c*) whether Government has taken into consideration the failure of experiments of what is technically known as the "agricultural ladder" in Egypt and other countries ?

The Honourable Sardar Jogendra Singh: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) It is understood that the "Agricultural ladder" means the system of imparting technical education to students in different places for different periods, instead of in a single place throughout the whole period of technical study. It is not proposed at present to impart technical education at any place other than Lyallpur.

VETERINARY SCHOLARSHIPS.

815. Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram: Will the Honourable Minister for Agriculture kindly state—

(*a*) the number of scholarships awarded by the Veterinary College annually in the past;

(*b*) whether all or any of these scholarships were reserved for agriculturists ;

(*c*) whether the number of those scholarships has been, or is proposed to be, raised to ten and no reservation has been made in favour of agriculturists ?

The Honourable Sardar Jogendra Singh : (*a*) Three in each class.

(*b*) Two out of three.

(*c*) Has been raised to ten in the 1st year class for this year only. Agriculturists can win any of these by obtaining merit in the special examination held for the purpose.

CONTRACT RATES OF PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

816. Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram : Will the Honourable Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the attention of Government was drawn during the course of the budget debate in March last to what are regarded by the general public as unduly high rates allowed to contractors by the Public Works Department and to the advisability of revising these rates ;

(*b*) whether Government has given any consideration to the subject referred to in (*a*), and if so, with what result, and if not, why not ?

The Honourable Sardar Jogendra Singh : (*a*) Schedules of the rates, found by experience to be the minima compatible with sound work and a reasonable profit, are prepared mainly for estimating purposes, and their periodical revision is prescribed by the rules of the Public Works Department.

When a work is executed by contract the rates are determined by the contract agreement, which, as a rule, is based on tenders publicly invited ; but when contracts are not feasible or desirable, work-orders are issued at schedule rates.

Government is not aware of any better system and sees no occasion to alter the rules on the subject.

(*b*) Does not arise.

ARBITRATION BOARDS, ETC.

817. Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram : Will the Honourable Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of arbitration boards started during the last two years ;

(*b*) the number of industrial societies in the province and the number of the same started during the last two years ;

(*c*) the number of credit societies in the province and the number of the same started during the last two years ?

The Honourable Sardar Jogendra Singh : It is regretted that the reply to this question is not yet ready. It will be communicated to the honourable member when ready.

INSPECTORS OF CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES, AMBALA DIVISION.

818. Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram: Will the Honourable Minister for Agriculture kindly state—

(*a*) whether it is not a fact that in 1925 the Ambala division was on the basis of the proportion which the number of societies in the division bore to the total number of societies in the province, entitled to have 17 per cent. of the posts of Inspectors for men belonging to that division, while the actual percentage of men from the division among Inspectors was only 11;

(*b*) whether any improvement has taken place in the position of Ambala division men with respect to their porportion of representation among Inspectors?

The Honourable Sardar Jogendra Singh: It is regretted that the reply to this question is not yet ready. It will be communicated to the honourable member when ready.

INSPECTORS OF CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES.

819. Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram: Will the Honourable Minister for Agriculture kindly state—

(*a*) the number of Inspectors of Co-operative Societies recruited in 1926, 1927 and 1928, and the number of these newly recruited Inspectors belonging to each of the five revenue divisions;

(*b*) the proportion borne by the number of societies in the Ambala division to the total number of societies in the province at present;

(*c*) the proportion borne by the Inspectors belonging to the Ambala division to the total number of Inspectors in the province at present?

The Honourable Sardar Jogendra Singh: It is regretted that the reply to this question is not yet ready. It will be communicated to the honourable member when ready.

EXCISE INSPECTORS.

820. Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram: Will the Honourable Minister for Agriculture kindly state—

(*a*) the total number of Excise Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors and the number of men belonging to the Ambala division among them;

(*b*) the number of Excise Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors serving in the Ambala division and the number of Hindu statutory agriculturist among them?

The Honourable Sardar Jogendra Singh: (*a*) 169 for the Province. Of these, 17 belong to the Ambala division.

(*b*) 22. Of these, 2 are Hindu statutory agriculturists.

ENGINEERING STUDENTS FROM AMBALA.

821. Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram: Will the Honourable Minister for Agriculture kindly state the total number of students reading in the Rasul Engineering School and the Maclagan College at Mughalpura and the number of those among them coming from the Ambala division ?

The Honourable Sardar Jogendra Singh: The total number of students in the Government School of Engineering, Punjab, Rasul, is 136, out of which 11 students come from the Ambala division. There are 288 students in the Maclagan Engineering College, Moghalpura, out of which 17 belong to the Ambala division.

RESOLUTIONS.

RESOLUTION *re* POLICE ASSAULT ON LEADERS AT LAHORE.

Dr. Shaikh Muhammad Alam [West Punjab Towns (Muhammadan), Urban]: Sir, the resolution which I beg to move stands thus:

> "This Council recommends to the Government that a committee of non-official members of this Council be appointed to enquire into the conduct of those officials including Mr. Scott, the Superintendent of Police, who assaulted and beat leaders of the public on 30th October 1928 at Lahore and arrested and detained Pandit Peyare Mohan, Assistant Editor of the *Tribune*, on the same date."

In moving this resolution, Sir, I am discharging a twofold duty. First and foremost, I am discharging my duty to the public for I am sure that in moving this resolution I am voicing the feelings of the whole of the Punjab.

Secondly, Sir, I am discharging my duty to the Government—I do not know whether it would be proper to call it a duty or whether it is in fact a benevolent act of mine—in giving a suggestion to them that they should clear this blot, if they want to clear it at all. Indeed this is really the blackest spot on the escutcheon of the Government, ever since the advent of the British in this country and if they be graceful enough to remove it, this is the best occasion for them to do so by welcoming this resolution. The resolution only seeks for a non-official enquiry, the only impartial enquiry which could possibly clear the contempt on the Government officials and which would set the present agitation in the country at rest and I expect the Government to rise to the occasion and try to know the truth about the whole thing and not to raise any opposition whatsoever to this resolution.

So I expect, Sir, that this is a motion of the sort in which I will not meet any opposition whatsoever on the part of Government officials. As regards the non-official members in this House I have to request them, I have to appeal to them, that they will not be guided by extraneous considerations, by party questions, by communal questions, by Hindu-Muslim questions, by questions of one party or the other in considering my motion. I appeal to them, Sir, that they will consult their own conscience within when they vote upon this motion, and, Sir, if anything is required from without then they will consult the voice that is outside this Hall, the unequivocal, the unamibiguous voice which is being raised from one end of this Province to the other, and they as representatives of the people, I submit, Sir, shall have

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to obey that voice. I think notwithstanding efforts on the part of some of the members to extend the life of this Council, the judgment by their electorates is not far off to be sought. They have to be judged by their electorates very soon and it is not very far off when the electorates will have occasion to give a verdict in their case, whether they have been rigthly representing the people's cause in this House or not, and I hope, Sir, they will be alive to that also.

I will also appeal to the Honourable Ministers to-day. I say, Sir, that it is not only the other honourable members of this House who are on trial, but even the Ministers are on their trial, and I hope notwithstanding that they are paid by Government and notwithstanding their salaries—may be very fat salaries—they will not ignore to consider this fact that to-day they have to see things as elected members. They were sent here as elected members on behalf of the people, and they have to take into consideration, Sir, how they are going to help the people to-day, and whether they do not consider it right for them to-day to side with the people and not with their paymasters. I hope, Sir, that this thing will be taken into consideration by the Honourable Ministers also when they will be voting on this floor.

Now, Sir, what does the resolution really demand? The resolution does not condemn the Government officials to-day unheard. The resolution does not condemn any act unheard. What the resolution seeks is that an impartial enquiry, an altogether non-official enquiry into the incidents of the 30th ultimo be started, and let both parties have a chance to know the truth of what actually happened and the consequences which followed that. Now, coming to the incidents of the 30th October, Sir, I claim that what I am stating is absolutely true, and what I state, Sir, must be confided in. But it is not a question of my claim so far as the resolution or the motion is concerned. All that I demand is that an enquiry, an un-official enquiry and an impartial enquiry be held into those allegations, whether those allegations are serious enough and whether they are of such a nature that they deserve an impartial and an unofficial enquiry or not is really the question before this House. We know what happened on the 30th. Well, Sir, on the 30th the Simon Commission was to arrive at Lahore, and we know that the constitution of the Royal Simon Commission was against the wishes of the country. The people protested against this constitution not in one way but in all possible ways, but notwithstanding our protests notwithstanding the voicing of public feelings, notwithstanding the voice of the representatives, the true representatives of the country, this Simon Commission was thrust upon us, and we thought it better that we should boycott the Simon Commission altogether, and with that purpose, when the Simon Commission was coming to Lahore, we held meetings—several meetings on different occasions—and in those meetings we decided that the Simon Commission should be boycotted and that a demonstration should be made at the railway station asking them to go back; please go back; do go back. We thought that though Government would not want them to go back, if the members of the Commission heard our shouts and knew that we wanted them to go back they might come to a reasonable attitude and may be induced to go back. For that purpose we wanted to have a demonstration, and for that purpose we have been holding meetings in Lahore. We grew more and more in strength something

that was not expected by Government. They and those who wanted to please Government, whether rightly or wrongly, they thought that they had sufficient strength and that it was only a mockery on our part. They said that there would not be a good show, but as we grew in strength, so had fear increased in the mind of Government. They thought, as has always happened with every foreign government, that their information was correct. But the fact was that the people were for boycott and did not want the Simon Commission. When they realised this fact, they first wanted to threaten people with the promulgation of an order under Section 144 of the Criminal Procedure Code, and so an announcement was made that Section 144 with all its provisions would apply to all meetings and demonstrations that would take place in Lahore. But people did not care. We said that as we had made up our mind, nothing could deter us from carrying out our intentions. We said, let Government arrest us. We said, let them send us to jail, but we will break those provisions and express our determination that the Simon Commission must go back. That was the will of the people. So it was decided that the provisions should be broken. When Government realised the fact that the provisions of the Act were going to be broken, they changed their plans. Their first plan was that we should take a permit from the Police for the route that we would like to take. But now being eager to keep their prestige intact they gave a permit themselves without being asked for. There was an announcement by the Deputy Inspector-General of Police pointing out certain roads which we could take and certain others on which we were prohibited from going. However, that was of no concern to us. We held a meeting at twelve o'clock outside Mochi Gate and I should say I would live to be proud of the fact that I was the President of that meeting. In that meeting we asked the people to remain non-violent. We exhorted them to keep non-violent even in the face of opposition. We knew, Sir, that provocation would be intentionally caused by Government, and so we warned the people beforehand. We told them that notwithstanding the strongest provocation that was being arranged to be set up for them, they should still remain non-violent, not to remain non-violent on account of fear, but because that was our principle and we still believed in the efficacy of non-violent methods. If the attitude that was shown by Government officials on the 30th of October is persisted in, I think violence will come in sooner or later. There are others who have so far not agreed with us and are of the opinion that non-violent methods are impotent methods altogether and they believe that people should resort to violence. We may lose our control over that school of thought and that school of thought may snatch away the lead of the country from our hands and then there may be violence. There may be violence, there may be the use of swords, there may be the use of revolvers, and what it may lead to we do not know. And I declare that the responsibility for that will be on the Government, if they persist in the sort of attitude they adopted on the 30th of October. Anyhow, having exhorted the crowd to remain non-violent, we proceeded to the Railway Station and just at the end of the road behind Lunda Bazaar we found that our way was blocked by barbed wires. We did not know whether the Simon Commission was cut off from the town or whether we were cut off from the Railway Station. Anyhow it was the attitude that was taken and the position adopted by the Government did not make it clear whether it was honourable to us or whether it was honourable to the

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Simon Commission. But if on the part of Government the act was considered honourable to ourselves, it was decidedly honourable for the Commission, and if it was a dishonour to it it was the same to the latter. Anyhow we were entirely cut off from each other. Then, as we had already anticipated that Government officials were bound to adopt a provocative attitude and try to get into snare the demonstrators and find an excuse for starting violence on their part, we found that on one side of those barbed wires there was a little gap left just like the one we keep when we want to catch a hare or a mouse putting in a bait in the cage and leaving the hole just big enough for it to go through. Fortunately it was decided by ourselves that the leaders of the procession should instead of following the demonstrators should *lead* the demonstrators as the term denotes. Generally we have seen—and I think my friend opposite, the Honourable Revenue Member knows it very well—that it is not customary for communal leaders to lead the people.

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: Not my experience.

Dr. Shaikh Muhammad Alam: Not his own experience, but he must have heard from his friends, Sir, from those who have been leading communal riots and who have been pulling the wires for these communal riots while sitting in their bungalows. Well, that is not customary with us. We decided that we should be at the head of the procession. The late Lala Lajpat Rai was at the head of the procession along with some of us. I was with him, Sir. When we reached the barrier, we saw the deceitful and the treacherous plot that was being laid for us and for the demonstrators by just keeping that one little space open, so that the people would rush in. We saw the reason why that space was left vacant and therefore some of us proceeded there. Lala Lajpat Rai got to the open side lest the demonstrators should make a rush into it and give excuse to Government officials for committing acts of violence. So it was their plan. I was at the other end. Just when I turned towards the gap, my eyes met a man, a Police officer, a European, whom I did not know before at least by face, catching Lalaji by the collar of his shirt. (Cries of shame).

He had a knobbed stick in his hand and he just thrust it at the heart region of Lala Lajpat Rai. He was beating him and beating him for no reason. I looked at it and I thought it was my duty to reach there. But before I could reach there I thought that the people might become violent on account of this provocation. So it took me a few minutes to advise the people not to become violent and not to be tricked away as it was sought by the Government to trick them into violence. After advising those who were with me at that time, I proceeded to the spot where Lala Lajpat Rai was. But before I reached there I was fortunate enough to receive a blow with the regulation *lathi* on account of the volley which was made by the police constables who were on the other side of the barbed wire fencing. There were head constables and constables who showered volleys and they all simultaneously used these regulation sticks. I got hurt on my hand. I am sorry I did not receive a severer blow than I did. I think perhaps the Government also is sorry that I did not receive a severer blow. There, at any rate, we both agree with each other. If it was the intention of the Government that those who were at the head of the procession ought to

have been beaten more severely, then Government did not realise its wish. And as my wish was that I should have been that fortunate man to lose my life in the cause of the country as Lalaji did I think I am also sorry that I did not receive a severer blow.

Now, what was happening in the corner in which Lala Lajpat Rai was standing? When Lalaji was beaten there were some of his followers, very respectable men both inside this hall and outside it, who wanted to protect the old patriot. I saw Dr. Satyapal and some others just from the backside of the Lalaji trying to cover him like that (gesticulating his arms) and in so doing received blows in their arms. Dr. Satyapal was beaten on his arms. (Interruption) I am told by my friend that I should not forget my honourable friend Raizada Hans Raj. I did not think of making any mention of him because His Excellency is supposed to have seen the injuries on his hand. I thought therefore that there was a better evidence of his injuries on the hand for the Government than mine. The most curious part of it is that the perversity of wisdom of the Government is such that even though Raizada Hans Raj received injuries on the back side of his hand, it was stated that his injuries were due to catching of the barbed wire. If the injuries had been due to the catching of the barbed wire then they should have been on the palm of the hand and not on the backside of the hand. But notwithstanding the fact that the injuries were in the backside of the hand, Government will still believe that he received injuries by catching the barbed wire. That is so far as Raizada Hans Raj was concerned.

Now coming to the events that happened there, it was not a pleasant sight for anybody to see. But it was in a way an encouraging sight. Because we could know from this attitude of the Government officials that Government was bound to lose even that much prestige which it possesses now. The prestige of the Government as we all know, is already shattered to pieces. Government does not possess any prestige now with the people. But if we believe in the elementary principle of political science that no government can exist unless it has got the support of the people, at least forced support of the majority of the people, then all I can say is that the Government is losing even that little support which it has been possessing all this time. As a matter of fact as Lala Lajpat Rai announced in his last public announcement, " every *lathi* blow that fell upon any of the leaders there was really a nail in the coffin of British imperialism." I may even add that if the Government officials oppose my motion to-day, if they do not want even a non-official enquiry, if they shrink from their responsibility of an enquiry, then they are driving those nails deeper and deeper. What happened there? Destiny was laughing over both Lala Lajpat Rai and the prestige of this Government. I thought every moment that probably this prestige will finally die away before the death of the Lalaji. But it so happened that Lalaji died before the final death of this prestige. But if I may quote a couplet

یہہ میں نے مانا کہ آج خنجر ترا گلو بھی نہیں رھیگا
کمو میں قاتل کی اے ستمگر ھمیشہ تو بھی نہیں رھیگا

We could see that the knobbed stick which was being used by Mr. Scott, as a representative of the Government on the chest and near the heart of the Lalaji that knob was not to last for long. It was not to remain long in the

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hands of Mr. Scott or anybody else who would then have liked to be a representative of the Government in that way. What happened afterwards? Afterwards Lalaji got fever and with very great difficulty he was able to attend a public meeting and make his last announcement in his lifetime there. He had fever even at that moment and exhaustion began and we know that finally he died on the 17th November.

We are now in possession of medical evidence that these injuries and nothing else were responsible for accelerating the death of Lala Lajpat Rai. One of those medical officers is an honourable member of this House and this House should at least have so much faith in its own members. Not only have we got the evidence of medical authorities, but we have also got the dying declaration of Lala Lajpat Rai himself. The dying declaration of any person is accepted in any court of law in any civilised country as the best piece of evidence. Lala Lajpat Rai gave his statement to no less an honourable and respectable gentleman than a member of the Legislative Assembly, I mean Diwan Chaman Lal. He told him plainly that he was singled out for this attack by the Government officials. His statement also says that ever since the injuries he has received he has been feeling exhaustion. Finally he was overcome by death. There is thus his dying declaration, there is the evidence of medical authorities, there is the evidence of the injuries on his chest and those injuries were caused in the region of the heart. With all this, may I ask the Government officials that if they think that an offence under section 302 had not been committed, whether even an offence under section 304 of the Indian Penal Code was not committed. Do they think that it is not advisable to institute an enquiry into it? This is then what happened on the 30th October 1928 which event we are discussing to-day just one month after the incident. I am sure that if India were a free country to-day, if India was not a slave country, if India was not ruled by a bureaucratic foreign Government, the death of a person like Lala Lajpat Rai would have decidedly originated a very, very, very bloody war between the two parties, that is between the assailants and those who received the injuries. It would have been a war of greater magnitude than the war of the Pandavas and Kauravas or even the wars of the crusades. We on the popular side have lost a general, have lost our best man, have lost a man who was most dearly loved by every man not only of his own community, but by all communities in this province, a man who is esteemed and respected by every man outside this province, in the whole country. *But, what is the life and what is the death of a slave!* We know what the life and death of a slave is! That has been our fate and our fortune. Nobody has even attempted to make an enquiry into it. An enquiry is said to have been made which does not deserve to be called an enquiry at all. We know that His Excellency the Viceroy has sent a message of sympathy to the relations of the deceased. We know that His Excellency the Governor has here in his speech showed some regret upon his death. We know, you also were sorry for the death of Lala Lajpat Rai. We know that messages of condolence have been sent from various quarters of Government. We have all these sorrows and all these regrets, but no enquiry. Government has not thought it appropriate to hold a proper enquiry into the causes of death of a person for whose death the highest officials of Government have been

pleased to express sorrow and regret. It is not only the case of Lala Lajpat Rai. The question is of so many others too, how they were beaten and why they were beaten? I can assure you that we were able to control large crowds of demonstrators and I am really obliged to the people for having listened to me and remained non-violent in spite of the provocation. Otherwise, if they had behaved differently, I am pretty sure about it, that although the Government might have got some excuse for proclaiming martial law here and probably killed some three, four or five hundred of us, we would also have seen some few white skeletons on the spot. But you will realise, Sir, that so far as the demonstrators were concerned, not a single man was violent, everybody peacefully submitted to the indignities and hardships. Then afterwards what did we hear? We heard that an enquiry was ordered and that the Commissioner of Rawalpindi was coming to hold the enquiry. Without meaning any disrespect to the person of the Commissioner, we already know what the result of that enquiry is going to be. We have lived under this Government for 150 years. If the Government still claims that we are as foolish as we were before, it is no credit to the Government nor to us. We know the ways of the Government and its ways are wonderful and we who have had experience of seeing justice being done in districts know only too well how the magistracy is afraid of the local Superintendent of Police. How can we possibly think that where the Government is involved and the higher Government officials are involved we could expect a poor Commissioner to give justice in our favour or to hold an impartial enquiry? In the beginning there was a departmental enquiry and in that enquiry we know that presumably the assailants themselves were the enquirers. Those who beat the people formed the departmental enquirers themselves. I challenge the Government to deny whether they have not murdered Lala Lajpat Rai? Those persons who are liable to be charged for committing murder were the very persons who constituted themselves into the departmental enquirers. I think we have learnt this lesson from the Simon Commission itself. They were the party forming themselves as enquirers. Here in this case the department itself is the party to enquire into its own conduct. Then, Sir, we know what sort of evidence is being produced before the Commissioner who enquires into this matter. It is all one-sided evidence. Of course, we boycotted the enquiry and we did well in doing so. Although we know that the announcement of the judgment is not yet made, we can very well make a prophecy what that judgment would be. It does not require a Prophet to foretell that judgment. What is the sort of evidence, one sided as it is, that is produced before the enquiry? There comes a legal practitioner who says he is coming from Lyallpur and he alleges to have talked to me when I was exciting the mob to violence. I can tell you, Sir, what I did not want to tell that Commissioner because I had no confidence in that enquiry. I can even swear to the effect that I have never seen that legal practitioner, or his father, or his brothers or sisters, or his grandfather, throughout the whole of my life. I never heard his name. I do not know really wherefrom he sprang up all of a sudden at the railway station unless it was under the magical influence of the police department, or unless he is a candidate for some prosecuting sub-inspectorship—for he did not deserve any better post—unless there was something of that nature, I do not really know how the police had succeeded in laying their hands upon a man like him and

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putting him in the witness box. The man is neither known to me nor acquainted with me. As a matter of fact, I do not know to what caste he belongs. I do not know what name he actually bears. I do not know to what part of the world he belongs, to what profession he belongs, whether he is legal practitioner or not. If a false witness is meant to be produced, then he is only meant to tell lies. He can as well say he is a legal practitioner, because nobody would accuse him of giving false evidence. If at all anybody were to accuse him for perjury it is the Government, but he is giving evidence under the protection of Government. Anybody who makes a false statement in favour of the Government is not a liar. He cannot be prosecuted under section 193, nor any sanction will be accorded for his prosecution. He is quite safe and he can perjure to any extent. The man is quite unknown to me and more than that he is unknown to Lalaji. Just look at the cheek of this witness. He appears and begins to give evidence as if he were a bosom friend of Lala Lajpat Rai and do you believe, Sir, that a man like the witness could even be my friend or a friend of Lalaji? He could not be and was not even my acquaintance! I would not have tolerated to speak to him for one minute. I know that Lalaji also would have refused to do anything with a man of his character.

Then, Sir, what is the other evidence that is produced. A wooden slipper that was alleged to have been thrown by the mob. This is therefore construed as an act of violence committed by the mob. Let me tell you the story, of that wooden slipper, in this House. It was about 10 or 15 minutes after the occurrence took place that I saw a Sub-Inspector of Police in his full fledged uniform running from the scene of occurrence and within three or four minutes he again appeared and as if by a magic he put his hand into his pocket and his hand was out with a wooden slipper, which fell on the ground. I have seen this with my own eyes. He took a wooden slipper out of his pocket and threw it on the ground. I was an eye-witness to it and there and then I addressed the mob about 15 minutes or so after the original occurrence. I said to the mob: Well, here is the evidence being manufactured for you my friends. There is a wooden slipper produced to show that the mob was violent. I may also tell you that I pointed this out to the authorities there and then. But the authorities may not have been physically deaf, but they were literally deaf. They would not listen to anything. As a matter of fact we not only thought that they could not listen, but it also seemed that they could not see anything too. They were as blind as they were deaf. They were blind and deaf on account of the power they possessed, on account of the confidence that they had, namely that they could use their power in any illegal manner, or brutal manner or merciless manner, as long as that was used against the people or as long as it was used in the interest of Government. This is the sort of evidence produced; one wooden slipper that comes out from the pocket of a Sub-Inspector of Police and the witness—may God bless him, may the Almighty Father forgive him—who says before the Commissioner that he is known to us. On this sort of evidence, we are now to expect a judgment to be given by the learned Commissioner. I submit this is a very serious thing. It is a very grave occasion. The gravity of the occasion should be realised by non-official honourable members of this House as much as by the honourable

members who belong to the official side. The story does not rest there nor does it vanish with beating for the moment but it shall be recorded in history for future scrutiny.

Let us now come to the question of arrest and detention of Pandit Peyare Mohan, Assistant Editor of the *Tribune*. He was arrested at the Railway Station and the gentleman who can be said to be indirectly responsible for his arrest, although he is not morally to blame, or criminally to blame, is the honourable member sitting opposite to me and who gave him permit. Poor man, how could he know that this permit was meaningless for him. We know of a conference of certain officers which took place a day earlier and it was decided there as to who should be responsible for issuing permits to press representatives. We know the officer in charge of the Publicity Bureau was made the person authorised to issue permits. He issued the permit of course quite properly, but he did not know what the police would do. The officer who issued the permit thought that Pandit Peyare Mohan would pass as much as any other representative of the Press or as anybody else and so the permit was given to him. When, however, the latter, went there with the permit, he was arrested and detained. He was detained for a considerable time. Sir, under any circumstances, I would submit that it would amount to wrongful confinement, and what is more than that, is another shameful act on the part of the Government. His person was searched, his pockets were examined, his private letters were not only taken possession of, but read, read, Sir, by the officer who took them into his possession. Why? If there was any doubt as to the genuineness of the permit or about the *bona fides* of the person holding the permit, what difficulty was there in enquiring from the official who had issued that permit? Nothing prevented them from ascertaining whether he was the right person or the wrong person and whether the permit was a genuine one or a forged one. There can be no excuse that the officer was not near at hand to be consulted on the point. Every officer of the Government was bound to be there when the Royal Commission was coming. I think it cannot be denied that the gentleman who issued the permit being an official of the Government must have been there. He must have been at the railway station. It could have been easily ascertained from him whether he issued the permit in question. He could have been enquired as to whether he issued the permit owing to some mistake? But no enquiry was made from him. Even if it was not possible to consult personally, they could have had a telephonic enquiry. Even though it is not strictly relevant here, I may mention that during the course of a procession, we were asked at a certain stage on two minutes' notice that we should disperse from that place which we did not obey but anyhow the mounted police and military was called by telephonic message within a few minutes. Though it is not quite relevant, yet I am narrating this to show that the Government, if they wanted it could have enquired about the genuineness or otherwise of the permit even on the phone if they so desired as in the other case. We know they could have had telephonic messages exchanged from one officer to another. We know motors were running from place to place. Everybody was anxious about every detail relating to the Statutory Commission, but nobody seemed to have been anxious about the rights of the people. Everybody seemed to be bent on ignoring the rights of the people. If the Government were to treat the people in that

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way, they would soon abandon their rights to govern the country. No enquiry was made from the officer who happened to be there but after being detained for sometime the Assistant Editor was let off and after being let off, there comes an expression of regret. I have seen that letter which Pandit Peyare Mohan received from the Government and even that letter is very vague and indefinite in its expression of regret. If you read that letter, it comes to this: that facilities were granted to the representatives of the press to be present on that occasion and because that facility has not been given to that gentleman, therefore there is a regret. You cannot make out what the regret is for. Everything is so indefinite and vague. I can very well say the reason which prompted the Government to be so vague. The Government declined to make an admission which could be used against itself or against those officials in cases that might be brought either on the civil side or in the criminal one. Therefore the Government in their so-called expression of regret was not frank. The letter is not couched in frank and straightforward language. Nothing about it is clear and definite, and up till now we are absolutely in the dark as to whether the Government really meant an expression of regret at all. We all know why Lala Lajpat Rai was beaten. It was because he was one of the leaders. We also know why others were beaten. We know how injuries to the hand could be caused by catching barbed wires. We know all about the wooden slippers. We all know how the police concocted the story of violence on the part of the processionists. We can also understand why Pandit Peyare Mohan was arrested and detained in custody. The reason is obvious. Perhaps my friend Pandit Peyare Mohan is present here to-day in the press gallery. You can guess as well as other honourable members what the obvious reason for his arrest is. The gentleman wears Gandhi cap. That is the reason. Is it an offence to wear a Gandhi cap? I tell you, Sir, the only offence committed by this gentleman is the offence of wearing a Gandhi cap. He has suffered too much for it. Well, I do not know, Sir, whether in future he will be wise enough not to rely upon permits issued by Government officers and not to venture to places where wise men fear to tread.

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: That is why an English hat is so necessary. Even the Afghan King has ordered that all should wear hats.

Dr. Shaikh Muhammad Alam: If that were really so, and if an Act is to be passed in this legislature that everybody should wear an English hat, I would be the first to support that Act for the very simple reason, because when I am beating anybody, nobody will take notice of it. They will think that I am an Englishman and that I am immune from all blame for my action. Again, Sir, if somebody comes to beat me, he will see the hat on my head and he will run away on account of the prestige of the hat. I think it is a decidedly useful thing.

Honestly and frankly speaking in this hall, I admit that many of my countrymen although they do not like but hate hats they wear them simply for keeping up the prestige attached to the hat, and therefore the wearing of the hat by itself does not appear to be a bad thing.

Now, Sir, the only fault of Pandit Peyare Mohan was that he was wearing a Gandhi cap ; that has been the reason for his being assaulted.

After all, what do we want by this resolution ? We only want proper enquiry, not an enquiry in which there is no legal help, no court, no procedure, not one with tendencies towards one side or the other. We want nothing more than that. In the circumstances I have described, in the face of the allegations I have made in this open House, I submit it will be up to the honourable members, including the Honourable Ministers and I would say even the honourable members belonging to the official side to clear up the atmosphere and let us know what the truth is. We are not asking for any punishment to-day ; we are only urging for an enquiry. And remember, Sir, the wave of indignation, the wave of contempt and the wave of resentment which is raging to-day in the country is absolutely impossible to stop by any physical force, by the show of arms, by the show of armies or by the show of guns and rifles. The more you make a show of them, the earlier you dig up the grave of your power.

With these few words, I commend the resolution for a proper consideration by this honourable House.

Mr. President : The resolution moved is :

> "This Council recommends to the Government that a committee of non-official members of this Council be appointed to enquire into the conduct of those officials, including Mr. Scott, the Superintendent of Police, who assaulted and beat leaders of the public on 30th October 1928 at Lahore and arrested and detained Pandit Peyare Mohan, Assistant Editor of the *Tribune*, on the same date."

The question is that that resolution be adopted.

Mr. J. G. Beazley (Chief Secretary) : Sir, the Honourable the Finance Member in the beginning of this afternoon in answering a question gave briefly the reasons which dictated the policy of the Government on the occasion to which this resolution refers. Some honourable members were not then present and I may therefore state again the reasons and then proceed to explain the measures which were taken to give effect to that policy of the Government. I shall then examine the various versions of the incident which the resolution is concerned, explain the steps taken by the Government to elicit the truth and finally set out the conclusions arrived at by Government. I must leave it to others to deal with the principles which are now at stake and to explain why the Government are unable to accept the particular proposal contained in this resolution. I must also leave it to others to deal with the contention that the injuries received by Lala Lajpat Rai on the 30th October were the cause of his death. Even so, I am afraid I must crave the indulgence of the House for what must, I am afraid, be a somewhat lengthy statement.

In order to explain the policy adopted by Government with reference to the arrival of the Simon Commission in Lahore on October 30th, I must take the House back to the events of last March. On that occasion it was the policy of the Government to interfere as little as possible with any demonstration whether friendly or hostile and the attempts then made were confined to marshalling the bodies of demonstrators at certain points and to preventing them from interfering with the traffic. These attempts were unsuccessful as many honourable members of this House have good cause

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to remember. Large bodies of demonstrators ignoring the executive orders of the Deputy Commissioner and of the Police actually invaded the railway station enclosure and as it would not have been possible to remove them without the exercise of great force, they were allowed to remain. Similarly on the Empress Road, the demonstrators did not stay on the footpath as directed but rushed on to the road and some of them seriously obstructed the progress of the motor cars in which members of the Commission and others were leaving the station. It was therefore clear that on this occasion if there were not to be similar occurrences, much more stringent precautions would be necessary and that any orders issued should have the authority of the law behind them and should not be mere executive directions. Honourable members who support this resolution may ask what harm would have been done if similar scenes had been re-enacted on this occasion; only some people were then inconvenienced and no one was injured and the members of the Statutory Commission were given the opportunity to learn for themselves in what light their mission was viewed by the people of Lahore. To this, I would reply first that quite apart from the propriety of exposing members of bodies like the Statutory Commission and the Central Committee to such treatment, there could be no assurance that the members of those bodies would not be actually roughly handled by the hooligan element which is present in almost any crowd. Honourable members will, no doubt, have seen in the Press accounts of the hooliganism with which the members of the Joint Conference were recently received at Delhi where the public were permitted to collect in the vicinity of the station, hooliganism which resulted in the breaking of the windows of the car in which a member of the Central Committee was leaving. But this was not the only or the principal reason why the Punjab Government on this occasion decided that much greater precautions were necessary. Circumstances in October were quite different. Some days before the Simon Commission was due to arrive, Government received information which was afterwards confirmed that the bomb outrage which took place in the train at Manmad on the 7th October, that is, only 4 days before the Simon Commission arrived at Bombay, was connected with a definite attempt that it had been proposed to make on the lives of members of the Commission. Again on October 23rd, as every member of the House is aware, that is, seven days before the Commission was due to arrive in Lahore, another terrible outrage occurred at Lahore itself involving the death of 10 and the injury of between 50 and 60 persons. The Honourable the Finance Member in his answer to the question put to him stated that the Government wished to make it clear that they had no apprehension that any person taking part in a purely political demonstration would countenance, much less commit, any outrage and again I would emphasize that no suggestion of that sort is made. But taking into consideration the outrage near Manmad and the outrage at Lahore which showed that at that time at any rate there were in Lahore persons who had been responsible for the most dastardly outrage, and the further information that Government had received that an outrage would be attempted in connection with the visit of the Simon Commission, Government after the fullest consideration decided that it was necessary, that it was essential to take the most thorough precautions for the safety of the members of the Commission. In March last although a large body of Police had been present, the

crowd at the station and on the Empress Road could not without the exercise of a very great force had been controlled or dispersed, and on that occasion, had any evil disposed person desired to throw a bomb, he could have done so at a dozen places without the police being able to stop him. The outrage at Dussarah in 1926 and again this year had shown how easily bombs could be thrown from under the cover of a crowd. And though in March there had been no unfortunate result of the crowd having got out of control, Government could not take the risk of permitting such a situation so favourable to any person who might wish to take advantage of it to occur again. The authorities indeed could reach no other conclusion than that the mere presence of a crowd would provide the opportunity which it was essential to avoid giving, and that it was impossible to allow bodies of such demonstrators in close proximity to the route which would be followed by the members of the Joint Conference on their way from the station. The honourable mover of the resolution suggested that Government had at first poohpoohed the idea of a hostile demonstration, and had been misled into thinking that it would be nothing, and that it was only at the last minute that they got frightened. That is not the case. Some time before and indeed up to a short time before the arrival of the Commission Government had every reason to believe that the political demonstration would be considerable, though that apprehension did not turn out to be true. For sometime obviously, the information received by Government did show that most strenuous efforts were being made by the organisers of the hostile demonstration to assure its success and these efforts were being vigorously supported by some sections of the Press. Many meetings had been held and leaders from outside Lahore had been sent for and had made speeches. It was known that propaganda was being carried on among the students of the various colleges who only a few weeks before at a students' conference had been urged to think and live dangerously. Other propaganda was being carried on in certain districts and emissaries had been sent out to obtain recruits for the demonstration at Lahore on the 30th October. Government also had information that attempts were being made to obtain demonstrators from the railway workshops. Altogether there was every indication that the crowd of demonstrators would be too much to control unless special measures were taken, and it was therefore all the more necessary to prevent such a crowd from creating the opportunity of which any evil minded person could so easily avail himself.

These, then, were the reasons why Government adopted this policy. I will now proceed to explain the measures which were adopted by Government to secure this object. In the first place Government definitely decided to discourage any sort of public reception at the Station, in spite of the desire of various bodies to give a public welcome and to present addresses. Tickets of admission to the Station were therefore limited to representatives of His Excellency the Governor, representatives of the Punjab Government, the members of Committee elected by this Council to co-operate with the Commission and the Press representatives (A voice: excepting one). Government also let it be known through its local officers that it did not desire sight-seers to be present. There remained for consideration the political demonstrators who wished to show their disapproval of the Commission. With regard to these the policy of Government was to

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impose such restrictions only as would secure their object. It was therefore decided not to prohibit public meetings, provided they were orderly, and to permit processions within certain limits. It was considered necessary that processions should not be allowed outside certain limits and that crowds should not be allowed to assemble within the precincts of the Railway Station or on the approach roads to the station. Effect was given to these orders in the order issued by the District Magistrate under section 144 of the Criminal Procedure Code on the afternoon of the 29th. The order, of which I lay a copy on the table, was as follows :—

> "Whereas it appears to be necessary in the interests of good order to regulate the holding of processions within the limits of the Lahore Municipality on October the 30th, 1928, I hereby direct that the public or any member of the public shall abstain from organizing or joining any procession which has not been permitted by the Senior Superintendent of Police, Lahore, within the limits of the said municipality on that day.
>
> Whereas it is further necessary in the interests of good order to control the assembly of crowds in the vicinity of the railway station of Lahore junction, on the Empress and Egerton Roads and the roads adjacent thereto, I hereby direct the public that they shall not assemble within the precincts of the railway station or on the roads abovementioned except at such places as the Senior Superintendent of Police may permit."

It will be seen that the order did not prohibit public meetings, and as regards public processions it prohibited the organizing or joining only of those which had not been permitted by the Police authorities. Wide publicity was given to this order, which was promulgated in the city by beat of drum and copies were posted in various places. The *Tribune* of the 31st, published on the morning of the 30th, published the full text of the order. On the morning of the 30th orders supplementing and not in the least modifying, as the mover of the resolution has stated, supplementing the orders under section 144 were issued stating the limits within which processions would be allowed and announcing that processions and individuals would be held up at a cordon line at the railway station chowk. A cordon of police was therefore placed across the approach roads to the station and at points where the crowd was expected to be greatest, the cordon was strengthened by barbed wire barriers. This was considered necessary as on the previous occasion the crowd had burst through the police and it was thought that by placing barriers it would not be necessary to use so much force as it would otherwise be required to prevent a crowd breaking through again. The barriers in particular were placed along the line from the junction of Railway Road and Landa Bazaar to the railway station. Experience on the previous occasion had shown that once a crowd had got inside the railway chowk, it was impossible to deal with it without the exercise of very great force. The line of barriers was therefore erected with the sole object of best controlling a crowd and not with the object of keeping or preventing the demonstrators from seeing or being seen by the members of the Commission or the Central Committee. A gap, as the Honourable Finance Member has explained, was left at one end originally so as to allow passengers coming from or going to the station to pass, but it had been intended at a later stage to close it with further barbed wire and it was the arrival of the procession before it was expected that prevented this from being done in time. The idea that the gap was left as a trap for the honourable mover of the resolution to fall into has been suggested for the first time, and as the gap was

only four or five feet wide, I am sure he would not have attempted to pass through it in any case (*laughter*).

I have now explained the policy of Government and the measures that were taken to give effect to it. Before I come to the actual events at the barriers, I would ask the House to glance for a minute at the proceedings of those who were responsible for organizing the political demonstration. On the evening of the 29th a meeting which was described in the Press as having been very largely attended, was held outside Mori Gate. At this meeting very intemperate speeches were delivered and it was announced that after an hour's deliberation—I would ask the House to mark this, it was not a hasty decision arrived at on the spur of the moment or in the heat of excitement, it was announced that after an hour's deliberation the Congress workers had decided to take out processions and hold meetings the next day without obtaining the permission of the Deputy Commissioner or the Police. According to the accounts in the Press another meeting was held later on the same night at the Khilafat office at which among others four members of this House were present, and from reports in the press it appears that it was unanimously resolved that in spite of the order of the District Magistrate, the programme of the next day should be carried out without a change.

Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava: Was it before the public meeting or after?

Mr. J. G. Beazley: It was later in the evening. Then on the morning of the 30th a meeting was held outside Mochi Gate to which the honourable mover of the resolution has referred, over which he had, by his own account, the honour to preside. From the accounts of the proceedings received by Government it appears that various speakers said that the orders of the District Magistrate should be trampled under foot, that it was the duty of every true Punjabi to revolt against the tyrannical order of Government, that every member of the audience should defy the order of Government without fail and that the gauntlet thrown down by Government should be picked up. At the same time the speakers attempted to reconcile these views with exhortations of non-violence. The procession left the Mochi Gate about half past one and proceeded by the prescribed route till it arrived at the barriers and the cordon of Police where it stopped. In front of the procession were various leaders and as it happened some of them came in front of the gap to which I have alluded. Government has seen it stated in the press that when on the morning of the 30th the leaders heard that the order under Section 144 had been modified— it had not been modified, it had only been supplemented—when they heard this the leaders decided that their programme should be carried out without any violation of any conditions in the new rules, and that they succeeded in achieving this. If this is so, no responsible officer of Government was informed of this change of plan, and it is difficult to reconcile this claim with the claims that have since been made that the law was successfully defied on this day.

So far I think there is no very material dispute as to the facts, but it is as to subsequent events that accounts differ. It was known to Government very soon that the non-official and the official versions of the subsequent events differed considerably. They therefore ordered a departmental enquiry to be made by the Deputy Inspector-General of Police who was

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absent from the barrier on a tour of inspection when the clash occurred. His report was received on November the 2nd and the account of the events obtained through that enquiry was given in the press *communiqué* that was issued on November the 7th. I place a copy of the press *communiqué* on the table. The account given in the press *communiqué* was as follows :—

> "The incident took place about 2-20 P.M., before the arrival of the Commission; a European Sergeant of Police was attempting to close a gap with wire when he was jostled by the crowd, either deliberately or by pressure from behind, and was knocked down; the crowd pressed forward on to the line of police holding the gap and the line of police was pushed back; reserves of police were brought up from behind and the front ranks of the crowd were warned that if they did not go back, they would be pushed back by force; about the same time several brickbats were thrown by members of the crowd; a European Deputy Superintendent of Police was struck on the helmet and an Indian Inspector was also hit; the crowd refused to get back and some members of it offered themselves for arrest; the police led by their officers then pushed back the crowd partly with their hands and partly by pushing horizontally with their *lathis*. It is possible that a few *lathi* blows were given, but there was no general use of *lathis* in this way; the general method of applying force was by pushing the crowd back; there was no charge of the police; there was no deliberate or unprovoked attack and no individual was singled out for assault; certain leaders of the procession were involved in the scuffle because they were in the front row near the gap and not because they were selected for attack; had force not been applied, the line would have been broken and control lost over the crowd; no more force was used than was necessary to secure control; the actual conflict between the crowd and the police lasted for barely a minute and although there was some excitement for a few minutes afterwards, the crowd then settled down and there was no further conflict of any kind at the barrier."

This was the first official version. What may be called the first non-official version was printed in the *Tribune* of the 31st of October. I will read the following extract of which I place a copy on the table :—

> "The resentment caused by the arrival of the Commission in the teeth of public opposition was further aggravated by the present conduct of the police. They were not allowed to communicate their protest peacefully to the Commission. The demonstrationists' indignation reached the climax and the welkin was cleft with the cries of "Shame, Shame," and "Simon, Go Back." This infuriated some of the easily excible officials and they ran amuck. There was a passage through which the angry officials walked to the site where the processionists were standing and began to use their hunters and sticks liberally. The constables could not, of course, be blamed for following suit."

What I may call the second non-official account was to the effect that the attack by the Police was entirely unprovoked and unwarranted, that it was led by an officer who was said to be the Senior Superintendent of Police, that the crowd was perfectly orderly and non-violent except that it shouted, "Simon, Go Back," that the attack of the officer was purely gratuitous and that the same officer attacked three other leaders.

In neither of these statements is there any suggestion that the incident took place after the arrival of the Simon Commission and its departure from the station. In the third non-official version this allegation occurs. I refer to the statement attributed in the *Tribune* of the 2nd November to the honourable member for the Jullundur-*cum*-Ludhiana Non-Muslim Rural Constituency (Raizada Hans Raj). I read the following extract of which I place a copy on the table.

> "Until about 2-45 P.M., the police, which was present in hundreds within the prohibited area, remained silent spectators; but after the departure of the members of the Simon Commission from the station, they changed their tactics. All of a sudden, a European police officer came to our side of the barrier through the gap, and began to assault Lala Lajpat Rai with a stick."

I may add that the same honourable member is reported to have stated at a meeting held on November 17th that the attack on October 30th was a pre-arranged one and the forethought result of the intentions of the police officer, and that had Dr. Satyapal and other leaders not intervened, the police would have beaten Lala Lajpat Rai to death on the spot. We have now another version given by the honourable mover of this resolution which has not appeared in any other account. This version is that some officer seized Lala Lajpat Rai by the neck and beat him. Confronted with these different accounts which kept on altering, the Punjab Government appointed Mr. Boyd, Commissioner of the Rawalpindi Division, an officer of 28 years' standing, to hold a public enquiry. He had nothing to do with the incidents of the 30th October, he was not concerned with any officers involved or in any of the arrangements made on the 30th October. Public notice was given of the enquiry, which was open to the public and to the press, and was held in the Town Hall, Lahore. Mr. Boyd also issued invitations to Lala Lajpat Rai, to the mover of the resolution, to the honourable member for the Jullundur-*cum*-Ludhiana Non-Muslim Rural Constituency Raizada Hans Raj), and to the honourable member for the Lahore City Non-Muslim Urban Constituency (Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava). None of them accepted his invitation, and only one witness appeared in support of any of the non-official versions. Mr. Boyd's report was received on Saturday, the 24th ond I place a copy of it on the table. It will be seen that Mr. Boyd purports to deal with the allegations which in the *communiqué* of the 7th November were stated to be the allegations so far as they were known to Government, but in the earlier part of his report he deals with the question why the procession was not allowed to enter the open space in front of the railway station, and his conclusion is that the reasons as given in the evidence of the Inspector-General of Police were convincing. He finds that the police did not act unproperly in preventing the crowd from entering the open place. The reasons given are substantially those which I have already explained and I do not propose to cover the ground again, but I think I may observe that Mr. Boyd might well have gone further and found not only that the police had not acted improperly in preventing the procession from entering the railway enclosure but that if it had not so prevented the procession, the police would have failed in its duty and disobeyed the order of the District Magistrate. Apart from this question, the allegations dealt with in Mr. Boyd's report are as follows. I quote from the Report.

Firstly that sometime after the procession had reached the barrier a few members of the police, headed by a European officer, who is alleged to be the Senior Superintendent of Police, Lahore, delivered an unprovoked and gratuitous assault on a certain leader of the procession; *secondly*, that in the scuffle that ensued other prominent members of the procession were assaulted and injured; *thirdly*, that when this assault was delivered the crowd was several feet behind the barrier and that there was no danger that the police cordon would be pushed back; *fourthly*, that the crowd was perfectly orderly; *fifthly*, that no previous warning or order was given by the police; and *sixthly*, that at no time did any member of the crowd throw missiles. Finally Mr. Boyd deals with the allegations attributed to the honourable member opposite, namely that it was not until the Simon Commission had left the station that the collision between the crowd and the

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police occurred, and that the police then made a deliberate attack on Lala Lajpat Rai. The former of these two allegations which are attributed to the honourable member opposite may be cleared away at once. Mr. Boyd finds that it is absolutely unfounded, and it is within the personal knowledge of a number of members of this House including myself that the fact that a scuffle had occurred was known inside the station at least ten minutes before the special train arrived. It has never I think been contended that there was more than one scuffle and indeed Mr. Boyd remarks that the evidence of Mr. Puckle and Mr. Wakefield shows that there was no second scuffle. I think therefore the House will agree that this particular allegation may be dismissed as entirely false.

With regard to the remaining allegations, I do not propose to follow Mr. Boyd through his review of the evidence which he received, but I will state his conclusions. He rejects the story that the police made an unprovoked attack on the crowd as hopelessly improbable and as contradicted by the evidence he received. The only evidence tendered in support of anything like any of the allegations which appeared in the *Tribune* was that of a student, 19 years old, who declared that the affair was started by a European police sergeant, not the Senior Superintendent of Police, but a European police sergeant, who aimed a blow at Lala Lajpat Rai with his hunter and then proceeded to beat the honourable member for the Lahore city Non-Muhammadan Constituency (Dr. Gopi Chand, Bhargava), the honourable member opposite (Raizada Hans Raj), Dr. Satyapal and the mover of the resolution. This is the sole evidence in support of anything like the non-official versions. Mr. Boyd finds that the affair started because a European police sergeant, probably quite unintentionally, was jostled and knocked over when stooping down to fix a barbed wire to a trestle. Up to that time the crowd was orderly, if noisy, and was behind the barrier, but was being pushed forward from behind and the little incident connected with this police sergeant led to a forward surge and in efforts of the police to push the crowd back. The Senior Superintendent of Police at this stage of the proceedings asked permission to charge. This was refused first by the District Magistrate and then by the Inspector-General of Police himself. The Inspector-General who was standing a little away from the barrier went up to the barrier and asked the crowd to go back, but they refused and some one in the front line even thrust his face into Mr. Stead's face and said "You may arrest us. We will not go back," probably thinking that the order under Section 144 had been successfully broken. It was only after this warning that the police including the Inspector-General, the Senior Superintendent and a few other officers began to push the crowd back with their arms and bodies, with *lathis* held horizontally in front of them and in the case of one officer, at least, with short jabs of his cane. "It is quite clear," says Mr. Boyd "that the scuffle lasted one, two or at the outside three minutes." He finds that the police acted with proper restraint and used only reasonable force to push the crowd back. Few blows were delivered with sticks and one of these fell on Lala Lajpat Rai's umbrella. Raizada Hans Raj also was injured but it is not known how he received his injury. In passing I may mention that it is quite possible that he caught the back of his hand on the barbed wire and did not clasp the wire which would have injured his palm.

Raizada Hans Raj (indicating the back of his hand) if this is the palm of the hand then the Chief Secretary is correct.

Mr. J. G. Beazley: As I have already stated, it is quite possible that he might have scratched his hand on the barbed wire. Mr. Boyd also holds it satisfactorily proved that some missiles were thrown on the police from the crowd, but not from the front ranks. On the other hand he can find no evidence whatever that any particular person was singled out for attack. The leaders being in the front rank naturally received some injuries just as the police in the front ranks received some injuries. It is also probable that some of the leaders when they first came near the barrier placed their hands on the barbed wire fence and got them rapped.

Such have been Government's efforts to elicit the facts. If the honourable member who moved the resolution and the other honourable members who support him object that Mr. Boyd's enquiry is one sided, the responsibility lies on those who while alleging improper conduct on the part of the police have refused to appear as witnesses to substantiate their charges. That a collision between the demonstrators and the police occurred is admitted by all, but opinions differ as to the origin and gravity of the affair The official version supported by witnesses, whose credibility there is no reason for impugning, is that the affair was a petty one such as is likely to occur whenever the police is required to control a crowd, particularly a crowd that has been recently urged to break the law. It is denied that more force was used than was necessary and it is claimed that if force had not been used the police would have been unable to execute the duty which had been laid on it of preventing the crowd from entering the enclosure in front of the railway station, an object which it was essential to secure if the safety of the members of the Commission was to be assured. The non-official version begins by asserting an attack prompted by the anger of the police at the demonstration of the public. This is next magnified into an unprovoked and deliberate attack by the police after the Simon Commission had left the railway station, and finally a premeditated attempt by the police to murder Lala Lajpat Rai is invented. As I have already stated, Mr. Boyd finds the suggestion that the police made an unprovoked and unwarranted attack to be hopelessly improbable and contradicted by the evidence received by him. But apart from this evidence, I should like the House just for a minute to picture the scene and I would ask them to recall this picture again when in any subsequent stage of this debate any attempt is made to cloud the issue by appeals to sentiment or other rhetorical devices. Here then is the situation. On one side of the barrier a crowd, the members of which have just come from a meeting at which they had been exhorted to trample the orders of the District Magistrate under foot. In the front rank are leaders, who, from a sense of duty however mistaken, placed themselves in front and are bound if there is any forward movement to come in touch with the police. It is true they had been exhorted to be non-violent, but experience, time and again, has shown that exhortations to non-violence are more easy to give than to follow when a crowd has been worked up into a state of excitement and has been urged to defy the law, and it is admitted, I think, that the crowd was annoyed at being held up at the barrier. On the other side are the police and other

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[Mr. J. G. Beazley.]

officers of the Government and the police has been charged with the specific duty of preventing the procession from entering the railway enclosure. Not only local officers of the police are present, but the Deputy Commissioner is there a short way from the barrier and the Inspector-General of Police himself on his way to meet the members of the Commission at the railway station comes early to see that all the arrangements are ready and in proper order. The local officers know of course that he is present. Within about 200 yards is the railway station. The train of the Commission is due to arrive in about 15 minutes. All the police officers know that inside the railway station the Honourable Members of His Excellency the Governor's Executive Council, the three Honourable Ministers and most of the members of the committee elected by the Council, the Chief Secretary and Secretaries to Government are present. Orders have been given earlier in the day, instructions have particularly been given to the police that provided the crowd remained peaceful, it should be offered no molestation of any sort. In these circumstances, with the Honourable Member for Law and Order quite close and the Honourable Ministers at the station quite close, is it credible that the Senior Superintendent of Police or any police officer who is in his senses would deliberately disobey the specific instructions and would deliberately make an attack on a peaceful crowd. The suggestion is preposterous, and still more preposterous is the suggestion that any police officer would deliberately plan an attempt to murder any recognised leader. I think then the House will agree that however the incident arose, it did not arise in the manner alleged by the honourable mover and the newspapers. I think they will agree after hearing what I have said and after reading Mr. Boyd's report that it is perfectly clear that at one time a situation arose in which the police was compelled to use force. The Inspector-General of Police is clear on the point. At one time indeed as I have said the Superintendent of Police wished permission to charge but this was refused both by the District Magistrate and the Inspector-General of Police and it was not eventually found to be necessary.

I must now just for a minute touch further on the question of the Senior Superintendent of Police. In the earliest version it was stated that the officer responsible for the alleged unprovoked attack was *said* to be the Senior Superintendent of Police and Government has not seen any statement in the Press or elsewhere that any eye-witness actually identified this officer as the Senior Superintendent. The only non-official witness who appeared to support the allegation of any unwarranted attack states that it was not the Senior Superintendent of Police but a British police sergeant. Mr. Stead has testified that the Senior Superintendent of Police left the barrier and came to get orders and did not act on his own initiative.

I should like, if the House will bear with me for a little longer to refer to the subsequent events on the same day as showing that the conduct of those responsible for this demonstration was such as to provoke a conflict with the police. The crowd left the vicinity of the railway station about a quarter past three and went away to the City and through the City and eventually emerged outside through the Lohari gate between half past six and a quarter to seven in the evening. An account of their proceedings is given in the *Tribune* of the 1st November a copy of which

I lay on the table. As it is rather long I will not read it out but will content myself by saying that though the account is exaggerated, it, at any rate, shows a deliberate attempt to defy the order of the District Magistrate and an intention on the part of the leaders and members of the crowd to court arrest, and at a subsequent meeting held on the same evening outside the Mori gate, the members of the procession were congratulated on what was regarded as a successful defiance of the law during the day and a resolution was passed condemning the action of the members of the Punjab Council who betrayed the cause of the nation by agreeing to serve on the committee appointed to co-operate with the Commission. One speaker even said that the time had come when such traitors should be made to answer for their sins. Sir, I have now given the facts as Government believes them to be. I have shown on the one hand, that there was, if not a deliberate attempt to break the law, at least a deliberate intention to provoke a conflict with those on whom had been imposed the duty of enforcing the law. It is true that non-violence had been advocated, but non-violence is of little avail when large bodies of persons who have been worked up into a state of excitement by inflammatory speeches come in contact with the law and I am certain that, if the police had accepted the invitation which was given them on the evening of the 30th by the leaders who courted arrest, a second collision would have occurred. I have also shown on the other hand that the police were required to carry out an order imposed on them by the policy of the Government, in the execution of which they were constrained to use force in circumstances for the creation of which they had no responsibility, and a very senior officer of Government has found that the force used was not in excess of what was required and Government accepts that conclusion. It is always a matter of regret to Government when collisions occur between the public and the police, and on this occasion that regret is greater as persons were involved in the collision who commanded the respect of many. Government can however take no other view than that the police were not responsible for the collision and that they would have failed in their duty if they had not prevented the crowd from proceeding beyond the barrier. Had they failed to do this, they would in fact have been disobeying the order of the District Magistrate which had been approved by the Government. The scuffle itself was of very brief duration and had it not occurred on the occasion of a political demonstration of this sort, it would have attracted no attention and caused no comment (*hear, hear*).

Rajzada Hans Raj [Jullundur-*cum*-Ludhiana (Non-Muhammadan), Rural] Urdu: Sir, to-day I stand before the House not only as a member but also as an accused and as a witness. (A voice: "No as a complainant.") No, it is useless to complain against the present Government.

The incidents of the 30th October are well known but I would like to narrate a few facts in order to convince you first that Mr. Scott knew Lala Lajpat Rai, second that the attack was aimed at Lalaji and that the action of the police was not justified.

[Raizada Hans Raj.]

A public meeting of the students was held on the 28th October in the Bradlaugh Hall. It was addressed by Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya. At this meeting it was decided to rehearse the boycot procession. As soon as the meeting was over a procession was arranged. In the Anarkali bazaar an English Police Officer with three Indian Police Officers were seen coming from the opposite direction. The leaders made way for the car but the students did not do so. The car stopped but still the students persisted in blocking the way. Fearing trouble I made for the spot and persuaded the students to let the car pass. The police officer addressed me by my name and thanked me. After a little while he met us again and addressing me as before asked me the route to be followed by the procession. As I am not a resident of the place I told him to ask some local person. All this happened on the 28th October 1928.

On the 29th October 1928 we came to know that section 144 had been put in force. At an emergency meeting of the workers it was decided to ignore the said section and to remain non-violent; and only people ready to go to jail or even to die were asked to join the procession. This decision of the workers' committee was announced in the public meeting which was held outside Mochi Gate. The following morning after the meeting the procession started with Lala Lajpat Rai and some leaders who were followed by volunteers and people. Unmolested we reached the barrier near the railway station. There was a little opening on one side of the barrier where a cordon of police constables was posted and every policeman held a long iron-mounted staff. Lala Lajpat Rai was old and was not a gymnast that he might have jumped over the barrier. Nor am I a hurdler. We were at the head of the procession, after us came the volunteers who were followed by people shouting "Simon, go back." No one threw stones or used abusive language. I can say so with certainty for at the time I could see both the people and the police. The witnesses too aver that nothing violent took place up to this time. At this point the police officer on duty came towards us and gave two blows with a stick to Lalaji. He was the same officer who had accosted me in the Anarkali bazaar on the 28th October. I was astonished at his sudden and wild action. By keeping Mahatama Gandhi's principle of non-violence always in view such a habit of conforming with it has been ingrained in us that we never even think of violence. The officer who struck Lalaji was a lean fellow and if I had not been an advocate of non-violence or had this incident happened before 1921 I would certainly have struck the man in his face with my right hand; but I extended my left hand to ward off the blows aimed at Lalaji and received three blows. Two blows were inflicted by the same European police officer and one by an Indian constable. The Government admits that sticks were used but it is denied that they caused any serious injury and had my finger not bled they might even have denied this. I am sure that he meant to strike not me but Lalaji and I am positive that if all the blows had fallen on Lalaji he would have died on the spot. Lalaji demanded his name and when he did not give it, called him a coward. We used to read in elementary books that a gentleman was one who did not attack the aged, women and unarmed persons. As that officer had contravened that rule he was rightly

called a coward. The fact that so far nothing violent happened is not only my opinion but also that of Mr. Jenkins. He appeared as a witness and stated that he did not know why blows were struck. None of the police officers who appeared as witnesses state that Mr. Scott had used violent means. Mr. Wakefield stated that one of the police officers did strike and that the person struck could be Lala Lajpat Rai. We allege that we know the person who struck the blow. He is the Senior Superintendent of Police.

Now as to the question whether the beating was accidental or intentional and was definitely aimed at Lalaji or not. There are only two ways of digging out the truth about this. Either the Senior Superintendent of Police should admit it, or, otherwise we must depend upon circumstantial evidence. It is impossible to believe that the Senior Superintendent of Police of Lahore did not know Lalaji. If he did not, he is not even fit to be a constable. The person who is known throughout India and even in Europe cannot possibly have escaped his notice. When he knew such an unknown person like myself how could he fail to know Lala Lajpat Rai? Moreover, an umbrella was held over Lalaji's head by a volunteer. Surely this made Lalaji conspicuous. Besides, every time we needed advice we approached Lalaji. Any one with a little common sense, leave alone some one holding the position for some years of a Superintendent of Police of Lahore, could have guessed that Lalaji was the leader and a man of great importance. All these facts prove that Mr. Scott struck the blows knowing full well all the time the man he was striking.

We did not want the Boyd Inquiry. What we wanted was that the witnesses of both sides should be examined and be allowed to cross-examine each other. This would have thrashed out the truth. If a mistake has really been made it must be admitted unhesitatingly. Previously I thought that it was premeditated to strike blows at the leaders but now I have come to the conclusion that in the excitement of the moment Mr. Scott lost his balance of mind and acted like a mad man. Possibly he thought that when Rai Bahadurs and Sirs and other so-called big persons cringed before him, it would be an easy matter to subdue a common person who had the audacity to lead thousands of men to offer an insult to the great Sir John Simon. The old definition of a gentleman must be revised if a person can attack and torture the aged and the weak or their defenders and can still be called a gentleman. For many years I believed that the Englishman did not tell a lie but now I am obliged to revise my opinion. Every one knows that the beating was uncalled for and unprovocated but still the Government persists in not revising its verdict.

The officials say that the crowd pushed Lalaji into the barrier. This statement is incorrect. How could the people have pushed with such violence and insolence the person they loved and revered so much? The crowd pushed neither me nor Lalaji.

I believed that this regrettable affair happened after Sir John Simon had gone. I got that impression because Mr. Lall, the Assistant Superintendent of Police, and other police officers who were posted at the railway station gate abandoned their posts and came over to see the public demonstration. Because they abandoned their posts and came over I got the impression that Sir John had gone. I may be wrong in arriving at this conclusion.

[Raizada Hans Raj.]

The Government has stated that the crowd was not as large as it was expected to be by the reporters. It is for the first time that the Government have admitted that the reports they received were incorrect. It is our impression that the Government usually receives incorrect reports and acts on them. It has always caused a great deal of trouble. It is our belief that we will attain Swaraj by non-violence. We have neither the intention nor the power to oppose Government with violence. I am ready to trample over the orders of a Deputy Commissioner for to us there is no sanctity attached to them. I was not willing to go to the Governor to give my statement but I had to yield to the orders of my leaders. They wanted me to go and give my statement so that the Government would not have the opportunity to object later on that they never received first-hand information. Like a soldier who obeys the orders of his superior officers I obeyed them. The time for interview with His Excellency was fixed on the telephone by my leader. I was interviewed and His Excellency took down my statement on four pages and also saw the three wounds I had received. He replied that to institute an inquiry was not in his power and that he would place the matter before the Council. I was advised to go to His Excellency because his reputation as a Civil Officer right through his career was one of a fair and just-minded person. But from the time he has ceased to act independently and has to depend upon his ministers that reputation is waning.

Much stress has been laid on the fact that the Government instituted an inquiry into the happenings of the 30th October; but I aver that an inquiry was instituted in Bardoli case also and the taxes so much resented by the people were levied after that inquiry. The people of Bardoli resolutely stood against the decision of the Government and insisted on another inquiry being made and as is well known, the Government has been wise enough to yield to their wishes. Accordingly another inquiry has to be made in the present case and Mahatama Gandhi and Mr. Patel have agreed to co-operate with it. If the Punjab Government were to follow this excellent example set by the Bombay Government we would be ready to place every information in our possession before the inquiry committee. I will also appear before the Committee and give my statement on oath and if I fail to do so the Government is welcome to take any action against me.

In conclusion, I may warn the Government that it should not follow the principle laid down in Manu's Code of Law according to which a Brahmin could do no wrong and he was not to be punished for any crime whatsoever. I am afraid the Government is treading the same path. In its opinion an Englishman is infallible. This mentality of the Government is dangerous and is sure to bring ruin on it.

The Government seems to be very fond of the term "minimum." Whatever it gives to India and Indians is always minimum. The Constitutional Reforms given were no doubt, the minimum; but the force used in the present case was undoubtedly not the minimum as alleged by Government. In the opinion of doctors this has hastened the death of Lala Lajpat Rai and thus Government stands accused of murder in the eyes of the public.

The Government even now has the audacity to say that the force used was the minimum.

With these words I support the resolution and warn the Government that if the inquiry asked for is not instituted the blame will rest upon its shoulders.

Mir Maqbool Mahmood [Amritsar (Muhammadan), Rural]: Mr. President, Sir, the death of Lala Lajpat Rai and the circumstances attaching to it are such that no honest son of India and I would say, no honest friend of India, can help feeling sorry about it, not only sorry but painfully touched about it, and I hope that no assurance is necessary from me on behalf of those of my friends on this side of the House that we are genuinely sorry with regard to Lala Lajpat Rai's untimely and sad death as it is perhaps the greatest shock to the public life of this Province at a time when we needed him most in the interest of Hindu-Muhammadan unity, if for nothing else. Sir, Lala Lajpat Rai's work has already been referred to by you and by His Excellency the Governor downwards, and I do not propose referring to his services to the country at this time and if I am brief in my praise of him, I hope my friends who are responsible for the resolution or who are supporting it will not take the brevity of reference as in any way detracting from my sincere regret on his death.

But on the resolution before the House important constitutional matters are based, and I beg to submit that it is our duty at this transitional stage of the country to forget personalities and the sentimental issues involved and to look at the whole question from a broad statesmanlike point of view. I, Sir, and other friends of mine who have discussed the question have tried to analyse the position. So far as we can see, the position is simple and clear. A certain order was passed by the District Magistrate under circumstances with which this resolution is not concerned. All that the learned mover of the resolution wants is that whatever has been done on that particular day by certain police officers should be investigated by an enquiry consisting of non-officials. In this resolution we are not concerned with the *bona fides*, the equity, the propriety or the legality of that order. That is irrelevant so far as this resolution is concerned. What happens on that particular day? A certain order is passed. The police is charged to execute that order, and I respectfully submit that even if His Excellency the Viceroy had come there to defy the order, it would be the painful duty of the officer in charge to insist that he shall obey that particular order (*laughter*). I hope that my honourable friends who are questioning my statement would take the same broad outlook of the part of the game which they are playing which the author of passive resistance, Mr. Gandhi, took. I would say in all sincerity and in all good faith that if you decide to break a particular law—and I am one of those who believe that it is the legitimate burden of a subject race at times to decide to break the law—but once you decide to take that action you should be prepared to take the consequences. And if you are prepared to take the consequences, why grumble?

Dr. Gopi Chand, Bhargava: We do not grumble.

Mir Maqbool Mahmood: Then why all this?

Dr. Gopi Chand, Bhargava : We do not grumble, we only want that truth should come to light.

Mir Maqbool Mahmood : Sir, the position is this. A law is passed. They decide to break it, and the leaders decide to lead the procession. Would it not be the duty of Government to uphold the obedience of the law? And if in the enforcement of that law some leaders are injured, is the Government to blame or the leaders themselves, who deliberately set out to violate a law of which they had full cognizance? It is tantamount to saying: heads I win, tails you lose. I appeal to the mover of the resolution that as the leader of a responsible party in the House on matters like this he should eliminate the sentimental issue, and should consider the position as a leader of an alternative Government. Supposing he is the Governor of the Province, and promulgates an order that people should not do such and such a thing. The people decide to break the law. What is he going to do?

Dr. Shaikh Muhammad Alam : My officials would not be allowed to beat them to death.

Mir Maqbool Mahmood : Nobody was beaten to death, but I shall come to that later. You pass a law. You know that the law is going to be disobeyed. You charge the Police to see that the law is obeyed, and if you do not have the courage or the energy or the strength to charge them accordingly, you would not be a good leader of Government. I presume that in similar circumstances it would be his painful duty to issue orders that the law must be obeyed. I can assure my learned friend that in my humbler sphere I find there are occasions when we are forced to take action which is not at all pleasant to us, yet with all sincerity of purpose and in all good faith we feel that we must take it. I beg of you to take the same responsible attitude in the present case. A law is passed. That law is defied and people come in all sincerity but unfortunately they come to defy the law. It is obvious that they are prepared to court the consequences of it.

Dr. Shaikh Muhammad Alam : Are the consequences beating or imprisonment?

Mir Maqbool Mahmood : I would say, even death. If I were in the position of the mover of the resolution, with his very sincere expression of feeling, with the eloquent expression of his profession, I would take the consequence even if it meant death. That is the position. And then on that particular day it was open to His Excellency the Governor and the Government to say: "This thing has happened; it is unfortunate, but we will let the law take its course." But His Excellency went out of his way to engage an officer to hold an enquiry. I personally feel that it was a bold and statesmanlike attitude. I would have preferred at that stage of the enquiry that some non-official gentlemen had been associated with Mr. Boyd, for their verdict would have carried greater weight. But unfortunately that was not done. On the other hand, I fail to understand the attitude of my friends who say "you hold an enquiry but we will not come and give evidence, and when you come out with your report we will say that your report is false." I appeal to my learned friends that in dealing with matters like this, when we are passing through an acute transition and when we all of us are more or less agreed on provincial autonomy and

bigger rights, it is our duty to take bigger outlook in matters of responsibility and matters concerning the law and order of the Province.

What is it, Sir, that this resolution asks? It says that a particular enquiry which has been conducted by an officer of Government whose report based on the evidence that was placed before him has been laid on the table of this House, that that enquiry should be ignored and that a new enquiry should be set up. Well, Sir, may I ask, supposing to-morrow the Government appoints two non-official members to hold this enquiry, and they submit their report. What guarantee is there that the report will carry the support of the honourable mover?

Dr. Shaikh Muhammad Alam: There may be non-official members of that type.

Mir Maqbool Mahmood: The leader of the opposition who is the leader of the Nationalist Party would like Government to have men of his liking to hold the enquiry, but then what guarantee is there that the report will carry much weight?

My submission is that in a matter like this broad facts should be brought to light. That has been done by an impartial officer. I am glad to note that not a single member who has spoken has impugned the integrity or honesty of Mr. Boyd. That report is before you. It is open to you to hold another discussion in this Council and even move an adjournment motion on the report and on the evidence that is on the report that requires further discussion. If you feel that certain matters of evidence require going into, it is open to you to have another enquiry.

Mr. President: Will the honourable member address the Chair and not the leader of the Opposition.

Mir Maqbool Mahmood: I am sorry, Sir. In the beginning of my remarks, I submitted that a big constitutional problem is faced. I wish to emphasise it further. I am afraid we in India have to face the transition, and whoever is in charge of Government, be it the present British Government or be it the Swaraj Government which will be installed in this country before long, it is our duty to make up our mind as to the line of action which we propose to take in similar circumstances. I submit, Sir, that, however, painful it may be, it is the duty of the leader of the Swaraj Party to make it clear that in similar circumstances what is going to be their line of action. I would appeal to my learned friend and all those who have spoken on this resolution, I beg of them to indicate the line of action and the line of policy which they want Government to follow on a similar occasion.

It may be urged that greater force was used than was necessary. I submit, however, that this is a very delicate question. Those who are charged with accusations like this, they alone know to judge the particular amount of force necessary. Yet the fact that there was no police firing and no serious injuries on the spot, that shows that after all it was not a serious matter. If on an occasion like this, even small hits are not to be struck and small bruises are not to appear on the bodies of leaders, then it is asking Government to sit calmly and allow the laws to be disobeyed.

The second question is the unfortunate death of Lala Lajpat Rai. I am not competent to give an opinion as to whether his death was due to injuries received. I am equally incompetent to declare whether his death was accelerated by injuries or not. But, whether it was or it was not,

[Mir Maqbool Mahmood.]

I am sure, that even if it was the result of the injuries Lala Lajpat Rai received, still according to the admission of the honourable mover of the resolution himself he received the injuries when he had gone to defy a particular law in all sincerety and good will and when a man of Lala Lajpat Rai's integrity and sincerity was prepared to shoulder the responsibility for his action he must also be prepared for the consequences of his action. I feel that at this stage of his unfortunate death trying to find out who was responsible for his death is only trying to create an atmosphere in the province which I will ask all my friends who want constitutional progress to avoid for the time being. Whether Lala Lajpat Rai died as a result of injuries or whether he died a natural death is now a matter merely of a academic interest. All that we know is that unfortunately circumstances had brought it into connection with the policy leading to the appointment of the Simon Commission without including Indians on it and this was responsible for that great agitation in which even people of Lala Lajpat Rai's sobriety had to lead a mob agitation against all law and order. Therefore, it is up to all friends of progressive reform in the country to try as best as they can to see that such a healthy atmosphere as is now prevalent is not wasted. We should try, even if unfortunately the Simon Commission was appointed without Indians to see that we join forces and forget such incidents in our fight for a bigger cause and try to expedite Swaraj in the country on progressive lines. (Hear, hear).

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang [North-West Towns (Non-Muhammadan), Urban]: Sir, it is unfortunate that I have been indisposed for the last four or five days, and that I am incapable really of making a speech. But I feel I should be failing in my duty if I did not get up and support this resolution. I myself had sent in a resolution (which, however, did not come in the ballot) with respect to the first part of the resolution moved by my honourable friend Dr. Alam. I also sent up a number of questions relating to the second part of this resolution, I mean that part which relates to the treatment accorded to one of the press representatives on the occasion. I want to draw the attention of the Government to certain things in connection with this matter. I am sure that their attention has already been drawn to this matter by speakers who preceded me. Lala Lajpat Rai's death is not an ordinary thing. It is one of the most important incidents of this year and I have not the slightest doubt that it will continue to be a very important incident in the history of India for many years to come. I wish that the Government realised the importance of the occasion. Government should also realise the circumstances in which this death has taken place. I am not a doctor, but I have seen statements by doctors and a connection has been sought to be established between the beating that Lala Lajpat Rai received on the 30th October and his death that occurred on the 17th of this month. Therefore a very heavy onus has been cast upon Government which, I think, it will be in the interest of Government itself to discharge. Definite allegations of murder have been made against some Government officials. Government may simply smile at them. Government may snap its fingers at people who have made these allegations at this moment. But they should not ignore the fact that these incidents have produced an extremely deep impression upon the minds of about 300 millions of people in this country. I do not want to say anything which might in any way be

taken as an inducement or instigation to anything unconstitutional or violent. But, it must have come to the notice of the Government that a lady from Bengal has addressed a very brief appeal to the youth of this country. I have not the slightest doubt that that appeal, if it is not heard to-day, and if something is not done to prevent its having an effect upon the youth of India, is bound to have its effect one day. (Hear, hear). It will be a very sad day not only for the Government and its representatives in this country, but it will also be a sad day for the Indians themselves. It is, therefore, absolutely necessary that Government should do all that is possible to prevent the happening of incidents which might follow upon such appeals if they are repeated. It is, therefore, not only in the interests of the people but, in the interests of Government that an enquiry such as has been asked for should be made. In fact, I may say that the movers of resolutions of this kind have been taunted, and taunts have also been flung upon Raizada Hans Raj and others who have been blamed for having approached the Government. That aspect of the question cannot be totally ignored. There is a class of people who feel that these gentlemen have done something which was not quite consistent with their dignity as nationalists and as non-co-operators. I may say for the benefit of the Government, and I am sure it would be taken in the spirit in which I mean it, that those gentlemen who have sent up this resolution and the gentlemen who have spoken on this resolution asking Government to make an enquiry have really done something more in the interests of the Government than in the interests of their own people. Fancy Raizada Hans Raj approaching His Excellency the Governor and showing his wounds. Does that not show the spir it of good will on his part? Otherwise he would have stayed away saying that it was a very good thing that he was injured, that it was a very good thing that Lala Lajpat Rai, the beloved leader, had been injured, that it was a very good thing that others also who were occupying a position of honour and influence in the society had been injured, that it was a great pity that Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviyya, was not injured, it was a great pity that other leaders who also joined this procession had not been injured. The greater the *zulum*, the greater will be the reaction. That is the way in which non-co-operators and people who want to overthrow the Government would think. I think it is still a sign of good-will that sullenness has not gone to that extreme that the people ignore all such desires for having an enquiry made into such matters. Even my extremist friend, Dr. Muhammad Alam, has come forward with a resolution of this kind and even Raizada Hans Raj has condescended.—I use the word 'condescended' deliberately—to make a speech in this House asking for an enquiry. Just imagine what the result of the defeat of this resolution would be. It would mean that the Government, in spite of the most serious charges that have been brought against it, in spite of the serious charge of murder that has been brought against some of its representatives, is callous and is not prepared to make an enquiry such as the people of the country desire. I am fully conscious, I am fully aware of the fact that an enquiry of some sort has been made, through one of Government's fairly high officers. But you know that one of the most trite maxims of the administration of justice is that you should not only be just, but you should make it appear that you are doing justice. We have often argued in the High Court when we plead for the transfer of a case that it does not matter if there is no bias in the mind of the judge or the magistrate. What is more relevant is

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whether the accused has a reasonbale apprehension in his mind that justice will not be done to him in the Court from which he wants his case to be transferred. I do not say for a moment that Mr. Boyd is not a conscientious man. I have absolutely nothing to say against his honesty or integrity, but that is entirely irrelevant for the purpose of the present resolution. The question is whether the appointment of Mr. Boyd, even such a highly placed officer as Mr. Boyd, will satisfy the people and whether the Government has done all that was necessary to be done in this connection. If the people are not inspired with confidence, the people who are mostly concerned, the people whose minds are agitated at this moment, people who are really straining at the leash, if I may so call it, it is those people who have to be satisfied. Take it from me that had it not been for the pacifying influence of leaders like Lajpat Rai himself and Pandit Malaviyya and others who were in charge of the affairs on that day, the Lahore City would have witnessed scenes which none of us would like to have witnessed. We have passed through difficult times, we have passed through times which we have not still forgotten, and yet those times will not have served as a sufficient deterrent to deter people from doing things which none of us would like to see done in this province. It was due to the influence of those very people who have been wronged, as the allegations go, by the action of the police. Those people ought to be thanked for the prevention of that situation. Indians, no doubt, are a suffering race. They have suffered a great deal, they are still prepared to suffer a great deal. But it should not be forgotten that even a worm turns and here there are three hundred millions of worms. It is, therefore, in the interests of the Government itself that such an enquiry ought to be made. It should be made patent to the people that the Government is prepared to make it plain that it is prepared to do justice, that it is prepared to arrive at the truth by means which would meet with the approval of the people. An enquiry such as has been made might be good from the point of view of the Government, but at that very moment when Mr. Boyd was appointed, if I do not make a mistake, Lala Lajpat Rai himself was perhaps the first to condemn the appointment of an official for making an enquiry into matters involving the conduct of the officials towards some of the leaders of the people.

I have just got a copy of the report. I find in one part of it that the learned writer says that unnecessary fuss had been made simply because some of the leaders of the people were involved in this affair, and that otherwise the affair was of a most ordinary character and nobody would have ever thought of it But it may be remembered that the personality of the people, who have suffered in this incident, is not an irrelevant factor and cannot be ignored or neglected when the Government is called upon to deal with the affair. I was simply surprised to hear the eloquent speech of my honourable and learned friend Mir Maqbool Mahmood sitting to my right. We had heard of the expression out-Heroding Herod. If it was ever applicable, I think it was applicable to the speech and the conduct of my learned friend here. The Government up to this time had not the courage to say that what was done by the officials was perfectly justifiable. It has not been admitted that the allegations that have been made against the representatives of the Government that they used force were true. It has not been urged that these allegations were true and yet we justify the conduct of our officers. "These people were

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looking for trouble, they were courting trouble, and they have got it and, therefore, they have no reason or ground to wail over what they looked for and what they got." That is in effect what my learned friend was saying. He was telling Lala Lajpat Rai: "well, you were a fool to break the law and if you break the law, you must reap the consequences and you have no reason to complain thereafter."

Mir Maqbool Mahmood: On a point of personal explanation, Sir, I never either by imputation or directly suggest that I addressed Lala Lajpat Rai as a fool who should keep within the bounds of law and not break the law. I am sorry that my whole sense and my very words have been mutilated in that way. I beg to make it clear that what I meant was that they must be alive to the possible consequences of their actions.

Dr. Gokul Chand Narang: The position taken up by my learned friend comes to this: I never called them fools, but I only meant to say that they were fools. It does not really make the slightest difference. It is only a repetition of the common joke which honourable members of this House must have heard more than once: "Why do you call me a fool." "I am sorry. I would not call you a fool, but you cannot prevent me from thinking you a fool." This is in effect what the honourable member said about the leaders. He thus tried to bring out the inconsistency of their conduct. He said, 'In so many words, they said that they were prepared to break the law,' I say even here my honourable friends Raizada Hans Raj said: We are not prepared to show any respect for the orders issued by the District Magistrate under section 144 when our duty calls upon us to disobey these orders." My learned friend asks: well, if you are prepared to disobey those orders, why do you wail, why do you cry, why do you grumble, why do you complain when you receive what you looked for. He forgets that he is really making an exhibition or practical demonstration of *mudai sust, gawah chust*. The Government does not take up the position which my learned friend in his zeal to defend the Government is taking up before this House. Let Government say: 'yes, these people went out to break the law and we punished them for breaking the law. If for a second time they defy any orders issued by our District Magistrate or any of our police officers, who shall give them shoe beating. This time we gave them *danda* beating. The next time it would be shoe beating.' I say that would be manliness, that would be frankness. But the Government has not taken the courage to say that they acted in this way. Well, my learned friend is really out-doing Government in the defence of Government itself. If that is the defence that Government adopts, let it say so frankly and then the people of this country would know what they have to look for. When an order issued by a District Magistrate is defied and broken, what are the consequences? It is not laid down anywhere in the criminal law that I have studied so far that they would be given *danda* beating at certain places. All that can be done under the law and under the constitution is that the penalties prescribed in the Indian Penal Code or the provisions of the Criminal Procedure Code or the Police Act or any other law relevant to the matter would be invoked and the punishment which is laid down there would be meted out to those who disobeyed the law. To-morrow a policeman can take a shoe and fling it at Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya and the Government would find a strong and willing supporter in my learned friend Mir Maqbool Mahmood, who would get up and say: 'The Pandit should not have gone there and

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if, having gone there, he got a shoe beating he should not grumble.' That is not the proper attitude to take up. My learned friend has entirely missed the real point in the resolution placed before the House. An enquiry is wanted and in fact an enquiry should have been asked for because Lala Lajpat Rai said that the version of the Government was a 'despicable lie.' He challenged the Government to prosecute him for defaming the Government by using the words within inverted commas. He challenged the Government to prosecute him for whatever they wanted. There are many people who consider that the verdict of Lala Lajpat Rai and the version given by him should have been taken as the final one and the country would have been at one with him. In fact, the honourable mover of this resolution and others who sent in notices of this resolution really did a favour to the Government that they gave it an opportunity to clear its conduct. Otherwise, unless a body is appointed such as is asked for in the resolution and unless that body makes an enquiry and unless the result of that enquiry is contrary to what Lala Lajpat Rai said, the people will continue to believe that what Lala Lajpat Rai said was perfectly correct and true. It is for the Government to meet that charge and the sooner it does, the better. I would submit that it has been asked for that non-official members should be appointed in this inquiry. In my resolution, I said that there should be not only non-official members of this House, but that they should be legal practitioners as well. But that resolution did not succeed in the ballot and, therefore, it is open to me now to say that if the Government by any chance accepts this resolution, as I think it ought to if it were wise enough, it should take care that among the members that it appoints to carry on that enquiry there should be at least two legal practitioners. Let them choose their own men, but let two out of the three be legal practitioners. Otherwise even if this resolution is accepted and three non-official members are appointed to institute an enquiry, even then there would be a chance of condemnation and criticism of the Government. They may say that the Government have appointed people who are Government's own men and who are always to be relied upon by the Government to support their own version. It is to the interest of Government that people who command confidence of the people should be appointed to carry out the inquiry. That is so far as the first part of the resolution is concerned.

With respect to the second part, I have much pleasure in supporting that part also. There are many black sheep, unfortunately too many, in the Press. Yet it cannot be ignored that the Press is an important factor in the economy of every country. It has been called the fourth Estate and the representatives of the fourth Estate have it as their due that they should be treated with courtesy and consideration. They are, in fact, as respectable members of the society as any honourable member of this House, in fact, as respectable as some of the members of the Executive Government itself. It was, therefore, extremely improper for a representative of the Government that a gentleman who had held a pass issued by the accredited agent of the Government should be caught hold of and should be put under arrest and taken to the *thana* where he should be made to squat on the ground and searched and even his private letters should not be spared. I have information that even a letter which he had received from his wife—I hope he will forgive me for mentioning this—was searched and read by the police (Shame). That is really a

conduct which deserves the severest condemnation and reprehension. In spite of the fact that this matter has been brought to the notice of the Government now for the last four or five weeks, so far as I am aware, the Government has done nothing to redress the wrong done to a gentleman who represented the Press. I know that Government expressed regret. The Government did express a regret through its Chief Secretary, but so far as I am aware that regret has not been considered sufficient. I appreciate the conduct of the Government so far as it goes that it had the frankness and the courtesy and the gentlemanliness of apologising to the gentleman for the misconduct of one of its representatives. It is necessary in order to put a stop to a repetition of such things that something more than mere expression of regret should have been done in this matter. I have not the slightest doubt that if a committee of enquiry is appointed and the committee finds that the allegations made by the gentleman insulted in this way are correct, then the Government will not be slow in making full amends for the wrong done to Pandit Peyare Mohan.

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow (Finance Member): Sir, speakers on the Government side have given an account of the events of the 30th October, of the proceedings prior to that date and of the sequel. It remains to state the attitude of the Government in opposing this resolution. Government has already been at the greatest pains to ascertain how far the allegations that the police behaved improperly in the discharge of their duty were justified. Raizada Hans Raj saw His Excellency on the early morning of the the day succeeding the occurrence. His Excellency, after hearing what he had to say, gave an assurance that the matter would be enquired into. Obviously if the facts were to be ascertained, an enquiry had to be instituted at the earliest possible date. In pursuance of His Excellency's assurance a departmental enquiry was held. Now, as a result of this departmental enquiry it was found impossible to reconcile the allegations in the Press with the result of the official enquiry. The Punjab Government, therefore, decided to appoint a very senior officer who had absolutely no concern with any part of the arrangements for the reception of the Statutory Commission and who is entirely unconnected with any of the officers whose conduct was complained of. The enquiry was a public one. It has held in the Town Hall of Lahore. The proceedings were open to the public and to the Press and Mr. Boyd, the officer detailed for the enquiry, gave every facility to the Press and indicated to them the time and the date on which the official evidence would be taken. Moreover, he sent individual notices to those persons leading the procession whom he believed to have been eye-witnesses of the events. The latter, however, refrained from appearing or from giving evidence and presumably dissuaded others from doing so. At the time Mr. Boyd commenced his enquiry events were fresh in the minds of those who had witnessed them. The issues were comparatively clear and had not been complicated by the charge of murder which has since been advanced. Circumstances have now changed. A month has elapsed since the incident took place and even if this resolution were to be accepted, further delay must occur before further evidence could be recorded. In the meantime the issues have been obscured and exaggerated to such an extent that it would be impossible for fair and impartial evidence to be given. In the statement of events which we have heard from the Government side instances have been given of the way in which the accounts of the matter have been altered so as to be almost unrecognisable. What was originally alleged to have been

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at the worst an unprovoked attack by a Police officer or officers has now become a charge of a pre-conceived plan of murder; what was originally a vague assertion by some person unidentified that some one, who was said to be the Senior Superintendent of Police, had committed an unprovoked assault, has now become a definite charge that the Senior Superintendent of Police, Lahore, planned and executed the death of one of the leaders. A further instance may be given of the way in which events subsequent to the 30th October have operated to prevent the incidents being viewed in their proper perspective. In the *Tribune* of November 1st in a description of the demeanour of the leaders after the alleged assault of the police it is reported as follows: 'Dr. Gopichand laughed and said that he thoroughly enjoyed the first gift of the Simon Commission.' Again, in the issue of the *Tribune* of the 8th November, the same Doctor is reported to have said that he had developed traumatic pleurisy owing to the blow received by him at the station. In the issue of the same paper, again, on the 21st November, the Doctor is reported to have issued a statement in which the following words occurred:

"I was with Lala Lajpat Rai at the time of the beating on the 30th October. The beating was so severe that I was stunned by my injury on the head and did not at that time know where I was struck. It was really a miracle that Lalaji did not succumb on the spot."

All these three statements cannot be correct and the difference between them serves to show how after-events have magnified a trifling matter. In such an atmosphere it is hopeless to expect that impartial testimony will be given, however impartial the tribunal may be. And as regards the tribunal which this resolution, if accepted, would set up, from which part of the House and from which party will it be possible to find members who have been totally unaffected on the one side or the other by the events of the past month? Sir, the demand for a fresh enquiry is prompted more by the desire to make political capital out of an incident in itself of little importance than by any hope of such an enquiry bringing forth fruitful conclusions. Government offered to those who alleged that the police had abused their powers facilities for substantiating the charge. These facilities have been deliberately ignored. Presumably if those who complained had a good *primâ facie* case to substantiate they would have welcomed the early opportunity of doing so. While it is the duty of the Government to protect the public against the abuse of power by public servants it is no less the duty of the Government to protect their officials from victimisation, whether those officials be Indians or Europeans, whether they belong to the Imperial services or to the Provincial services and whether they are officers, or rank and file. All are deeply affected by the principles at issue. These principles are clear and may be briefly stated. Firstly, are individuals to be left to decide for themselves whether the law shall or shall not be observed; secondly, is the principle to be imposed on officers of Government acting in the discharge of their duty that the law shall be enforced against some and not against others; thirdly, are Government officials to be protected so long as they perform in good faith their duties and do not exceed them or are they to be treated as pawns in the game of politics. The replies to these questions go to the root not only of good government but of any government at all.

Chaudhri Zafrullah Khan: [Sialkot (Muhammadan), Rural]: Sir, the honourable mover of this resolution might have been well assured in advance that the resolution about to be moved by him would raise questions of the gravest importance, and he might have given credit to the members of this House that they would apply their minds to the questions raised without any of those considerations which he has condemned and, therefore, might well have spared the members of this House the lecture with which he introduced his resolution. He might also have spared us the threat that whether the term of this Council is extended or not, those of us who have the honour of being elected members would at some time or other have to face our constituents. Whether the elections are to be held sooner or later I am sure that all honourable members of this House at all stages try to discharge their duties towards their constituents honestly and after grave deliberation. If he has any doubts on the point, I shall assure him so far as I am concerned, that whatever I have to submit on this resolution will be submitted in the spirit which he required of the non-official members. On both sides, Sir, speeches have been made which have to a certain extent discussed the actual events of the 30th October and also the merits of the question as to whether the Police were or were not justified in the action which they took on the afternoon of the 30th October. I will not say that those parts of the honourable member's speeches were not relevant to the resolution. All that I wish to submit is that in the view which I take of this resolution, it is not necessary for me to enter into the merits of that question. No doubt in speeches made from some parts of the House aspersions were cast upon certain officials and Government members may have felt it their duty to clear the situation by stating the facts. But, so far as I can see, this resolution simply asks for an enquiry to be made into the events of the 30th and therefore, I consider it more prudent not knowing which way the decision of the House might go, not to enter into a discussion of the actual occurrences of that day. For, unless one were to prejudge a question which is sought to be submitted for enquiry one could not express one's opinion on one side or the other as to the facts related as to which of them are true and which are open to doubt. The situation here is that grave allegations are made on the one side by honourable members who were present on the occasion referred to. These allegations are not accepted on the Government side on information elicited by Government with regard to those occurrences. I have on a previous occasion submitted with great respect that honourable members of this House cannot arrogate to themselves the functions of judicial officers and cannot, on statements made on one side or the other, pronounce a verdict as to the correctness of the facts stated. I have no reason to doubt the statement of facts made on one side or the other; I do not say that this or that is incorrect, but all that I say is that my training as a lawyer has taught me that it is extremely unsafe without hearing both sides and subjecting them to cross-examination to arrive at any conclusion as to which part of the story is credible and which false. But the gravity of the situation cannot be denied and perhaps it would be just as well to state that on general principles—and I am sure Government themselves would not deny—the bitterest enemy of the Government is entitled to just as much protection as their staunchest supporter. Lala Lajpat Rai occupied a unique position in the country and in the hearts of its people. But, even in the case of the humblest citizen Government would admit that it is their duty to accord him the fullest

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amount of protection. And Government would no doubt also admit that in case facts were as they are stated, in case it is established that there was an unprovoked and unjustifiable assault by the police on innocent citizens, the person who was responsible for that assault, whether a superior officer or merely one of the members of the police force would be deserving not only of the gravest censure, but of the severest penalties. With regard to this, there could be no doubt whatever. But the question before the House is whether the principle of this resolution as it is put before us should or should not be accepted. The resolution, to my mind, in the first instance assumes certain things which in the same breath it requires a non-official committee to enquire into. The resolution is not worded merely so as to require that a non-official committee should be appointed to enquire into the incidents which took place on the afternoon of the 30th October near the railway station. It first assumed that certain officials, including Mr. Scott, Senior Superintendent of Police, assaulted and beat leaders of the public on the 30th October 1928 at Lahore. Mr. Scott is thus specifically included among those officers who assaulted and beat the leaders. The House must accept that as correct before it requires an enquiry into the circumstances attending the alleged assault. That allegation may or may not be correct and as I have already stated, I would not assume the position of a judge in order to pronounce an opinon as to its correctness. But that is a statement of fact which you want to induce the House to subscribe to as correct, by means of this resolution, and at the same time you require its correctness to be enquired into.

In my opinion, therefore, in the first instance the resolution assumes certain things which if the object of the resolution really was to induce the Government to take steps to elicit the truth, it ought not to have assumed. In the next instance the real question is this: whether under the circumstances that have happened this resolution is or is not justifiable and should or should not be accepted. There is no doubt that if at the outset when an enquiry was ordered some non-officials had been associated with Mr. Boyd it might have given greater satisfaction to the House as a whole, especially to that part of the House which is in favour of the acceptance of this resolution. The question is whether, that not having been done and events having proceeded in the manner to which I shall presently allude briefly, some further enquiry need be ordered into this affair. Before I proceed to state my views with regard to this aspect of the question to the House, I may state at once that in what I am about to submit I am not at all influenced one way or the other by the findings arrived at as a result of the enquiry already held by Mr. Boyd. Those findings are good upon the evidence submitted to Mr. Boyd, and if any member of this House, no matter from which side he was selected, were asked to pronounce his findings upon the materials placed before Mr. Boyd, he would most certainly have arrived at the findings which Mr. Boyd has arrived at. There is no allegation that on the evidence placed before him, Mr. Boyd has erred in any way. On the other hand, there is no doubt that the evidence placed before Mr. Boyd was not complete in the sense that all parties or all points of view were not represented before him. Therefore, without the slightest doubt with regard to the impartiality and the earnest desire

of Mr. Boyd to arrive at the truth, it cannot be denied that so far as those findings are concerned, no doubt they are findings which could not but be arrived at on the materials before Mr. Boyd, that they do not completely set at rest the questions involved. But then, Sir, the question is where does the blame lie and what is the further remedy? Is the remedy provided by this resolution and should the resolution on that score be accepted? With regard to the enquiry conducted by Mr. Boyd, one or two objections have been put forward, and before forming any views on this resolution I have listened with interest and with particular attention to those parts of the speeches of my honourable friends who have supported this resolution where they demonstrated to this House why the enquiry by Mr. Boyd was boycotted. Were there sufficient reasons to doubt the *bonâ fides* either of the Government in appointing Mr. Boyd, or of Mr. Boyd, in conducting an enquiry, it would have justified those gentlemen who were aggrieved over the incidents of the afternoon of the 30th October in boycotting that enquiry. If I had been satisfied on that point, it might be that I would also have been of the opinion that there being good grounds to question the *bonâ fides* of the Government or of Mr. Boyd, a further enquiry was necessary. Now the first thing that was put forward as to why full material was not placed before Mr. Boyd, was that some of my honourable friends have had experience of this Government for a long time and they knew beforehand what the findings would be. In plain words, the charge is that they knew that the Government was dishonest in appointing Mr. Boyd to make an enquiry, and that Mr. Boyd would act dishonestly in conducting the enquiry and in giving his findings. Now, Sir, that is a very grave charge to make and easy enough to make; but not the slightest consideration has been put forward to induce the House to believe that that charge has any foundation. It has been said: 'Oh, we all know that subordinate magistrates are influenced in the discharge of their duties by the District Magistrate and by the Superintendent of Police, then how was a *poor* Commissioner—that was the expression used—how was a *poor* Commissioner expected to do justice.' My reply is that it is not a subordinate magistrate who was appointed to conduct the enquiry. The officer appointed to conduct the enquiry is a senior officer of Government with 28 years of service at his back and in whose antecedents there was nothing to raise the slightest suspicion that the enquiry conducted by him would not be perfectly fair, and that the findings arrived at by him would not be perfectly honest.

Another objection taken to Mr. Boyd's enquiry was that honourable members want an enquiry where they can offer themselves for cross-examination and where they can cross-examine witnesses put forward by the other side. But I understand that the enquiry conducted by Mr. Boyd was an enquiry of that description. It was a public enquiry and witnesses were examined and could have been cross-examined, and if the other side had chosen to put forward witnesses, they could have cross-examined the opposite side's witnesses and could have submitted themselves to cross-examination. I cannot see how a point can be made on that score against Mr. Boyd's enquiry. If honourable members wished to cross-examine the other side and be cross-examined themselves, they should have gone before Mr. Boyd, where they would have achieved what they desired, in this respect.

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Another objection put forward by another honourable member was that the principle which you have got to observe in these things is that you must not only do justice, but that you must also appear to do justice, and that in the High Court transfer applications are every day argued on the ground that a magistrate may be entirely unbiassed, but that the accused person has a reasonable apprehension that justice will not be done to him by that particular magistrate, and that, therefore, the case should be transferred from his court. I do not admit that that analogy applies, but even if it does apply, my honourable friend is perfectly well aware of the principle that the apprehension which is put forward must be a reasonable apprehension.

Dr. Gokul Chand Narang: I used the words reasonable apprehension.

Chaudhri Zafrullah Khan: But here no apprehension of any sort has been put forward, apart from the consideration that the officer appointed to conduct the enquiry was an official. If that were a sufficient ground for cases to be transferred from different courts, then I am afraid no case ought to be tried by any magistrate, because they are all officials appointed by the Government. Is that a reasonable apprehension? There was nothing at the time when Mr. Boyd was appointed to conduct the enquiry which could have raised a reasonable apprehension in anybody's mind that justice would not be done.

The next point is this. It is not that the Government is trying to suppress the truth. The Government at the earliest stage appointed an officer of the description of Mr. Boyd to conduct the enquiry, a public enquiry, an enquiry at which both sides were invited to put forward their evidence and were given every facility to do so. Now, nobody will deny that the matter was of the gravest importance, and if the allegations made on this side of the House are true, then questions of the first importance were raised not only affecting the liberty of the subject, but also as to very high-handed action by certain Police officers who deliberately and consciously attacked the person of a leader who was beloved in all quarters of the country, who was held in the highest esteem, who has been described and truly described by the honourable mover of this resolution as their general. Such questions being involved it was not only in the interests of the gentlemen who are alleged to have been assaulted, but it was in the interests of the liberty of the people of this province, that they should have put forward all the evidence available before the Commissioner which might enable him to arrive at the truth (hear, hear) and by failing to put forward that evidence and by, as a matter of fact, organising a boycott of that enquiry—if their allegations are true—these gentlemen have done a grave dis-service to the country and the people of this country in suppresing or keeping back matters which they should have put forward. If they had gone to Mr. Boyd and if he had not believed them, what would have happened. I cannot imagine why, if Lala Lajpat Rai or Raziada Hans Raj or Dr. Muhammad Alam and other gentlemen who were actually present on the scene of the occurrence and had seen these things with their own eyes had gone to Mr. Boyd and submitted themselves to cross-examination, their evidence in regard to facts should not have been believed (hear, hear), and if it had not been believed, then my honourable

friends would have had the strongest case to censure the Government on that score, namely, that wrong findings had been given, and that statements of fact made by eye-witnesses of the standing of the gentlemen whom I have named were not believed as against the word, let us say, of officials, simply because one side happened to be officials and the other side happened to be non-officials. That reason would never have appealed to anybody. It may or may not have appealed to Government, I have no reason to think that it would have appealed to Government; even if my honourable friends think that it would have appealed to Government, it would not have appealed to the country. It would not have appealed to the nations outside India. And at that time my honourable friends would have had an irresistible case to ask this House to condemn Mr. Boyd's report. I am sure all parties in this House would then have joined in condemning that report. Having kept away from that enquiry for reasons which have not been stated—and those that have been stated, I have already tried to deal with—my honourable friends have deprived themselves of the opportunity of censuring the Government and censuring the police for having delivered an unprovoked assault upon members of the public. By so acting they have done, as I have said, a grave dis-service to the country.

Now, the question arises, they having not availed themselves of that opportunity, should a further opportunity of the description suggested in this resolution be provided to them or to those who were aggrieved over those incidents. Here, again I remember my honourable friend's caution that we must pronounce our opinion after grave deliberation and not be influenced by any party considerations or communal considerations. I do not see what party considerations or communal considerations could have arisen over this matter, as the persons aggrieved and concerned in those incidents are alleged to belong to all communities and all parties. We must, however, approach the consideration of this question with that sense of responsibility which must never be divorced or separated from any question of this nature that is discussed in this House. I cannot see in what way the Government has erred in the matter of appointing Mr. Boyd to conduct this enquiry. I cannot see any justifiable ground on which that enquiry was boycotted and, therefore, I cannot persuade myself that I should support this resolution pressing on the Government to institute another enquiry.

I am strengthened in this view by the fact that I have a suspicion that the desire underlying this resolution is not solely to elicit the truth. If that alone had been the desire of the honourable mover and the supporters of this resolution, they would not have let slip the opportunity which was afforded to them. In any case, as has been revealed during the course of this debate, there are further difficulties and the honourable members who have supported this resolution have alluded to those difficulties and have betrayed a clear anxiety to hedge in the terms of the resolution by asking that the non-official members to be appointed to conduct the enquiry asked for must be of a particular class or of a particular description, for instance, that they must be such as command the confidence of the country. Now, who can be said to command the confidence of the country. Of course the honourable mover of the resolution and his supporters in the country have decided that the police was to blame. The country we are assured has decided that the police acted in a manner which makes their

[Chaudhri Zafrullah Khan.]

action not only criminally liable, but liable to the highest penalties provided by law. That is what we are told the country has decided. So, naturally any member of this House who does not take that view does not command the confidence of the country and of the people. If he does not command the confidence of the people, he must not be put on this committee. If you put any such member on this committee, then the committee would not be accepted and another resolution requiring another committee will be placed before the House. After all this resolution is a recommendation to the Government that a committee should be appointed, presumably meaning that it is the Government that should appoint the committee. If the selection of Government with regard to Mr. Boyd was not approved of, I have a strong suspicion that the selection of the Government even out of the non-official members of this House would not be approved of and this suspicion is confirmed by the demand put forward by the honourable mover of the resolution that the non-official members of this House appointed on the Committee should be those who command the confidence of the country, in other words, that of the honourable mover and his supporters. Another honourable member has suggested that if two out of the three members of this committee are non-lawyers, even then the Committee will not command the confidence of the supporters of the resolution. Then, where are you to stop? I, therefore, say that the expressions employed in the speeches of the honourable members confirm me in my suspicion that the object of the resolution is not merely to elicit the truth and generously to afford an opportunity to Government to clear their own position and the conduct of their officers, but it is, if my honourable friends will forgive me for saying so, a part of the political game. I do not say it is not legitimate. I do not say that it is not constitutional. It may be perfectly legitimate and constitutional. But the object underlying this resolution is to make political capital out of the situation rather than to enable the Government and the country to arrive at the truth. If the House does not support this resolution, then the matter must rest where it is, and if the matter rests where it does, then the blame does not lie on the police or the Government, but on those who have brought about the present situation and have kept back the evidence, may be, perfectly good evidence, which they could have placed before Mr. Boyd. Besides the matter need not rest here as my friends have pointed out. The circumstances we are assured are such that the matter can be taken into court. The evidence is such that ordinarily the courts would not disbelieve it. If that is so, the judicial tribunals of the country are open to the persons aggrieved. It may be that as to the criminal courts a fear may be entertained as was expressed by the mover that the magistrates are influenced by District Magistrates and Superintendents of Police. But surely the civil courts of this country have long been independent of the executive. There are honest civil judges who may be relied upon to give an impartial judgment upon evidence submitted to them and in the shape of suits for damages, this question may be tried in the civil courts. Perhaps the damages awarded may not be adequate for the injuries suffered as we are told that the injury is not merely personal, but is in a sense national. But once favourable verdicts have been obtained, it would be open to honourable members to move a motion of censure on the conduct of the officers concerned. In such an event no member of this House would grudge support to such a motion.

With regard to the second part of the resolution, the honourable mover's grievance was that the regret expressed by the Government is vague, and that one does not know what the regret is expressed for. I am not aware of the terms of the letter addressed by the Chief Secretary to Mr. Pearey Mohan Dattatreya. But I have before me the answers given to certain questions by the Honourable Finance Member this afternoon in this House. Those answers clearly explain what the situation is and at the end of the answer to Question 1570,[1] the Honourable Member clearly states " The Punjab Government regrets that this incident should have occurred and has expressed its regret to the Editor of the *Tribune*." Now the facts are all admitted there. The mistake of the Assistant Sub-Inspector of Police is also admitted. An apology has been tendered and it has been notified to this House. If honourable members think that that is not sufficient, their course is not to ask for an enquiry. What do you ask an enquiry for with regard to the second part of the resolution ? The facts have been stated. If Mr. Pearey Mohan Dattatreya chooses, he may go into court for damages. An enquiry of the sort asked for in this resolution will not award damages to him. At the most it can only apportion the blame. On these considerations, my opinion is that apart from the merits of the incidents of the 30th October, no case has been made out for another enquiry. I, therefore, submit that the resolution ought not to be accepted by this House. (Cheers).

Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava [Lahore City (Non-Muhammadan), Urban (Urdu) : Sir, before I proceed to give my reasons in support of the resolution now before the House, I want to make clear one misunderstanding. It has been said, in a surmonising tone, that when we decide to disobey certain order promulgated by a representative of the Government, we should be prepared for the consequences that follow that disobeyance, and that we should not grumble over the injuries that we may receive at the hands of the so-called custodians of law and order. As to that I may at once say that we do not grumble over what happened at the railway station on the 30th October and I may go a little further and say that if the intention of the honourable mover of the resolution had been to ask for the redress of our grievances against the conduct of the officers of the Government, I would have been the first person to condemn such an intention in strongest possible terms what to say of supporting the resolution. I, as a non-violent non-co-operator, am always prepared to disobey the order promulgated by any officer of the Government if in disobeying it I honestly feel I shall be doing a service to my country and its people, and if I may say so, I invite the consequences of disobeying such orders. Under the circumstances, there is no reason to imagine that this resolution has been moved with a view to give vent to our grievances. No doubt the injuries that I received on that occasion were serious as I stated shomewhere else soon after the occurrence. I was stunned on the spot by the blows aimed at me and even up to now my heart begins to palpitate if I try to ascend a ladder. But all the same I enjoyed the beating very much and I will say, paradoxical, though it may appear, that if the beating had been more severe, I would have enjoyed it all the more. My own belief is that severer the injuries we receive at the hands of the bureaucracy, the sooner we shall reach the goal we have in view. I may mention, in passing that I raised my voice against the conduct of Police officers not because Lala Ji, whom I revered as my *Guru*

[1]Page 159 *ante*.

[Dr. Gopi Chand, Bhargava.]

and who held a unique position in this country, was concerned in the affair. I would have done the same thing if an ordinary individual of my country had received such injuries.

It has been argued by some that an open and public enquiry was held by the Government in order to sift the truth with regard to the incidents of the 30th October, and if we did not avail of that opportunity, the fault lies with us. It has been further alleged that by demanding another enquiry our primary object is to make a political capital out of this trivial and unimportant affair as they call it. That allegation, I may say, is absolutely unfounded. It is farthest from our minds to gain any political advantage out of this affair. We did not appear before the officer appointed to enquire into the matter because we knew that he belonged to the party against which we were pitched in a sort of battle. He could not be the proper judge of our actions. It is only public, for the service of which we have dedicated our lives, that can rightly judge our actions. And the public had seen with their own eyes what actually happened on the occasion of the arrival of the Simon Commission. In fact, no enquiry was needed. But there is a set of persons who, according to the proverb—give the devil his due—were of opinion that an opportunity should be given to the Government to justify the action of its officers. It is with that view that I have risen to support the resolution. I wish I had avoided speaking on the resolution because I was one of the persons assaulted, but I thought I would be failing in my duty if I were to keep quiet over it. Conflicting statements have been made with regard to the incidents on the Government side. The Inspector-General of Police has stated that no *lathi* blows were given, but Lord Peel, who is sitting at a distance of thousands of miles from this place, has admitted that *lathi* blows were undoubtedly given, but the injuries received by the persons aimed at were slight. We want these conflicting views to be reconciled if Government cares to pacify the public. Our allegation is that injuries were severe and as I have stated somewhere else, it is my conviction that the death of Lala Lajpat Rai was accelerated by those injuries. Let those who do not believe it give me a *lathi* and let them allow me to strike with it one of their stoutest men to see whether the person struck receives a serious injury or not. As I have said before, I, who am sufficiently stout and sturdy and am in the habit of working continuously from morning till evening without feeling any exhaustion and without caring whether I take my meals once or twice in a day, was stunned on the spot by the blows I received. Now you can imagine what a horrible pain must Lala Lajpat Rai, who was an old man, worn out by cares and worries on account of the sufferings of his countrymen and who used to work very hard more than an ordinary young man can do, have felt on receiving the blows which he received directly at his heart. They were sure to prove fatal in his case. I am not a lawyer, but I understand that if a man, who receives a hurt, were to remain ill continuously for three weeks, the hurt, in his case, is said to be grievous hurt. But Lala Lajpat Rai died within 17 days of receiving those injuries. In the face of these facts can any one, in fairness, believe that the injuries were not serious.

At this stage the Council adjourned till 2 P.M. on Monday, the 3rd December, 1928.

190 & 193 PLC—620—21-12-28—SGPP Lahore.

PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

3RD SESSION OF THE 3RD PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Monday, the 3rd December 1928.

The Council met at the Council Chamber at two of the clock. Mr. President in the chair.

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE, KASUR.

***1580. Mr. Din Muhammad:** Will the Honourable Minister for Local Self-Government please state—

(1) whether his attention has been drawn to the articles appearing in "The Daily *Siasat*, Lahore", regarding the Municipal Committee, Kasur;

(2) if so, whether he has been pleased to institute an enquiry into the allegations made;

(3) if no action has been taken so far, whether any such enquiry is intended?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon: (1) Not until the notice of this question was received.

(2) & (3). The articles in question will now be examined with a view to considering whether any action is necessary.

BRIDGE NEAR GULER.

***1581. Chaudhri Ram Singh:** (*i*) Will the Honourable the Revenue Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the Kangra Valley Railway Line is 8 feet or more deep in some places near Guler, so that the movements of the train are not visible at those spots;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that the inhabitants of Guler requested the Deputy Commissioner and the Railway Construction department to construct a bridge on the railway line so as to enable pedestrians and cattle to pass over the line in safety?

(*ii*) If the answer to (*i*) above be in the affirmative, will the Honourable Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state whether the Railway department has been requested to construct a bridge at Guler? If not, why not?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: I regret that answer to this question is not yet ready as information has yet to be received from the Agent, North-Western Railway, on the subject. It will be communicated to the honourable member when ready.

IMPOUNDING OF CATTLE BY RAILWAY OFFICIALS.

*1582. **Chaudhri Ram Singh:** (*i*) Will the Honourable Revenue Member be pleased to state if it is a fact—

(*a*) that there is a station named Guler on the Kangra Valley Railway in Mauza Thal, Tahsil Vohra, District Kangra;

(*b*) that for the construction of the station premises the Railway department acquired the lands of zamindars without the sanction of the Revenue department and cut down trees;

(*c*) that when the zamindars protested against this forcible acquisition of land they were given into police custody and were afterwards released on bail;

(*d*) that the Railway department is impounding the cattle of zamindars even when they are grazing at a distance from the railway line?

(*ii*) If the answer to (*i*) above be in the affirmative, will the Honourable Minister please state if he has asked the Railway department to desist from inflicting uncalled for hardships on the poor zamindars?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: I regret that answer to this question is not yet ready as information has yet to be received from the Agent, North Western Railway, on the subject. It will be communicated to the honourable member when ready.

FEES TO SUB-ASSISTANT SURGEONS.

*1583. **Chaudhri Ram Singh:** Will the Honourable Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state the amount of fees admissible to sub-assistant surgeons stationed at rural dispensaries when they attend patients at their homes?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon: No scale of fees has been prescribed. It is considered that the matter is one which should be settled by the parties concerned.

PROFESSOR OF BIOLOGY IN GOVERNMENT COLLEGE, LUDHIANA.

*1584. **Mr. Din Muhammad:** Will the Honourable Minister for Education please state—

(*i*) whether Mr. Ahmad Ali, Qureshi, B.Sc. (Honours), M.Sc. (First class), Biology Demonstrator to the Punjab University had applied for the post of Professor of Biology in the Government Intermediate, College, Ludhiana;

(*ii*) whether he has been accepted for the post ;

(*iii*) if not, who has been appointed and what are his academic qualifications ?

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal :

(*i*) Yes.

(*ii*) No.

(*iii*) Pandit Bhagat Ram, Vashisht, B.Sc., (1st class Honours), M.Sc., (First Class), Botany Demonstrator at the Government College.

ASSAULT ON LALA LAJPAT RAI AND OTHERS.

***1585. Lala Bodh Raj :** Will the Honourable Member for Finance please state—

(*a*) if any enquiry has been held into the conduct of such officers as assaulted Lala Lajpat Rai and others at the Railway Station, Lahore, on the 30th October 1928 ;

(*b*) if so, what has been the result of such enquiry, and what action has been taken against such officials ?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow : " (*a*) The honourable member is referred to the answer to question[1] No. 1568.

(*b*) An enquiry has been held by Mr. Boyd, Commissioner of the Rawalpindi Division, into the incident which occurred at the barrier outside Lahore Railway Station on the 30th of October, 1928. His report has been laid on the table of the House. In view of the conclusions reached by Mr. Boyd, Government sees no reason to take any action against any officials.

COMPLAINTS AGAINST LAMBARDARS, ETC., IN JHELUM.

***1586. Doctor Gopi Chand, Bhargava :** Will the Honourable the Revenue Member be pleased to state whether his attention has been drawn to the following letters——

(*a*) a correspondent from Jhelum, which appeared under the heading " Lambardars alleged exploits " in *Tribune*, dated the 18th July 1928 ?

(*b*) complaints against ilaqadar in *Inqalab* of 20th and 31st July 1928 ;

(*c*) complaints against Ilaqadar of Sanghoi, district Jhelum, in *Bande-matram* of Lahore ?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : No, not before the honourable member's question.

Dr. Gopi Chand, Bhargava : Has any action been taken by Government after reading the papers ?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazal-i-Husain: Enquiry has been instituted by the local officers.

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[1]Page 158 *ante*.

IRRIGATION IN KHUSHAB TAHSIL.

*1587. **Chaudhri Afzal Haq:** Will the Honourable the Revenue Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that in the war time any promise was made by Government to the zamindars of Khushab tahsil, district Shahpur, to the effect that arrangements for irrigating their lands will soon be made;

(b) if so, whether the Government has taken any steps towards fulfilling that promise?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: (a) Government is not aware of any such promise as described by the honourable member.

(b) Does not arise.

RECRUITMENT OF MIRASIS TO THE ARMY AND THE POLICE.

*1588. **Chaudhri Afzal Haq:** Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that an organization of Mirasian (musicians) called Anjuman Qureshian and its several branches invited the attention of the Government to the fact that their community is not taken in army and police and other Government departments;

(b) whether it is a fact that this community is educationally and economically more backward than other communities;

(c) if so, what steps does Government intend to take to remove their disabilities?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow: (a) Yes.

(b) and (c) Enquiry is being made and the result will be communicated to the honourable member in due ocurse.

FAILURE OF CROPS IN KHUSHAB TAHSIL.

*1589. **Chaudhri Afzal Haq:** Will the Honourable the Revenue Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been insufficient rain in tahsil Khushab, district Shahpur, for the last two or three years and on that account there was little or no crop in that ilaqa;

(b) what steps has Government taken or intends to take to give relief to the zamindars of that ilaqa?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: (a) The rains have been generally unsatisfactory during the period referred to, but crops of varying quality have been grown during that period in the tahsil, which is composed of four very dissimilar tracts.

(b) The matter has been, and will continue to be, dealt with under the usual rules of suspension and remission of land revenue.

ALLEGATIONS AGAINST SWARAJISTS AND KHILAFATISTS.

*1590. **Chaudhri Afzal Haq :** (*a*) Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state whether the attention of the Government has been invited to the letter of Sir Michael O'Dwyer which was published in the "*Times of London*" and a summary of which appeared in the papers of 25th April 1928?

(*b*) if so, will the Honourable Member be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether they made any enquiries as to the allegation that there is a section of the Swarajists including the Khilafat rump which would be willing to invite foreign invasion and foment a local rebellion in the hope of putting down the British Rule;

(*ii*) whether the Government found any truth in the allegation?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow : (*a*) Government have seen the summary which appeared in the *Tribune* of the 25th April 1928.

(*b*) (*i*) No enquiries were made.

(*ii*) Does not arise.

Chaudhri Afzal Haq : May I know why enquiries were not made?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow: There was no necessity for an enquiry.

Chaudhri Afzal Haq : Is it because the Government do not attach any importance to the statement?

Mr. President : Supplementary questions must be confined to elucidation of matters of fact stated in reply to the main question.

Chaudhri Afzal Haq : Sir, the allegations happen to be serious and the Government say in reply that no enquiry was made. I only wish to know the reason why no enquiry was considered necessary. Was it because the Government do not attach any importance to the statement?

Mr. President : The reply given by Government was that no enquiry was considered necessary. Whether that reply is sufficient or not is not for me to judge. Any question which aims at eliciting the opinion of Government cannot be asked. Does not the honourable member really wish the Government to state its opinion for taking the particular view?

Chaudhri Afzal Haq : No, Sir. I only wanted to know the reason and did not ask for any opinion.

Mr. President : Though the honourable member says in so many words that he does not ask for any expression of opinion, yet the answer to his question cannot be but an expression of opinion.

Chaudhri Afzal Haq : I ask only for the reason why the Government did not think it necessary to hold an enquiry, whether it was because they did not attach any importance to the utterance, so that we too may not attach any importance to it any more.

Mr. President : Does not the question, whether the person from whom the question is asked attaches any importance to a particular thing, ask for that person's opinion?

Chaudhri Afzal Haq : Sir, it may be viewed both ways. But I am only asking for the reason and not seeking to elicit any opinion.

Mr. President: I invite the honourable member's attention to Standing Order 15(4). A question in order that it may be admissible ' shall not ask for an expression of opinion or the solution of a hypothetical proposition.'

Chaudhri Afzal Haq : May I ask the question in another way, Sir? Will the honourable member please say why Government attach no importance to this statement ?

Mr. President : Have Government admitted that they do not attach any importance ? If they have, then the question is admissible.

Dr. Shaikh Muhammad Alam : Do the Government attach any importance to these allegations ?

The Honourable Mr. A.M. Stow : I have already stated, Sir, that it was not thought necessary to enquire.

Dr. Shaikh Muhammad Alam : Mine is a definite question, Sir, whether the Government do or do not attach any importance to this statement. It will be a different matter if the Government had stated whether they did or did not attach any importance to it. But as they have not stated it, I want to know in the first instance whether any importance was attached to those allegations or not. That would decidedly be neither asking for an expression of opinion nor violate the ruling you have just given, Sir.

Mr. President: I presume the honourable member has heard the Honourable the Finance Member's reply. He said that he did not deem it necessary to make any enquiry. Either that answer may be taken as sufficient or the honourable member may conclude from it that the Government decline to give any direct answer to the supplementary question which the honourable member has put.

Dr. Shaikh Muhammad Alam : Both these conclusions being possible even then, it would remain ambigous. That is why I ask the Honourable the Finance Member to make it definite and clear whether they attach any importance to these allegations or not.

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow: I have nothing to add to my former answer.

Mr. President : Is the honourable member now satisfied ?

Dr. Shaikh Muhammad Alam : Yes, Sir. I have one more supplementary question to ask, Sir. Will the honourable member state whether these allegations were ever made by any responsible gentleman and were brought to the notice of the Government ?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow : No, not to my knowledge .

POLITICAL SITUATION IN THE PUNJAB.

*1591. **Chaudhri Afzal Haq :** Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to statement of Sir Michael O'Dwyer made in England, and published in the Provincial papers of 25th April 1928, with regard to the political situation in the Punjab ;

(*b*) whether that statement has excited any class hatred ?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow : (*a*) Government have seen the summary which appeared in the *Tribune* of the 25th April 1928.

(*b*) Government have no reason to suppose so.

Dr. Shaikh Muhammad Alam : Have the Government made any enquiry into whether the statement had excited any class hatred ?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow : No, Sir.

Dr. Shaikh Muhammad Alam : Will the Government be pleased to make an enquiry now into it ?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow : It does not seem necessary to do so, Sir.

Dr. Shaikh Muhammad Alam : May I know the reason why ?

OCTROI DUTY IN SIALKOT.

*1592. **Chaudhri Afzal Haq :** Will the Honourable Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(1) whether the Municipal Committee of Sialkot passed several resolutions recommending exemption of vegetable head-loads from octroi duty ;

(2) if so, whether any such resolution has been forwarded to the Local Government by the Deputy Commissioner as the official President of the municipal committee ;

(3) if the reply to part (2) be in the negative, what is the reason for not forwarding the resolution to the Local Government and further ;

(4) if it is a fact that the Honourable Minister for Local Self-Government being petitioned on the subject called for a report ;

(5) whether a report has come ?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : (1) Three such resolutions were passed.

(2) No.

(3) The committee was asked to furnish an estimate of the loss of income from octroi if its suggestion was adopted.

(4) Yes.

(5) No, but it is understood that a report has been forwarded to the Commissioner and will reach Government in due course.

NOTIFIED AREA COMMITTEES.

*1593. **Chaudhri Afzal Haq :** Will the Honourable Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) the names of such Notified Areas, which have a population of more than 5,000 ;

(*b*) why these Notified Area Committees are not given the status of Small Towns ?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon: (*a*) The only notified area which according to the census of 1921 has a population of more than 5,000 is Nankana Sahib.

(*b*) The question of converting the notified area of Nankana Sahib into a municipality is under consideration.

NOTIFIED AREAS.

*1594. **Chaudhri Afzal Haq:** Will the Honourable Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) the names of those Notified Areas, which have a population of more than 10,000;

(*b*) why these Notified Areas are not granted the status of Municipalities?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon: (*a*) The only notified area which according to the census of 1921 has a population of more than 10,000 is Nankana Sahib.

(*b*) The honourable member is referred to the reply to part (*b*), of starred question No. 1593. [*above*].

PREPONDERANCE OF NOMINATED ELEMENT IN CERTAIN DISTRICT BOARDS.

*1595. **Chaudhri Afzal Haq:** Will the Honourable Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of the elected and nominated members of the district boards of Dera Ghazi Khan, Mianwali and Attock;

(*b*) why nominated element is so preponderating in these district boards?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon: (*a*)—

	Ex-officio members.	*Members appointed by name.*	*Elected members.*
(1) Dera Ghazi Khan	6	22	14
(2) Mianwali ..	6	18	12
(3) Attock ..	6	22	14

(*b*) The Ministry considered during the summer of 1927 the question of increasing the elected element in these 3 district boards. It has been decided to increase the elected element in the district board of Attock to 66 per cent. from the next district board election and thus bring it on to a level with the rest of the province. The cases of Dera Ghazi Khan and Mianwali will again be considered next year but it must not be forgotten that the close proximity of these districts to the Frontier and the prevalence of certain customs and local laws suggest cautious advance.

Khan Bahadur Captain Sardar Sikandar Hayat Khan: May I ask the Honourable Minister whether 66 per cent. is the maximum of elected element in all the district boards in the province?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon: I understand 75 per cent. is the maximum.

Khan Bahadur Captain Sardar Sikandar Hayat Khan : Will the Honourable Minister be pleased to consider the advisability of raising the elected element in the district board of Attock to the maximum ?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : Let them use 66 per cent. and then the question of further raising it to 75 will also be considered.

Chaudhri Afzal Haq : May I know, Sir, whether there is a political reason for not introducing the elected element in Dera Ghazi Khan, and Mianwali ?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : No. There are no political reasons whatever. The reason is that some of those who have influence in the district and who are interested in these district boards would like Government to proceed cautiously, and that is why a sudden change has not been made. Next year we shall again go into the question. By that time public opinion may change.

Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq : Do the Government intend to play into the hands of any people or is that the opinion of their own ?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : Government play into the hands of nobody, Sir.

Lala Bodh Raj : Will the Honourable Minister give us the names of those persons who gave their opinion that way to the Government ?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : I am afraid I do not remember the names, Sir. But the local officers, the Deputy Commissioner and the Commissioner reported to this effect.

Shaikh Faiz Muhammad : Have the Government received any representation from the people of Dera Ghazi Khan, that the elected element should not be increased ?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : The local officers were consulted on the subject and their reports were to that effect.

Shaikh Faiz Muhammad : Any representation from the people of the district ?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : The opinion of the people of Dera Ghazi Khan, was elicited through the local officers.

Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq : Are the officers representatives of the locality, Sir ?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : Yes : they can represent the opinion of the locality.

INELIGIBILITY OF RAJPUTS AND AWANS TO GRANT OF LAND.

*1596. **Chaudhri Afzal Haq :** Will the Honourable the Revenue Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of squares of land to be distributed in each district to the zamindars of small holdings or to those whose lands are washed away by floods ?

(*b*) whether the Government have issued instructions to the Deputy Commissioners, that Rajputs and Awans should not be given any Government land? If so, why?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: (*a*) Government has decided to allot in the Nili Bar Colony (1) 1,750 rectangles for relief to those who have suffered from Cho Nallah or river action in the districts of Sialkot, Karnal, Hoshiarpur, Jullundur, Ludhiana, Lahore, Amritsar, Gurdaspur, Gujranwala, Jhelum and Ferozepore, (2) 400 rectangles to the Awans of the salt range in Shahpur, Jhelum and Attock districts and (3) 825, rectangles to selected colonists from the districts of Gurdaspur, Amritsar, Jullundur, Hoshiarpur, Ludhiana, Gujrat, Gujranwala, Sheikhupura and Kangra whose holdings are small.

(*b*) No such instructions have been issued.

Chaudhri Afzal Haq: Is Government aware whether any land has been given by Government to Rajputs, and Awans of the Hoshiarpur district?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: Government does not distribute peasant grants itself; that is done by the Deputy Commissioner of the district.

Rana Firoz-ud-Din Khan: Has Government any information that the Deputy Commissioner of Hoshiarpur has excluded Rajputs exclusively from being granted lands?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: No.

Rana Firoz-ud-Din Khan: Will Government please enquire?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: No doubt the proceedings will be communicated to the Deputy Commissioner.

Chaudhri Afzal Haq: Am I to understand that no instructions have been issued that Rajputs and Awans will not be given any grants in any of the districts in the Punjab?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: Not that I know of. If the honourable member has knowledge to the contrary, it would be far better in the interest of saving his time and mine if he were to say so and I will tell him if it is so.

SATTA GAMBLING.

*1597. **Chaudhri Afzal Haq:** Will the Honourable the Revenue Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether they have received information that satta gambling has ruined many families in the big towns of the Province;

(*b*) whether they have received information from the Inspector-General of Police that satta gambling is increasing;

(*c*) whether the District Police Officers have expressed their inability to suppress this evil of satta?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: The honourable member is referred to the answer to question No. 1549.[1]

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[1] Page 148 *ante*.

SATTA GAMBLING.

*1598. **Chaudhri Afzal Haq:** Will the Honourable the Revenue Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Inspector-General of Police has suggested any legislation to suppress satta;

(b) whether he referred to the Satta Gambling Act of United Provinces;

(c) what steps does Government intend to take to stop satta gambling?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: The honourable member is referred to the answer to question No. 1548.[1]

ARTICLE HEADED "MUGHAL TYPE OF CIVILIAN" IN "TRIBUNE."

*1599. **Dr. Gopi Chand, Bhargava:** Will the Chief Secretary to Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to an article "Mughal Type of Civilian" on page 9 of *Tribune*, dated 12th June 1928, columns 3 and 4;

(b) if so, what action Government proposes to take to remove the complaint?

Mr. J. G. Beazley: (a) Yes.

(b) Government do not consider that the anonymous article in question requires any action on the part of Government.

KING EDWARD MEDICAL COLLEGE, LAHORE.

*1600. **Dr. Gopi Chand, Bhargava:** Will the Honourable Minister for Local Self-Government please state—

(a) whether the posts of Professors of Pathology and Physiology in the King Edward Medical College, Lahore, have been advertised in England only;

(b) what is the pay fixed for these posts;

(c) whether Indians have officiated as Professors on these posts;

(d) if so, whether Government will consider the claims of such persons for the permanent appointments?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon: (a) No. The posts were advertised in 9 Indian papers and 2 English papers.

(b) Rs. 1,200—50—2,000 per mensem (plus overseas allowance of Rs. 300 per mensem if an officer of non-Asiatic domicile is appointed).

(c) Yes.

(d) Yes; if they apply.

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[1]Page 148 *ante*.

ARREST OF PANDIT PEYARI MOHAN.

*1601. **Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang :** Will the Honourable Member for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that on October 30, 1928, the Senior Superintendent of Police, Lahore, ordered and caused the arrest of Pandit Peyari Mohan Dattatrya, B.A., LL.B., Assistant, Editor of the "*Tribune*," at or near the Lahore Railway Station, where the said Pandit Peyari Mohan had gone with a Government pass in connection with the arrival of the Statutory Commission ;

(b) whether it is a fact that Pandit Peyari Mohan was taken to the Police Station where he was not even offered a seat and had to squat on the floor during the period of his detention ;

(c) whether it is a fact that Pandit Peyari Mohan was searched and even his private letters were read by the Officer-in-charge of the Police Station ;

(d) if the Government has ascertained from the Superintendent of Police the grounds on which he refused to recognise the pass which Pandit Peyari Mohan had with him and which was shown by him to the said officer ;

(e) whether it is a fact that Pandit Peyari Mohan has not expressed his satisfaction to Government with the expression of regret made by the Government ;

(f) if so, what further amends, if any, is the Government prepared to make for the indignity offered to the said Pandit Peyari Mohan ;

(g) what action, if any, has the Government taken against the officer who was responsible for the insult to Pandit Peyari Mohan ?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow : " (a), (d), (e) and (g) The honourable member is referred to the answers to questions 1536[1] and 1570[2].

(b) Pandit Pearey Mohan was in the Police Station for four or five minutes only, during which time he remained standing.

(c) His pockets were searched as stated in the answer to question 1536 ; but none of his papers had been read when the officer arrived and released him.

(f) Government considers that no further action by it is called for."

MEMORIAL OF COMPOSITORS OF GOVERNMENT PRINTING PRESS.

*1602. **Chaudhri Afzal Haq :** Will the Honourable Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the compositors of the Government Printing Press, Lahore, have sent memorials to the Superintendent, Government Printing, about their low wages and other grievances ;

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[1] Page 144 *ante*.
[2] Pages 159-60 *ante*.

(*b*) if so, what action has been taken or is intended to be taken on the memorials;

(*c*) whether the concessions and rates allowed to the compositors in the Punjab Government Press are equal to those obtaining in the Government of India Presses?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The matter is under consideration.

(*c*) Enquiries are being made.

FORESTS IN KANGRA DISTRICT.

*1603. **Lala Gopal Das:** Will the Honourable Revenue Member kindly state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that in the Kangra District many game preserve forests adjoin cultivated fields, and that the crops of these fields are very often destroyed by wild animals;

(*b*) if so, will he kindly state what measures does the Government propose to take for protecting the crops?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: Government has no information of any damage done to crops by animals from game preserves in Kangra but if the Honourable Member will specify the localities in which any damage is done, enquiries will be made.

HAVELI PROJECT.

*1604. **Lala Gopal Das:** Will the Honourable Revenue Member kindly state—

(*a*) whether the Havelian project has been sanctioned by the Secretary of State for India;

(*b*) if the answer to part (*a*) be in the negative, when was this project last submitted to the Secretary of State for India?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: (*a*) No.

(*b*) It was submitted to the Government of India in 1915, but does not appear to have proceeded further.

ARTIFICIAL GHI.

*1605. **Lala Gopal Das:** Will the Honourable Minister for Local Self-Government kindly state—

(*a*) what steps have been taken in pursuance of the resolution moved by Rai Sahib Lala Ganga Ram in the Punjab Council regarding the desirability of placing restrictions on the sale of artificial ghi

(*b*) how does the matter stand at present?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon: (*a*) and (*b*). Steps were taken to give effect to the resolution in a Bill for the amendment of the Punjab Adulteration of Food Act, 1919, which was introduced in the Council in March 1928, and was referred to a Select Committee.

CO-OPERATIVE DEPARTMENT.

*1606. **Lala Gopal Das :** Will the Honourable Minister for Agriculture please state—

(a) whether it is a fact that during the past one year several persons have been dismissed for inefficiency in the Punjab Co-operative Department ;

(b) if the answer be in the affirmative, will Government kindly state how many of the persons so dismissed belong to notified agricultural tribes and how many to other tribes ?

The Honourable Sardar Jogendra Singh : It is regretted that the reply to this question is not yet ready. It will be communicated to the honourable member when ready.

MANDI HYDRO-ELECTRIC WORKS.

*1607. **Lala Gopal Das :** Will the Honourable Minister for Agriculture kindly state—

(a) what is the total estimated cost of construction of the Mandi Hydro-Electric works ;

(b) how much of this is covered by the overhead charges ;

(c) what has so far been the total expenditure incurred on the works, and how much of this has been on the overhead charges?

The Honourable Sardar Jogendra Singh : (a) The estimated cost of the Mandi Hydro Electric Scheme as approved by Government in 1926 is Rs. 4,20.28 lakhs exclusive of interest on capital during construction. Since then additions amounting approximately to Rs. 9.46 lakhs have been approved.

(b) The figure of 4,20.28 lakhs includes Rs. 87,80,290 of account of over head charges, i.e., on account of "Establishment."

(c) The total expenditure to end of September 19 as booked by the Audit Officer is Rs. 53,46,149, on "Works" and Rs. 17,36,594, on "Establishment." These figures however, do not include Rs. 4,07,878 on account of interest charges.

PRIMARY SCHOOLS.

*1608. **Lala Gopal Das :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education kindly state—

(a) how many primary schools have been newly opened in the years 1927 and 1928 ;

(b) in what areas have the provision of compulsory primary education been applied during this period ;

(c) what is the total school going population in these areas ?

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal : The information is being collected and will be supplied to the honourable member when ready.

RECRUITMENT OF DEPRESSED CLASSES TO THE POLICE DEPARTMENT.

*1609. **Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang:** Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that members of the depressed classes are not recruited in the Police Department;

(b) if so, why the provisions of section 96, Government of India Act, are ignored in their case?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow: (a) Subject to any difference of opinion as to what classes may correctly be described as depressed classes, the policy of Government has already been explained in answer to Council question No. 466.[1]

(b) This does not appear to apply to the case.

PLYING OF MOTOR VEHICLES ON TALAGANG-INJRA ROAD.

*1610. **Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang:** Will the Honourable the Revenue Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether a monopoly has been permitted to run motor vehicles on Talagang-Injra Road;

(b) if so, the reasons which led to the granting of the monopoly;

(c) how many lorries and other motor vehicles are being plied for hire on the said road;

(d) whether it is a fact that various members of all communities made representations to the Government against the grant of monopoly;

(e) if so, what steps were taken by the Government to remove their grievances;

(f) the rules in force regarding the grant of licenses for plying motor vehicles on hire on public roads in the Province?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: (a) In effect, yes.

(b) The reasons why Shaikh Muhammad Din is given what is at present a virtual monopoly for this road are:—

(i) It was through his enterprise and partly at his expense that the road was for the first time conditioned so as to be fit for motor traffic.

(ii) The present arrangement is highly advantageous for the district Board and to the public. The cost of maintenance to the board, if it is maintained, the whole road would be about Rs. 2,500 per annum. For the current six months it is paying nothing and the whole burden of maintenance is borne by Shaikh Muhammad Din, in return for the privilege of maintaining an adequate service. The district board cannot afford Rs. 2,500 for the road: and the choice is between the abandonment of the road or the maintenance of the present on a similar system.

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[1]Vol. X-B page 990.

[The Hon'ble Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain.]

(c) The honourable member's attention is drawn to the reply given to question No. 786[1].

(d) Yes. Complaints were made to the local officers.

(e) The number of vehicles on the road was increased and arrangements made for an extra service between Tamman and Injra.

(f) The Punjab Motor Vehicles Plying for Hire Rules, 1922.

GOVERNMENT HIGH SCHOOL, RAHON.

*1611. **Chaudhri Muhammad Abdul Rahman Khan :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education kindly state—

(a) whether it is a fact that a grant for the construction of a new building for the Government High School, Rahon, was sanctioned by Government and that the said building has not been constructed so far;

(b) if so, why; when does Government propose to construct the new building?

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal : (a) No grant has been sanctioned by Government for the construction of a new building for the Government High School at Rahon.

(b) There is no intention at present of constructing new buildings.

SUBORDINATE EDUCATION SERVICE.

*1612. **Chaudhri Muhammad Abdul Rahman Khan :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education kindly state—

(a) whether it is a fact that some time back a deputation on behalf of the Subordinate Educational Service waited upon him and urged upon him to introduce time-scale of pay in the said service;

(b) if so, what action has been taken on their representation;

(c) whether Government intend to introduce time-scale of pay as requested. If so, when. If not, why not?

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal : (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). The honourable member's attention is invited to the answer given to Council question No. 1501.[2]

TOURING OFFICERS.

*1613. **Chaudhri Muhammad Abdul Rahman Khan :** Will the Honourable the Revenue Member kindly state—

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a standing order in existence which requires the touring officers to fix the hearing of cases where the parties to such cases are resident;

(b) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to any cases in which this order has been overlooked?

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[1] Page 167 *ante*.
[2] Page 83 *ante*.

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: (*a*) The honourable member's attention is drawn to the answer given to Council question No. 1952,[1] asked by Ch. Afzal Haq in 1925.

(*b*) No.

POLITICAL CRIMES.

***1614. Chaudhri Muhammad Abdul Rahman Khan:** Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state—

(1) whether as shown by the reports, the work in connection with the suppression of non-political crimes in the Punjab has suffered owing to the fact that much of police officers' time is taken up by investigations in crimes of a political nature;

(2) what action Government intends to take in the matter?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow: (1) Since it is the duty of police officers to investigate crime, whether political or otherwise, the time of police officers must be taken up so long as political crimes continue.

(2) In the circumstances stated in the answer to the first part of the question, no action by Government is possible.

CRIMES.

***1615. Chaudhri Muhammad Abdul Rahman Khan:** Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state with reference to the Police Administration Report for the year 1927-28—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the number of crimes has increased in the Province;

(*b*) if so, what steps does the Government propose to take for their suppression or reduction in number?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow: (*a*) Yes, but the report is for the calendar year 1927.

(*b*) The attention of the honourable member is invited to the report itself and to the review thereon. No special measures other than those referred to are contemplated.

BEGAR.

***1616. Chaudhri Muhammad Abdul Rahman Khan:** Will the Honourable Finance Member kindly state whether it is a fact—

(*a*) that *begar* has been stopped by Government orders;

(*b*) that Sub-Inspectors of Police and other Police officials on tour send *zimmis*, etc., to the headquarters daily and that they make use of forced labour? If so, do Government propose to put a stop to this practice? If not, why not?

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[1]Vol. VIII-B., pages 1163-64.

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow: (*a*) The honourable member is referred to the answers given to Council questions Nos. 355[1] and 808[2] in the year 1927.

(*b*) Government has no information showing that forced labour is employed to convey *zimnis* in police cases from villages to police headquarters. For this purpose the services of police officers or village chaukidars are generally utilized.

ORDER UNDER SECTION 144, C. P. C. IN LAHORE.

*1617. **Chaudhri Muhammad Abdul Rahman Khan:** Will the Honourable Finance Member kindly state whether it is a fact—

(*a*) that an order under section 144, Criminal Procedure Code, was promulgated in Lahore city on the occasion of the arrival of the Simon Commission in Lahore;

(*b*) that besides the erection of barbed wire barricades at the Railway Station, a strong *posse* of police was posted there;

If so, why?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Yes. To prevent the crowd from entering the station enclosure.

REFUSAL OF ENTRY TO RAILWAY STATION, LAHORE.

*1618. **Chaudhri Muhammad Abdul Rahman Khan:** Will the Honourable the Finance Member kindly state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that certain persons holding Government permits were not allowed to enter the station premises on the occasion of the arrival of the Simon Commission in Lahore;

(*b*) if so, what action has been taken against the officers responsible for offering this insult to respectable persons?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow: (*a*) and (*b*). The honourable member is referred to the answers to Council question 1596[3] and Council question 1570.[4] With the exception of the individual concerned therein, no permit holder has been reported to have been obstructed from entering the Railway Station premises.

ASSAULT AT RAILWAY STATION, LAHORE.

*1619. **Chaudhri Muhammad Abdul Rahman Khan:** Will the Honourable the Finance Member kindly state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that certain public leaders were assaulted and maltreated by the police on the occasion of the arrival of the Simon Commission in Lahore;

(*b*) if so, does he propose to take any action against the officers concerned? If not, why not?

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[1] Vol. X-B, page 1050.
[2] Vol. X-B, page 1302.
[3] Page 144 *ante*.
[4] Pages 159-60 *ante*.

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow: The honourable member is referred to the answer to question No. 1568.[1]

ARYA SCHOOL AT NURMAHAL.

*1620. **Chaudhri Muhammad Abdul Rahman Khan:** Will the Honourable Minister for Education kindly state the reasons for raising the Arya School at Nurmahal in the Jullundur district to the standard of a High School in preference to the District Middle School, Nurmahal ?

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal: The honourable member is probably under a misapprehension. The Arya School, a private institution, was raised to the high standard by the management of the school, and recognition was granted to the high school in the ordinary course by the department of Public Instruction inasmuch as they satisfied the requisite conditions for recognition.

The question of raising the board school to the high standard is under consideration.

PROVINCIALIZATION OF NAKODAR SCHOOL.

*1621. **Chaudhri Muhammad Abdul Rahman Khan:** Will the Honourable Minister for Education kindly state—

(*a*) whether he has received any representation from the residents of Nakodar in the Jullundur district requesting him to provincialise the schools at Nakodar ;

(*b*) if so, what action has been taken on that representation ?

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal: (*a*) No written representation has been received, but during my visit to Nakodar in the early part of this year, I was met by a large number of people and the claims of Nakodar School for provincialization were strongly pressed upon me.

(*b*) The matter is under consideration.

DISEASES OF PLANTS, ETC.

*1622. **Chaudhri Muhammad Abdul Rahman Khan:** Will the Honourable Minister for Agriculture kindly state—

(*a*) whether there is any branch in the Agricultural Department dealing with the diseases of plants, vegetables and fruit trees ;

(*b*) the number of private farms treated by this branch, and with what result ?

The Honourable Sardar Jogendra Singh: (*a*) Yes ; the Mycological, Bacteriological, and Entomological Branches of the Agricultural Department deal with such diseases.

(*b*) Particulars will be found in Part I of the Annual Report of the Department of Agriculture.

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[1] Page 158 *ante*.

KHARABA IN GIRDAWARI PAPERS.

*1623. **Chaudhri Muhammad Abdul Rahman Khan:** Will the Honourable the Revenue Member kindly state whether it has been brought to his notice that at the time of girdawari some patwaris enter the amount of kharaba in the girdawari papers less than the actual amount ?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: No. If the honourable member has any specific instances in mind, Financial Commissioner, Revenue, will be glad to have them with a view to investigate them.

LAND DISTRIBUTION.

*1624. **Chaudhri Muhammad Abdul Rahman Khan:** (*a*) Will the Honourable the Revenue Member kindly lay a copy of the rules and regulations according to which the distribution of squares of land in the colonies is being conducted ?

(*b*) Will he kindly state to what classes of people such grants are not being made ?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: (*a*) A copy of the notifications[1] governing the distritubution of land on the Sutlej Valley Canals is laid on the table.

(*b*) The purport of this part of the honourable member's question is not understood. The notifications state to what classes of people lands are being distributed.

SUPERINTENDENTS OF DEPUTY COMMISSIONERS' OFFICES.

*1625. **Lala Joti Parshad:** Will the Honourable the Revenue Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether there are any rules for the transfer of the Superintendents of Deputy Commissioners' offices from one district to another ;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that some of them are stationed in one district for long periods ;

(*c*) if the answers to (*a*) and (*b*) be in the affirmative what steps does Government intend to take to regulate their transfers strictly in accordance with the rules ?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: (*a*) No.

(*b*) Government has no definite information on the subject. Such transfers are made by Commissioners.

(*c*) Provision is being included in the Classification Rules in regard to the powers of Commissioners to make such transfers.

Government does not see any necessity of laying down further hard and fast rules.

CIVIL SUITS IN HISSAR DISTRICT.

*1626. **Lala Joti Parshad:** Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether any rules have been framed by the High Court about the filling up of summonses, notices, etc., by the parties in civil cases ;

[1] Not printed.

(*b*) whether several suits have been dismissed in Hissar district by the Courts for non-compliance during the last few months when the circular has been in force ;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that not a single adjournment was granted to the parties to rectify the omission ?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Only two suits have so far been dismissed in Hissar for non-compliance with the rules referred to.

(*c*) No adjournment was allowed in either of the two cases mentioned in (*b*) above. In one of these cases adjournment was refused as the counsel for the Plaintiff had been served with notice in writing requiring him to rectify the omission about five months before the date fixed for hearing.

DEPRESSED CLASSES.

***1627. Lala Joti Parshad :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education please state—

(*a*) the total population of the depressed classes communitywise in the Punjab ;

(*b*) the percentage of literacy amongst them ;

(*c*) whether any special facilities are provided by Government for education of the children of the depressed classes ?

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal : The information is being collected and will be supplied to the honourable member when ready.

DEPRESSED CLASSES.

***1628. Lala Joti Parshad :** Will the Honourable the Finance Member please lay a statement on the table showing the total number of members of the depressed classes at present employed in :—

(*a*) Police ;

(*b*) Civil ;

(*c*) Education, and

(*d*) Other departments together with the posts held by them ?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow : Owing to the absence of any clear definition of a depressed class in the Punjab, Government regrets that it is unable to meet the wishes of the honourable member.

RELEASE OF KANHIYA AND OTHERS.

***1629. Lala Joti Parshad :** Will the Honourable the Revenue Member please state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that Kanhiya, son of Kheta, Bakhshi, son of Puran and Wazira, son of Hem Raj, Banwaris, of Hissar district, who are all married and were the sole supporters of their families were arrested and sent to the reformatories this year ;

[Lala Joti Parshad.]

(*b*) whether any representation was addressed on their behalf by Pandit Thakur Das, M.L.A., to the Deputy Commissioner, Hissar. If so, what action has been taken on the representation ;

(*c*) Does Government propose to release them ?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : (*a*) The three individuals named in the question were admitted into the Criminal Tribes Reformatory School at Mughalpura on the 1st September 1927. Bakhshi and Wazira are married but Kanhiya is unmarried and an orphan.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) Wazira and Bakhshi have been released. As Kanhiya is an orphan and unmarried, it is not proposed to release him till he has undergone the whole course of three years at the school, which, it is hoped, will enable him to earn an honest and independent livelihood, when he returns to his village.

NOTIFICATION RE ZAMINDARS BY INSPECTOR OF SCHOOLS, AMBALA.

***1630. Lala Joti Parshad :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education please state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the Inspector of Schools, Ambala division, has issued instructions under which only those tribes, who are notified as agriculturists under the Punjab Land Alienation Act, are given the benefit of being called zamindars ;

(*b*) whether the restricted definition contravenes the express definition of the word 'zamindar' recognised by Punjab Government ;

(*c*) the effect of the restricted definition on payment of school fees by persons who actually till the soil and solely depend upon agriculture for their livelihood ?

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal : Enquiries are being made and the required information will be supplied to the honourable member when ready.

POLICE TORTURE.

***1631. Lala Joti Parshad :** Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state whether he has received any reports stating that there are many cases of police torture in Rohtak district ?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow : Enquiry has been made from the District Magistrate, Rohtak, who reports that only one case of alleged torture by the police has come to notice.

The alleged culprits are under suspension and the case is being tried in court.

ASSAULT AT THE RAILWAY STATION, LAHORE.

*1632. **Lala Bodh Raj:** Will the Honourable Member for Finance please state—

(*i*) if it is a fact that some of the members of the Council who were on the spot at the time when Lala Lajpat Rai and others were assaulted at the Railway Station, Lahore, on the 30th October 1928, requisitioned the Magistrate and the District Magistrate to inform them of the names of officers, who had assaulted or participated in the assault;

(*ii*) whether they were refused any information;

(*iii*) if so, what are the reasons for such refusal?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow: (*i*) The honourable member is referred to the answer to starred Council question No. 1568.[1]

(*ii*) and (*iii*). It is understood that some crowd did ask certain officers to give their names or the names of other officers present. Since the view taken by the officers concerned says that the police acted within their duty in controlling the crowd and were not guilty of any excess in their duty, there was no reason why they should be treated as guilty of an offence and their names given.

Lala Bodh Raj: Is it a fact that the assailants were pointed out by an honourable member of this Council and their names were asked for at the time?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow: I have no information about that

Lala Bodh Raj: Will the Honourable Member care to enquire into this question?

Mr. President: Is that a supplementary question or a request?

OFFICERS AT RAJANPUR.

*1633. **Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram:** Will the Chief Secretary to Government, Punjab, be pleased to state to what communities the following officers and officials at Rajanpur, District Dera Ghazi Khan, belong:—

(1) Sub-Divisional Officer (Civil).

(2) Tahsildar;

(3) Naib-Tahsildar, Batai;

(4) Head Master, Government School;

(5) Assistant Surgeon;

(6) Inspector of Police;

(7) Sub-Court Inspector of Police;

(8) Sub-Inspector of Police;

(9) Sub-Divisional Officer, Irrigation?

Mr. J. G. Beazley: (1) There is no post of Batai Naib-Tahsildar at Rajanpur.

(2) All the other appointments are held by Muhammadans.

[1]Page 158 *ante*.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram : In making these appointments in future, will the Government contemplate giving a chance to members of other communities as well ?

Mr. J. G. Beazley : It is impossible for me to answer on behalf of four or five departments and all the Honourable Members and Ministers.

KHADAR BRANCH OF LOWER JHELUM CANAL.

***1634. Sayad Mubarik Ali Shah :** Will the Honourable the Revenue Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that " The Khadar Branch of the Kirana division of Lower Jhelum Canal " has not been running to its full supply during the last year ;

(*b*) if answer to part (*a*) be in the affirmative, what steps does Government intend to take to improve the water-supply of this canal.

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : (*a*) The Khadar Branch ran full supply during the year 1927-28 when supply and demand permitted it. When supplies were generally in defect of demand as is usual during the *rabi*, it obtained its share of water available. The average supply was adequate.

(*b*) Does not arise.

PRESS BRANCH, CIVIL SECRETARIAT.

***1635. Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram :** Will the Chief Secretary be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that there is a preponderance of Muslim Translators and other staff in the Press Branch of the Civil Secretariat ;

(*b*) whether he is aware of the fact that there is a general belief among the Hindus that preponderance of Muslim staff causes mistakes of Hindu Press to be more promptly noted than that of other communities ;

(*c*) If so, what steps does Government intend to take to increase the proportion of Hindus ?

Mr. J. G. Beazley : (*a*) The honourable member is referred to the answer to question No. 3527[1], given in October 1926, since when the position remains substantially unchanged.

(*b*) No.

(*c*) Does not arise.

TAHSILDARS.

***1636. Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram :** Will the Honourable the Revenue Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether his attention has been drawn to a " candid " letter to His Excellency the Governor printed at page 8 of *Hindu Herald*, dated the 24th July 1928 ;

[1]Vol. IX-B, page 1679.

(*b*) whether the allegation contained therein regarding the permanent appointments of tahsildars is correct ?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : (*a*) Not before the honourable member's question.

(*b*) The allegation about the numbers is correct.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram : Did the Government consider the claims of the Hindus in making these appointments ?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : Which appointments has the honourable member in view ?

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram : The appointments of tahsildars in question.

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : I have not followed the question. Does the honourable member wish that the appointments of tahsildars should be made in order to bring about communal proportions ?

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram : Yes.

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : The honourable member does not specify what proportion he desires.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram : Whatever proportion that might have been fixed by the Government.

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : I am not aware that any proportion has been fixed.

REMISSION OF WATER RATE.

*1637. **Lala Bodh Raj :** Will the Honourable the Revenue Member please state—

(*a*) whether any representation has been made by the Zamindars' Society of Mian Channu to the Junior Secretary to the Financial Commissioner, Punjab, for the remission of water rates and land revenue for the current year ;

(*b*) If so, what action has been taken thereon ?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The matter is under the consideration of Government.

HONORARY MAGISTRATES.

*1638. **Rai Bahadur Lala Mohan Lal :** Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of Honorary Magistrates and their Benches in Ludhiana City ;

(*b*) what are the educational qualifications and ages of the present Honorary Magistrates of Ludhiana ;

(*c*) if it is a fact that formerly there were only 4 Honorary Magistrates and 2 Benches. When and why was their number increased to six ;

(*d*) in the future appointment of Honorary Magistrates, does the Government intend to adhere to the rules made for the appointments of Honorary Magistrates ;

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow: (*a*) The Ludhiana City Bench consist of six Honorary Magistrates who sit in pairs. One of them died in February 1928, and the vacancy remains unfilled.

(*b*) All members of this Bench are literate and can read and write the vernacular fluently. Their respective ages are as follows :—

(*i*) Lala Faqir Chand, 49 years.

(*ii*) Honorary Lieutenant Sardar Natha Singh, 54 years.

(*iii*) Khwaja Shams-ud-Din, 60 years.

(*iv*) Rai Sahib Lala Sheo Parshad, 48 years.

(*v*) Honorary Captain Muhammad Akram Khan, 59 years.

(*c*) This Bench prior to 1921 consisted of four Honorary Magistrates. But in view of the close connection of Ludhiana with the army, two additional Honorary Magistrates, Honorary Lieutenant Sardar Natha Singh, and Honorary Captain Muhammad Akram Khan were appointed.

(*d*) Yes.

HONORARY MAGISTRATES IN THE LUDHIANA DISTRICT.

***1639. Rai Bahadur Lala Mohan Lal:** Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state the number of Hindu, Muslim and Sikh Honorary Magistrates in the Ludhiana District, stating their powers as well ?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow: If the honourable member will kindly refer to Part XXVIII of the January issue of the Punjab Quarterly Civil List, which is maintained in the Council Library, he will find the information he desires.

PASSPORT TO MR. ABDUL MAJID.

***1640. Lala Bodh Raj:** Will the Honourable Member for Finance please state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that one Mr. Abdul Majid applied to the Punjab Government *through the Deputy Commissioner*, Lahore, in the year 1928, for a passport to Australia, where his uncle is carrying on business ;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that permission has already been granted to him through his uncle to enter the Commonwealth of Australia ;

(*c*) whether the passport to Australia has been refused to him by the Punjab Government ? If so, what are the reasons for the refusal ?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) Yes. The passport was refused in exercise of the discretion vested in the Local Government.

HAVELI PROJECT.

*1641. **Lala Bodh Raj :** Will the Honourable the Revenue Member please state—

(*a*) if the alternative scheme of feeding the Sidhnai under the Haveli project referred to in answer to question No. 980[1], asked on 19th July 1927, has since been sanctioned by the Government of India ;

(*b*) if so, when the work of construction will be taken in hand ?

The Honourable Main Sir Fazl-i-Husain : (*a*) No.

(*b*) Does not arise.

HAVELI PROJECT.

*1642. **Lala Bodh Raj :** Will the Honourable Member for Revenue please state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the Bombay Government has objected to the opening of Haveli project on the ground that it would affect the supply of water to Sukkur Barrage ;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that a committee of selected Chief Engineers was appointed by the Government of India to inquire into the matter. If so, when was its last meeting held, and how far the committee has proceeded in the matter ?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : (*a*) The Bombay Government has objected to any further withdrawal of water from the Indus or its tributaries by the Punjab that might affect the supplies hypothecated to the Sukkur Project.

The objection applies to all projects in the Punjab, and not to the Haveli Project in particular.

(*b*) The committee proposed has not yet met.

GOVERNMENT HIGH SCHOOL, BHAKKAR.

*1643. **Lala Bodh Raj :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education please state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the Head Master, Government High School, Bhakkar, refuses to take the tuition fees from the boys after the 5th day of the month except on 15th and that with a fine of Re. 0-10-0 ;

(*b*) if so, what are the reasons for not accepting to take fees on the intervening dates ?

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal : Enquiries are being made and an answer will be supplied to the honourable member when ready.

MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE, KASUR.

*1644. **Lala Bodh Raj :** Will the Honourable Minister for Local Self-Government please state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the Municipal Committee, Kasur, has not appointed a health officer so far ;

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[1]Vol. X-B. page 836.

[Lala Bodh Raj.]

(*b*) if so, what are the reasons for not making the appointment ;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that the Deputy Commissioner asked them to combine the posts of Secretary and Health Officer ?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The reason is the bad financial condition of the committee but the matter is under the consideration of Government.

(*c*) The Deputy Commissioner, asked the committee to consider whether the two posts in question could not be combined.

MR. GHULAM HUSSAIN, TEACHER.

***1645. Lala Bodh Raj :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education please state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that Mr. Ghulam Hussain, Head Teacher, Municipal Primary School, Kasur, made alterations in the examination marks of the boys and that he admitted his offence before the District Inspector of Schools ?

If so, what action has been taken against the said teacher by the Committee or the department of Education ?

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal : A reference has been made to local officers. The information will be communicated to the honourable member when obtained.

VICE-CHAIRMAN OF MUZAFFARGARH DISTRICT BOARD.

***1646. Lala Bodh Raj :** Will the Honourable Minister for Local Self-Government please give reasons for saying in the last Annual Report of the Working of District Board, Muzaffargarh, that Malik Qadir Bakhsh, Vice-Chairman, had done great work in embezzlement cases launched by the District Board ?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : The matter is mentioned in the Annual Report on the working of the Board submitted by the Chairman, presumably because the Chairman considered that it should be brought to the notice of Government.

DISTRICT BOARD, MUZAFFARGARH.

***1647. Lala Bodh Raj :** Will the Honourable Minister for Local Self-Government please state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the District Board, Muzaffargarh, wrote to the Government for demolishing the present buildings of the office of the Board on the ground that they were in a dangerous condition and for constructing new buildings on the same site at a cost of about Rs. 42,000 or so ;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that the said buildings have been now given on rent to the Health Officer and a new site has been purchased for the office of the Board from a member of the Board ? If so, what are the reasons ;

(c) whether any expert has since stated that the present buildings are not in a dangerous conditions and may be allowed to stand as they are ?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : I regret that the answer to this question is not yet ready. It will be communicated to the honourable member when ready.

SHAIKH ALLA BAKHSH, MEMBER, DISTRICT BOARD.

***1648. Lala Bodh Raj :** Will the Honourable Minister for Local Self-Government please state—

(a) whether it is a fact that Shaikh Allah Bakhsh, Member, District Board, Muzaffargarh, stated before the local authorities that he would not charge any price for his share of the land being acquired by the Board for the buildings of its new office ;

(b) if reply to the above be in the affirmative, what are the reasons for making any payment to the said member as a price of the land ;

(c) what is the amount of the price paid for the land ?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : (a) Yes. (b) The member subsequently withdrew his offer. (c) Rs. 3,404.

ESTIMATES FOR THE NEW DISTRICT BOARD OFFICE, MUZAFFARGARH.

***1649. Lala Bodh Raj :** Will the Honourable Minister for Local Self-Government please state—

(a) whether it is a fact that papers were sent to the Superintending Engineer by the District Board, Muzaffargarh, for sanction of estimates for the new office buildings of the Board ;

(b) whether the papers were returned by him on the ground that the sanction of the Local Government was necessary as the estimates exceeded Rs. 45,000 ;

(c) whether it is a fact that before obtaining the sanction of either the Superintending Engineer of the Public Works Department or of the Government, the contract was given by the Board for the construction of the buildings ;

(d) whether it is a fact that before the supply of any materials for the construction, the first running payment of Rs. 23,000 was made and that before the digging of foundation, the second running payment was also made only a few days after the said first payment was made ;

(e) if replies to above be in the affirmative, will the Honourable Minister please state the reasons for hurrying the payment ?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) The tender was accepted by the chairman in December 1927. Administrative approval was accorded on 27th February 1928, and the contract was completed in writing about the 7th March 1928.

(d) & (e) A further report has been called for and the reply will be communicated to the honourable member in due course.

VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE DISTRICT BOARD, MUZAFFARGARH.

*1650. **Lala Bodh Raj :** Will the Honourable Minister for Local Self-Government please state whether he is aware of the fact that for the last several years the Vice-Chairman of the District Board, Muzaffargarh, has been exercising all the powers of the Chairman ?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : It is reported that the vice-chairman has been carrying on such routine office work as was entrusted to him by the Chairman. The business rules of the district board are very old and are being revised.

MUHARRAR, DISTRICT BOARD, MUZAFFARGARH.

*1651. **Lala Bodh Raj :** Will the Honourable Minister for Local Self-Government please state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that in November 1927 or so, Munshi Muhammad Yar, Maharrar, District Board, Muzaffargarh, was charged with the embezzlement of Rs. 6-9-0 ;

(*b*) if so, what action has been taken against him ;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that a few days after, Mr. Roshan Lal, another employee of the Board, was charged with the embezzlement of Rs. 3 and he was dismissed from service ?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The matter is still under consideration.

(*c*) Yes.

OVERSEER, DISTRICT BOARD, MUZAFFARGARH.

*1652. **Lala Bodh Raj :** Will the Honourable Minister for Local Self-Government please state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that Mr. Imam Din, Overseer, District Board, Muzaffargarh, was charged for having drawn money from the treasury on account of disbursements made to fictitious persons ;

(*b*) if the reply to part (*a*) be in the affirmative, what action has been taken against the overseer concerned ?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : (*a*) No.

(*b*) Does not arise.

MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE, KASUR.

*1653. **Lala Bodh Raj :** Will the Honourable Minister for Local Self-Government please state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that Mr. Bull in his inspection report of the working of Municipal Committee, Kasur, objected to the appointment of the relatives of the Municipal Commissioners in the Committee ;

(*b*) if it is a fact that the Deputy Commissioner wrote to the Committee to dispense with the services of such employees if the Municipal Commissioners to whom they were related did not resign ;

(c) whether the services of such employees have been dispensed with and if not, why ?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : (a) & (b) Yes.

(c) The services of two such employees were dispensed with but, on appeal the Deputy Commissioner, held that the provisions of the rule published with notification No. 25262, dated 18th November 1925, did not apply to the case of employees already in the service of a municipal committee on the date on which that rule came into force.

MUNICIPAL COMMISSIONER, KASUR.

***1654. Lala Bodh Raj :** Will the Honourable Minsiter for Local Self-Government please state—

(a) if it is a fact that Haji Rab Nawaz Khan, Municipal Commissioner, Kasur, removed certain papers from the municipal file without the knowledge of the President of the Committee ;

(b) if it is a fact that he brought them from his shop when they were referred to in the course of a speech by a member of the Committee ? If so, was any action taken against the Municipal Commissioner ?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : A report has been called for from local officers and the information required by the honourable member will be furnished to him in due course.

KASUR MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE.

***1655. Dr. Gopi Chand, Bhargava :** Will the Honourable Minister for Local Self-Government please state whether it is a fact that an officer was deputed by the Deputy Commissioner of Lahore to inspect the Kasur Municipality office ? If so, will he please lay the report of that officer on the table ?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : Yes, an officer was deputed by the Deputy Commissioner, to inspect the Kasur Municipal office, but Government are not prepared to lay his report on the table.

KASUR MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE.

***1656. Dr. Gopi Chand, Bhargava :** Will the Honourable Minister for Local Self-Government please state—

(a) whether it is a fact that there was a severe attack of cholera epidemic within the limits of the Kasur Municipality last year ;

(b) whether the Municipal Committee was found to have neglected to make proper sanitary arrangement to check the epidemic for which 11 members of the committee were dismissed ;

(c) whether any health bye-laws have been made by the aforesaid Municipal Committee ?

(d) whether any well-qualified Health Officer has been appointed by the Kasur Municipality ? If not, what steps does the Government propose to take ?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Yes, but the members were not dismissed. Government refused to allow their re-election to be notified.

(*c*) Primitive and practically useless bye-laws with regard to buildings, slaughter houses and markets, burning and burial grounds and water supply were made by the committee nearly 40 years ago: otherwise the committee have no bye-laws concerning any matter relating to public health except bye-laws for the registration of births and deaths.

(*d*) No. The matter is under consideration.

FAMINE ALLOWANCE.

*1657. **Dr. Gopi Chand, Bhargava:** Will the Honourable Member for Finance please state if Government has any intention of giving a famine allowance to its poorly paid employees?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow: If by "Famine Allowance" the honourable member alludes to the grain compensation allowance his attention is invited to rule 14.6 of the Subsidiary Rules contained in volume II of the Punjab Financial Hand-book No. 2 which specifies the conditions under which such an allowance is granted. A copy of this rule has been placed on the table of this Council in reply to question No. 1540[1]. The allowance will be given where the conditions laid down in the rule are satisfied.

DAMAGE TO LAND IN FEROZEPORE.

*1658. **Dr. Gopi Chand, Bhargava:** Will the Honourable the Revenue Member kindly state how much area has been lost to cultivation by waterlogging or by alluvion and diluvion in the districts of Ferozepore, Lahore, Sheikhupura, Gujranwala and Sialkot? How much of this area was owned by Hindus, Muslims and Sikhs, respectively?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: Water-logging in these districts is a comparatively recent occurrence, and a survey has been completed this year, with the following result:—

	Acres spoilt.
Ferozepur	*Nil.*
Lahore	2,200
Sheikhupura	12,097
Gujranwala	20,904
Sialkot	2,183

Figures of area owned by various communities cannot be easily ascertained.

Alluvion and Diluvion.—Perhaps the honourable member knows that rivers have been running in the Punjab long before the system of revenue records came into existence.

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[1]Page 146 *ante*.

ALLOTMENT OF LAND IN COLONY AREAS.

*1659. **Dr. Gopi Chand, Bhargava:** Will the Honourable the Revenue Member kindly state—

(a) what area has been allotted in the new colony areas to the sufferers in the districts of Ferozepur, Lahore, Sheikhupura, Gujranwala and Sialkot from water-logging or by alluvion and diluvion;

(b) how much of the areas so allotted has been granted to Hindus, Muslims and Sikhs, respectively, and where?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: (a):—

Districts.	*For relief of sufferers from water-logging (rectangles).*	*For relief of sufferers from Cho Nullah, or river action (rectangles).*
Ferozepur ..	..	200
Lahore ..	50	100
Sheikhupura ..	700	..
Gujranwala ..	900	..
Sialkot ..	650	100

(b) The information is not available; the selections were not on any communal basis.

PASSPORT TO AUSTRALIA FOR MR. ABDUL MAJID.

*1660. **Dr. Gopi Chand, Bhargava:** Will the Honourable Member for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that Mr. Abdul Majid of Lahore District applied for a passport for Australia;

(b) whether the Australian Government has allowed Mr. Abdul Majid to enter Australia under certain conditions;

(c) whether the application of Mr. Abdul Majid for a passport has been rejected, and if so, what are the reasons?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow: The attention of the honourable member is invited to the answer given to council question No. 1640[1].

CONFIDENTIAL POLICE DIARIES IN A RIOTING CASE.

*1661. **Dr. Gopi Chand, Bhargava:** Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that certain persons obtained copies of confidential police diaries in a case of rioting brought against Sakhi Muhammad and Sujawal, residents of village Sanghoi, Jhelum district, in 1927;

(b) if the reply to the above be in the affirmative, whether Government have instituted enquiries into the matter, and if so, with what result?

[1]Page 240 *ante*.

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow : (*a*) The matter has not come to the notice of Government.

(*b*) Does not arise.

COMPLAINT AGAINST LAMBARDAR AND ILAQADAR OF SANGHOI.

*1662. **Dr. Gopi Chand, Bhargava:** Will the Honourable the Revenue Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that several complaints of excessive realisation of land revenue and chaukidara have been lodged against Khan Sahib Muhammad Khan, Lambardar and Ilaqadar of Sanghoi, district Jhelum ;

(*b*) whether any enquiries were instituted into those complaints ; if so, with what result ?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : (*a*) Yes, recently.

(*b*) An inquiry is in progress.

HIGH-HANDEDNESS OF ILAQADAR AND LAMBARDAR OF SANGHOI.

*1663. **Dr. Gopi Chand, Bhargava :** Will the Honourable the Revenue Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that several complaints have been made of the highhandedness and other irregularities of Khan Sahib Muhammad Khan, Ilaqadar and Lambardar of Sanghoi, district Jhelum ;

(*b*) whether Government have enquired into those complaints ; if so, with what result ?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : (*a*) Yes, recently.

(*b*) An enquiry is in progress.

COMPLAINT AGAINST KHAWAJA ABDUL SALAM, H.V.C.

*1664. **Lala Bodh Raj :** Will the Chief Secretary please state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that short time before Khawaja Abdul Salam, H. V. C., Montgomery, was posted as an E.A.C. at Sirsa, he was complained against by the Deputy Commissioner, Montgomery, in the matter of grant of squares to district officials ;

(*b*) what was the nature of that complaint and what action was taken by the Commissioner on it ?

Mr. J. G. Beazley : Government has no information about this, but is making enquiries and will send an answer to the honourable member in due course.

COMPLAINT AGAINST MR. MUHAMMAD BUX, NAIB-TAHSILDAR.

*1665. **Lala Bodh Raj :** Will the Honourable the Revenue Member please state—

(*a*) whether Mr. Muhammad Bux, Naib-Tahsildar, Multan, was ever reported against by the Deputy Commissioner, Montgomery, for being suspended ;

(*b*) if so, what were the reasons for the said report and what action was taken by the Commissioner, Multan, on it ?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The Naib-Tahsildar was suspected of complicity in a riot case, but as the other persons challaned in the case were acquitted by the Sessions Judge the case against the Naib-Tahsildar was withdrawn. The Commissioner did not consider it necessary to suspend the Naib-Tahsildar till a charge was framed against him, and as the case was withdrawn this was not done.

COMPLAINT AGAINST KHAN ABDUL RAHIM KHAN, TAHSILDAR.

*1666. **Lala Bodh Raj :** Will the Honourable Member for Revenue please state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that Khan Abdul Rahim Khan, Tahsildar, Leiah, was ever reported against by the Deputy Commissioner, Lyallpur, while the said Tahsildar was posted at Jaranwala ;

(*b*) if so, what were the reasons for not taking any action against the said Tahsildar by the Commissioner ?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : The honourable member apparently is not well informed and it is not clear what he exactly wants to know in public interest.

LANDED GENTRY GRANTS.

*1667. **Sardar Habibullah :** (*a*) Will the Honourable the Revenue Member please state the names of persons of various communities to whom landed gentry or reward grants have been made in the Gurdaspur district during the last 15 years, and the number of squares and rectangles granted to each of them ?

(*b*) How many persons now recommended by the Deputy Commissioner, Gurdaspur, for landed gentry grant are members of non-agricultural tribes ?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : (*a*) The honourable member is referred to the reply given to part (*b*) of Council Question No. 822.[1]

(*b*) Recommendations for grants of land are made confidentially and it is not in public interest to divulge the details.

PROVINCIAL EDUCATIONAL SERVICE.

*1668. **Sardar Habibullah :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(*a*) the Muslim and Hindu percentage in the Provincial Educational Service on the 1st of January 1927 ; was it or not 39·8 and 37·7, respectively ;

(*b*) the Muslim and Hindu percentage in the Provincial Educational Service on the 1st of January 1928 ; was it or not 38 and 42, respectively ;

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[1]Page 271 *infra*.

[Sardar Habibullah.]

(c) the increase in the number of posts in the Provincial Educational Service in the course of the year 1927; had the number of posts risen from 88 to 99;

(d) the increase in the number of posts in the Provincial Educational Service during the current year and the percentage of Muslims, Hindus and Sikhs appointed to those posts?

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal: (a), (b) and (c) I am having the exact figures worked out and a full statement will be made available to the honourable member. It is not correct to say that 11 new posts were created in the year 1927. The increase in the number of posts in the Provincial Educational Service, during the year 1928 is six to which the following appointments have so far been made:

Muslims 2, Hindus 2, Sikhs 1. One not filled yet.

The honourable member is also further referred to the answer to starred Council Question No. 1682.[1]

SUBORDINATE EDUCATIONAL SERVICE.

*1669. **Sardar Habibullah:** Will the Honourable Minister for Education give—

(a) the percentage of Muslims in the Subordinate Educational Service on 1st January 1927; was it or not 38;

(b) the number of posts in the Subordinate Educational Service on 1st January 1927 and the number of posts on 15th November 1928;

(c) the percentage of Muslims in the Subordinate Educational Service on 15th November 1928?

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal: The honourable member is referred to the consolidated annual statement showing the proportionate representation of the various communities in the different departments of the Punjab Government, a copy of which has already been placed on the table.

Shaikh Faiz Muhammad: Does the consolidated statement contain figures for the 15th November 1928, also?

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal: No. They will be available very soon.

RECRUITMENT TO THE EDUCATIONAL SERVICE.

*1670. **Sardar Habibullah:** Has the attention of the Honourable Minister for Education been drawn to the fact that there is a great deal of criticism in the Muslim press in the matter of recruitment to the Educational Service during the years 1927 and 1928 and in particular during the last six months.

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal: Some of the criticism in the Muslim Press has been brought to my attention.

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[1]Page 260 *infra*.

AGRICULTURAL ASSISTANTS.

*1671. **Sardar Habibullah:** Will the Honourable Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(a) what was the number of Agricultural Assistants on 1st January 1927 and what was the percentage of Muslims, Hindus and Sikhs on that date? Was it or was it not 34·8, 29·4 and 35, respectively;

(b) how many posts were added to the cadre of the Agricultural Assistants? Were they 33 in number or not, and is it a fact or not that now the percentage of Muslims, Hindus and Sikhs is 32·7, 28·5, and 37·8 respectively;

(c) whether it is a fact or not that out of 33 posts added to the cadre of Agricultural Assistants 8 have been given to Muslims, 8 to Hindus and 17 to Sikhs;

The Honourable Sardar Jogendra Singh: (a) The proportions were as stated.

(b) 33 permanent posts were added. On the permanent establishmen t the percentages are as stated.

(c) The figures quoted are correct as they stood on 1st January 1928. The distribution made subsequently was as follows:—

Muslims	12
Hindus	8
Sikhs	13

BEHAVIOUR OF THE POLICE AT KURUKSHETRA.

*1672. **Dr. Gopi Chand, Bhargava:** Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state—

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to an article headed "Brutal behaviour of Police at Kurukshetra," published in the daily '*Tribune*' of 16th November 1928, on page 9, column 1;

(b) if so, what action does Government propose to take in the matter?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow: (a) Yes.

(b) Enquiry is being made and the honourable member will be informed of the result in due course.

PUNITIVE POLICE.

*1673. **Dr. Gopi Chand, Bhargava:** Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the village of Kala Khatai, Lahore district, has been charged for 12 constables, 2 head constables and one-half the pay of one Sub-Inspector as the cost of the punitive police located there;

(b) whether it is a fact that the real number of the constables posted at the village except in the first month never exceeded five?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow: (*a*) The village of Kala Khatai has been charged for 12 constables and 2 head constables, but not for one-half of the pay of a Sub-Inspector. No second head constable was posted there after the 3rd December, 1924, and the question of refunding the pay of this head constable for the period in question, amounting to Rs. 611-9-3, is being considered.

(*b*) At the time the punitive post was sanctioned, no separate provision for contingent reserve was made which would have increased the cost of the post. Hence the post had to bear its own casualties and shortage due to sickness, leave and other casualties, was inevitable; but the average strength for the three years was not 5 as stated but about 9. An average absence of 3 men for training, leave, sickness and necessary absences on account of investigation and prosecution duties connected with the village crime and criminals was by no means excessive.

PUNITIVE POLICE.

***1674. Dr. Gopi Chand, Bhargava:** Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state whether it is a fact that the punitive police force located in the village, Kala Khatai, Lahore district, for three years left the village three months earlier?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow: No.

COMPLAINT AGAINST A SUB-INSPECTOR OF POLICE.

***1675. Dr. Gopi Chand, Bhargava:** Will the Honourable the Finance Member kindly state whether an enquiry was made into the allegations made by L. Bodh Raj, against the Sub-Inspector, Police, Multan, in his speech made on 13th March 1928 in connection with the Police grant and published in the Council Debates of the said date at page 627? If so, what was the result of the said enquiry?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow: The matter was the subject of a Police Departmental enquiry conducted by a gazetted officer, at which representatives of the Multan Hindu Sabha were present. The Sub-Inspector was completely exonerated.

Dr. Gopi Chand, Bhargava: Is it the same Sub-Inspector who prosecuted and challaned Lala Bodh Raj, after these allegations were made?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow: I have no information.

DEPUTY INSPECTOR-GENERAL OF PRISONS.

***1676. Chaudhri Afzal Haq:** Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) if his attention has been drawn to the letter of "One who knows," "Independent" and "Fair Play" published in the issues of 4th and 8th August and 11th October 1928 respectively of the daily *Muslim Outlook* of Lahore urging that a P. C. S. Officer be appointed as D. I. G. Prisons;

(*b*) whether he has given any consideration to the matter? If so, with what result?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The articles were considered but did not appear to afford a ground for taking any special action.

TEXT-BOOK COMMITTEE.

***1677. Chaudhri Afzal Haq :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the Punjab Text-Book Committee has recently decided to revise the list of approved text-books every three years and to prescribe only books of "outstanding merit" as alternative text-books ;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that several publishing firms of standing and repute submitted a memorial to the Honourable Minister for Education protesting against the aforesaid decision ;

(*c*) what action has been taken or is proposed to be taken on the point ?

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) The matter is under the consideration of Government.

JUNIOR VERNACULAR CLASSES.

***1678. Chaudhri Afzal Haq :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(*i*) the number of students admitted to the J. V. Classes in the years 1925, 1926, 1927 and 1928 ;

(*ii*) the number of Muslims so admitted during each of those years ?

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal : Such information as is readily available is laid on the table :—

Year.	*Total number of students admitted.*	*No. of Muhammadans admitted.*
1926	2,007	1,100
1927	2,545	1,258
1928	2,807	1,347

SENIOR VERNACULAR CLASSES.

***1679. Chaudhri Afzal Haq :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(*i*) the number of students admitted to the S. V. Classes in 1925, 1926, 1927 and 1928 ;

(*ii*) the number of Muslims so admitted during each year ?

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal : The required information is being collected and will be supplied to the honourable member when ready.

JUNIOR ANGLO-VERNACULAR CLASSES.

***1680. Chaudhri Afzal Haq :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(*i*) the number of students admitted to the J. A.-V. Classes in 1925, 1926, 1927 and 1928 ;

(*ii*) the number of Muslims admitted during each year ?

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal: The required information is being collected and will be supplied to the honourable member when ready.

SENIOR ANGLO-VERNACULAR CLASSES.

*1681. **Chaudhri Afzal Haq:** Will the Honourable Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(*i*) the number of students admitted to the S. A.-V. Classes in 1925, 1926, 1927 and 1928;

(*ii*) the number of Muslims admitted each year?

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal: The required information is laid on the table.

Year.	*Total number of students admitted.*	*Number of Muhammadans admitted.*
1925	97	25
1926	148	37
1927	133	46
1928	108	39

PROVINCIAL EDUCATIONAL SERVICE.

*1682. **Chaudhri Afzal Haq:** Will the Honourable Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(*i*) the number of appointments made to the P. E. S. (Men's Branch) during the year 1928;

(*ii*) the number of these appointments given to the Muslims?

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal: In the year 1928 up to date 7 fresh appointments have been made in the Provincial Educational Service as follows:—

Muslims	2
Sikhs	2
Hindus	2
Christians	1

During the year 5 Hindus retried from service or went on long leave with permission to take service outside. 1 Sikh Indian Educational Service officer retired and 1 Christian was removed from service. No Muslim retired or otherwise left service.

Two Muslim officers are now officiating in the Provincial Educational Service in long vacancies.

MUGHALPURA ENGINEERING COLLEGE.

*1683. **Chaudhri Afzal Haq:** Will the Honourable Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*i*) the number of students admitted to the B Class of the Mughalpura Engineering College in the years 1924, 1925, 1926, 1927 and 1928;

(*ii*) the number of Muslim students admitted during each of these years?

The Honourable Sardar Jogendra Singh: The information is laid on the table.

Chaudhri Afzal Haq: Will not the Honourable Member read out the statement?

The Honourable Sardar Jogendra Singh: It is a fairly long statement. If you want me. I will read it out.

Khan Bahadur Captain Sardar Sikandar Hayat Khan: May I ask what is the object of starring a question if the answer is not to be read out? The object of starring a question is to get an oral answer with a view to enable us to put supplementary questions. If the statement is to be laid on the table, it is just as well to treat the question as an unstarred one.

Mr. President: Even in the case of starred questions, if the answer is a very long one it may be laid on the table.

Dr. Shaikh Muhammad Alam: The Honourable Minister did not say, it was a long statement. He said, it was a fairly long one.

Pandit Nanak Chand: Will the reading of the answer be finished in three minutes, for the question hour, under the Standing Orders, comes to an end by that time.

The Honourable Sardar Jogendra Singh: With your permission, I shall read the statement:—

Year.	Number of students in "B" Class by community.								
	Government Students.				*Railway Students.*				
	Hindu.	Muslim.	Sikh.	Christian.	Hindu.	Muslim.	Sikh.	Christian.	Total.
1924 ..	9	10	5	1	9	1	1	9	45
1925 ..	9	9	5	2	4	2	4	10	45
1926 ..	12	3	10	2	6	3	2	9	47
1927 ..	16	8	3	..	6	9	..	5	47
1928 ..	13	7	3	2	10	3	5	2	45
Total ..	59	37	26	7	35	18	12	35	229

Engineering School, Rasul.

*1684. **Chaudhri Afzal Haq:** Will the Honourable Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*i*) the number of students admitted to the Engineering School, Rasul, in 1925, 1926, 1927 and 1928;

(*ii*) the number of Muslims admitted during each of the said years;

(*iii*) the number of students who were successful in 1925, 1926, 1927 and 1928;

(*iv*) the number of Muslims who were successful in each of the said years?

The Honourable Sardar Jogendra Singh: A statement showing the information is laid on the table.

Year.	Overseas Class.												Draftsman Class.				Remarks.
	Number of students admitted.			Number of Muslims admitted.			Number of students who were successful.			Number of Muslims who were successful.			Number of students admitted.	Number of Muslims admitted.	Number of students who were successful.	Number of Muslims who were successful.	
	British Punjab.	North-West Frontier.	Indian States.	British Punjab.	North-West Frontier.	Indian States.	British Punjab.	North-West Frontier.	Indian States.	British Punjab.	North-West Frontier.	Indian States.					
1925 ..	46	2	7	18	1	..	45	1	8	18	1	2	10	2	10	1	
1926 ..	49	..	7	8	..	..	46	..	4	18	..	..	*11	2	8	1	*Includes 1 student from Indian States.
1927 ..	52	3	15	12	1	1	45	2	7	18	1	..	14	2	7	2	
1928 ..	50	..	17	10	..	2	45	..	6	7	..	..	15	1	*11	2	

MULTAN RATE-PAYERS' ASSOCIATION.

*1685. **Dr. Shaikh Muhammad Alam:** Will the Honourable the Minister for Local Self-Government please state if any deputation of Multan Rate-Payers' Association waited upon him in connection with the new house and water-tax? If so, with what request and result?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon: I do not recollect having met any members of the deputation referred to nor is any record of such an interview traceable.

DISTINCTION BETWEEN PENSIONABLE AND NON-PENSIONABLE SERVANTS.

*1686. **Dr. Shaikh Muhammad Alam:** Will the Honourable the Member for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is true that officials on permanent non-pensionable posts do not enjoy even the privilege of Local Provident Fund Rules;

(*b*) on what principle, distinction is kept between pensionable and non-pensionable permanent officials of the Government;

(*c*) if there is any difference in the age limit of service in case of pensionable officials and non-pensionable permanent officials;

(*d*) has any memorial been received by the Government in this concern and with what result?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The basis of the distinction is that members of the non-pensionable class are recruited from a less well educated class than the pensionable and that the class of work performed by the non-pensionable is of a lower order.

(*c*) No.

(*d*) Petitions from certain Record Room employees are under consideration.

PANDIT PEARY MOHAN.

*1687. **Dr. Shaikh Muhammad Alam:** Will the Honourable Member for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government is aware that on October 30, 1928, Pandit Peary Mohan, B.A., LL.B., Senior Assistant Editor of the *Tribune*, was arrested at or near the Lahore Railway Station; and if so, by whose orders and under what circumstances;

(*b*) if the answer to part (*a*) of the question is in the affirmative, was any search made of his person or was he detained at any *thana* or police station; and if so, by whose orders;

(*c*) if the answers to parts (*a*) and (*b*) are in the affirmative, when was Pandit Peary Mohan released and was he released after any trial or formal charge;

[Dr. Shaikh Muhammad Alam.]

(*d*) if the answer to part (*a*) of the question is in the affirmative, what was the offence which Pandit Peary Mohan had committed or was supposed to have committed, and under what provision of the law was he arrested?

The Honourable Mr. A.M. Stow: The honourable member is referred to the answers to Council Questions Nos. 1586[1] and 1571[2].

GHORIPAL ZAMINDARS.

*1688. **Dr. Shaikh Muhammad Alam:** Will the Honourable Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government has been approached by any association on behalf of the Ghoripal zamindars with regard to the conditions of their grants; if so, with what effect;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that the Government requires less horses now than in the past;

(*c*) what is the number of forfeiture of grants in years 1925, 1926 and 1927;

(*d*) what is the total amount of fine levied on Ghoripal zamindars in Sargodha district in the last three years for breach of any condition of their grant?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: (*a*) Yes. Government has duly considered their representations.

(*b*) Yes. But supplies of horses from Australia are also decreasing.

(*c*) 1925 .. .. None.
1926 .. .. 2 for harbouring dacoits.
1927 .. .. .. None.

(*d*) Revenue Year .. .. .. Total amount of fines.
1924-25 .. .. Rs. 4,075.
1925-26 .. .. Rs. 1,250.
1926-27 .. .. Rs. 4,850.

TAX ON MOTORS.

*1689. **Dr. Shaikh Muhammad Alam:** Will the Honourable the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) how many kinds of taxes a motor vehicle has to pay on its way to Kashmir between Rawalpindi and Kohala;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that a motor vehicle running from Rawalpindi to Kohala (towards Kashmir) has to pay taxation at 17 miles, then at Murree, then at Kohala;

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[1] Page 144 *ante*.
[2] Page 160 *ante*.

(c) has any representation been made to the Government for relaxation of these taxes and particularly for the removal of the provincial tax at 17 miles post; if so, with what result?

The Honourable Sardar Jogendra Singh: (a) & (b) Taxes are levied at the following two places only on the through traffic between Rawalpindi and Kashmir, *viz.*, at the toll bars situated at:

(i) Salgram Bridge between the sixteenth and seventeenth milestones on the Rawalpindi-Murree Road, and

(ii) Kohala Bridge on the Rawalpindi-Kashmir Road.

A toll is charged on vehicles entering the limits of the Murree Municipality but the through traffic is exempted from the payment of this toll.

(c) No such representation is traceable.

MURREE MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE.

*1690. **Dr. Shaikh Muhammad Alam:** Will the Honourable Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state the proportion of Muslim representation in the Municipality of Murree?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon: Two out of three elected members; one out of six appointed non-official members.

FEE CONCESSIONS.

*1691. **Dr. Shaikh Muhammad Alam:** Will the Honourable Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government had allowed half concession in tuition fees for Agriculturists of Rawalpindi division under special circumstances up to the secondary department;

(b) if so, is this concession still continued;

(c) if the answer to (b) is in the negative, when was this concession withdrawn;

(d) if the concession was withdrawn, was it done with the consultation of the Divisional and District Inspectors of Schools and Deputy Commissioners;

(e) on whose suggestion was this concession withdrawn;

(f) how has it affected the number of students from agriculturist tribes?

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal: (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c), (d), (e) and (f). Do not arise.

MEMORIAL TO SARDAR BISHAN SINGH.

*1692. **Dr. Gopi Chand, Bhargava:** Will the Honourable Minister for Education please state—

(a) whether he is aware of the fact that a memorial was in contemplation to Sardar Bishan Singh, Inspector of Schools;

(b) whether the teachers were forced to contribute to it;

(c) if so, what action does Government intend to take in the matter?

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) and (*c*). Government noticed allegations in the public press that compulsion was being used in the matter, and took immediate steps to ensure that its officers should not exercise such compulsion.

Dr. Gopi Chand, Bhargava: Have the Government taken any action to refund the amount collected under compulsion?

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal: I do not think the attention of the Government was ever called to this fact.

DISTINCTION IN THE CLASSIFICATION OF INDIAN CHRISTIANS AS AGRICULTURISTS.

***1693. Dr. Gopi Chand, Bhargava:** Will the Honourable Revenue Member please state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that Indian Christians in Sheikhupura, Gujranwala, Lyallpur and Jhang districts and Mazhabis in Lyallpur and Sheikhupura districts are classed among agricultural tribes under section 4 of the Punjab Land Alienation Act;

(*b*) whether the Government is aware that these castes and their other kith and kin are classed as non-agriculturists in other districts of the province;

(*c*) if so, the reasons for according differential treatment to these tribes in canal colonies and in other districts of the province?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: (*a*) Yes, except in the Jhang district where only the Indian Christians in Chak No. 500 in the Shorkot tahsil have been notified agriculturists.

(*b*) Yes, except that the Indian Christians in the Montgomery district and the Khanewal tahsil of the Multan district, and Mazhabis in the Multan and Montgomery districts are also classed as agricultural tribes.

(*c*) The reason for gazetting these tribes as agriculturists was to restrict their power of alienation and thus prevent them from being expropriated from their land in the Canal colonies. In non-colony districts they have little or no land.

CANAL OFFICERS.

***1694. Dr. Shaikh Muhammad Alam:** Will the Honourable Revenue Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that remarks against Officers in the Canal Department are entered in their personal files without giving them a chance of explaining circumstances against them;

(*b*) what are the main considerations kept in view in filling S. C. Irrigation posts;

(*c*) in what circumstances powers under Section 70, Canal Act, are given to Canal Officers;

(*d*) if a Canal Officer has any right to appeal if he is dissatisfied with Chief Engineer's decision or is there any other remedy for him under these circumstances ?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : (*a*) Yes, but unfavourable remarks which it is considered an officer can remedy are communicated to him.

(*b*) The term " S. C. Irrigation Posts " is not understood.

(*c*) Powers under Section 70 of Canal Act are not now exercised by Canal Officers.

(*d*) Reference is invited to rules XVI to XIX of Appendix E, Punjab Financial Handbooks No. 2, volume II.

CANAL REST-HOUSES.

*1695. **Dr. Shaikh Muhammad Alam :** Will the Honourable Revenue Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) if it is a fact that Deputy Collectors in virtue of their office are not allowed to use the Canal rest-houses free of charge ;

(*b*) if so, why this distinction is made between Deputy Collectors and other Canal Officers ?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : (*a*) The honourable member's information is not accurate. No such charges are levied.

(*b*) Does not arise.

PENAL TAX IN RAWALPINDI.

*1696. **Dr. Shaikh Muhammad Alam :** Will the Honourable Finance Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government has levied any penal taxation on the inhabitants of Rawalpindi city with reference to riots which took place there in 1926 ;

(*b*) if so, what is the amount ;

(*c*) if so, what criterion has been adopted to distribute the amount upon the citizens ;

(*d*) if the Government is aware of any agitation opposing this taxation ?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow : (*a*) Government has quartered additional police in Rawalpindi town and the sum necessary to pay for that force has been and is being levied from the inhabitants.

(*b*) Rs. 67,865 on account of Additional Police for 1st September 1926 to 31st August 1927.

Rs. 67,865 on account of Additional Police for 1st September 1927 to 31st August 1928.

Rs. 12,937 on account of Additional Police for 1st September 1928 to 31st December 1928.

Total Rs. 1,48,667.

[The Hon. Mr. A. M. Stow.]

(*c*) Rs. 6 per hearth (per chuhla) per annum, except from those exempted, have been levied for the two complete years during which the post has been quartered on the town. The amount to be levied for the current year has still to be determined.

(*d*) No.

PENAL POLICE POSTS.

***1697. Dr. Shaikh Muhammad Alam:** Will the Honourable Finance Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) what was the sum actually realised by special taxation for penal Police posts in different parts of the Punjab during the years 1926 and 1927 ;

(*b*) what was the actual expenditure on such penal Police ;

(*c*) if there was any surplus from the sum actually realised ;

(*d*) if so, how this surplus was spent ;

(*e*) whether this surplus, if any, was regularly deposited in the treasury and shown as such or whether it was spent in different districts by orders of local police authorities ?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow: I regret that the answer to this question is not yet ready. It will be communicated to the honourable member when ready.

EMBEZZLEMENT IN POLICE TREASURY.

***1698. Dr. Shaikh Muhammad Alam:** Will the Honourable Finance Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether there has been any embezzlement in any police treasury in any district of the Punjab in the years 1925, 1926, and 1927 ;

(*b*) if so, in how many districts and where ;

(*c*) what was the action taken and against whom ;

(*d*) if there was any allegation against a Superintendent of Police in any case and, if so, in how many ;

(*e*) whether there was any such embezzlement case in which it was alleged that the sum in question was spent on a farewell party given to a Superintendent of Police ? If so, who was the Superintendent of Police concerned and was any enquiry made against him ;

(*f*) if there was any enquiry in any case and, if so, with what result ;

(*g*) what was the total amount of alleged embezzlement and how it was made up ;

(*h*) whether in any case the pay officer concerned was made to make up for the deficiency ?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow: (*a*), (*b*), (*c*), (*f*), (*g*), (*h*). The information asked for will be found in the statement laid on the table.

(*d*) No.

(*e*) No.

Serial No.	Year of embezzlement.	District in which there has been embezzlement and name of accused.	Brief summary of case and action taken against the defaulter.	Total amount of embezzlement.	Detail showing how loss was made up.
				Rs. A. P.	
1	1925	Muzaffargarh. Sub-Inspector Yusaf Ali, Lines Officer.	A case under Section 404, Indian Penal Code was registered against Sub-Inspector Yusaf Ali, Lines Officer, who was sentenced by the District Magistrate to one day's rigorous imprisonment and a fine of Rs. 260-15-10. The accused was dismissed the service with effect from 23th January 1927.	260 15 10	Sum made good by the accused.
2	1926	Kangra. Latur Singh, Head Constable, Pay Officer, Kangra.	Latur Singh sentenced to one year and 8 months' rigorous imprisonment.	888 4 0	Sum made good by Pay Officer.
3	1926	Hissar. Head Constable Suraj Narain, Pay Officer, Hissar District Police Office.	Pay Officer and Bill Clerk dismissed ..	8,726 1 9	Sum made good by Pay Officer.
4	1926	Dera Ghazi Khan. Head Constable Feroze Khan at Police Station, Jampur.	Departmental enquiry, Head Constable Feroze Khan dismissed.	250 0 0	Sum made good.
5	1926	Gujrat. Head Constable Multani Ram, Pay Officer.	Departmental enquiry and a criminal case launched against him, but he was honourably acquitted and re-instated.	508 0 0	A sum of Rs. 13-11-8 was written off. The rest was made good.
6	1926	Jhang. Embezzled by Abdul Ghani, Pay Officer.	Sentenced to 2½ years' rigorous imprisonment and a fine of Rs. 200.	1,038 8 0	Loss to Government made good by Pay Officer.
7	1927	Muzaffargarh. Embezzled by Muhammad Saif-ullah Khan, Pay Officer.	Muhammad Saif-ullah sentenced to 12 years' rigorous imprisonment and a fine of Rs. 3,000.	14,818 2 6	Sanction to the writing off of the Government money has been applied for.

UTILIZATION OF POLICE SUBORDINATES AS PRIVATE SERVANTS.

*1699. **Dr. Shaikh Muhammad Alam:** Will the Honourable Finance Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is true that several police officers use constables and head constables as their private servants;

(b) whether it is true that ordinarily in every district some constables are put on duty with the Superintendents and Deputy Superintendents of police who work as their private servants;

(c) if the Government is aware that some motor drivers of Superintendents and Deputy Superintendents of Police are shown as constables or head constables and draw their pay accordingly;

(d) if it is a fact that it is usual that a number of constables and head constables are put as watchmen at night in the houses of Superintendents and Deputy Superintendents of Police;

(e) if so, have the latter got to do any other duty?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow: (a) Police officers of certain ranks are given police orderlies. These orderlies are not permitted to be used as private servants.

(b) No.

(c) Orderlies are encouraged to learn to drive and look after a car in addition to their other duties.

(d) Formerly every Superintendent of Police had a personal guard. This is not now provided by rules, but personal guards are sometimes supplied when considered advisable and when sufficient men are available in the Police lines.

(e) Such personal guards would not normally have to do any other duty, except occasional parades.

EXCHANGE OF WATERLOGGED AREAS.

*1700. **Dr. Shaikh Muhammad Alam:** Will the Honourable Revenue Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government has allowed exchange of land to those whose lands in Sialkot and Gujranwala districts were affected by water-logging and who were cultivators themselves;

(b) whether the Government is aware that several villages in Sialkot and Gujranwala belonging to those who are not cultivators themselves have been badly affected by water-logging;

(*c*) if so, does the Government intend to allow them exchange of land in Nili Bar or elsewhere and, if so, on what conditions ?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : Government has allowed exchange of land of some nine villages in the Sialkot district lying near the head of the Upper Chenab Canal which had become extremely badly waterlogged, in which the whole of the proprietary body agreed to the exchange, with Government land in the Nili Bar. No distinction was made between cultivating and non-cultivating owners. The case of Gujranwala is still under consideration.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

Landed Gentry Grants.

822. Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram : Will the Honourable Revenue Member kindly state—

(*a*) whether landed-gentry grants were meant to rehabilitate good land-owning families in straitened circumstances ;

(*b*) whether it is not a fact that landed-gentry grants have been made in the past, generally speaking, to men who could enlist support of recommending authorities irrespective of their circumstances being straitened or affluent ;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that some Deputy Commissioners have recommended non-agriculturists in very affluent circumstances for landed-gentry grants ;

(*d*) whether strict regard to the rule of straitened circumstances will be paid when the recommendations come up for final disposal ?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : (*a*) The policy underlying the system of landed-gentry grants is explained in paragraph 128 of the Colony Manual, Volume I, to which the honourable member is referred.

(*b*) It is impossible to answer the question definitely without reviewing the grants of the past extending over nearly one generation. Generally speaking, let us hope, it is not as the honourable member's question seems to suggest.

(*c*) If the honourable member's reference is to the distribution of grants of this character on the Sutlej Valley Canals, the recommendations of local officers have not yet reached Government.

(*d*) Yes ; it is hoped that rules bearing on the subject will be followed.

LANDED GENTRY GRANTS.

823. Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram: Will the Honourable Member for Revenue kindly state—

(*a*) whether under the new scheme of the distribution of landed-gentry grants any limit has been set on the maximum area to be granted under this head and on the maximum area that can be granted to a single individual; and if so, what are these limits;

(*b*) whether those who have already received a landed-gentry grant will be eligible for a fresh grant under the same head;

(*c*) whether those who have already received a grant of some kind will be eligible for a landed-gentry grant;

(*d*) whether those who received no grant of any sort will have any preference over men referred to in (*b*) and (*c*) if the latter are eligible for fresh grants;

(*e*) if persons referred to in (*b*) and (*c*) are not eligible for fresh grants whether Deputy Commissioners have been asked to state expressly whether any of their nominees have already received any kind of grant;

(*f*) if Deputy Commissioners have not been asked to state the facts referred to in (*e*), whether Government proposes to ask them to do so now?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: (*a*) The area set aside for the grants of this character on the Sutlej Valley Canals will not exceed 10,000 acres. The maximum area to be granted to a single individual will not ordinarily exceed 10 squares as a maximum.

(*b*) No.

(*c*) No precise rule has been laid down on this point. But the question whether a person recommended for a grant has already received a grant of any kind will be taken into consideration in arriving at a decision.

(*d*) Ordinarily persons who have received no grants of any kind will have preference.

(*e*) *and* (*f*) No such instructions have been issued. But careful enquiries will be made regarding colony grants held by any person whose claim for a grant comes under the consideration of Government.

NON-MILITARY GRANTS.

824. Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram: Will the Honourable Revenue Member kindly state—

(*a*) whether any figures are available or can be made available without unreasonably excessive labour to indicate the area

that has been granted in the shape of non-military grants to persons belonging to Rohtak, Hissar, Karnal and Gurgaon districts;

(*b*) whether he is aware that Rohtak, Hissar, Gurgaon and Karnal districts have had a very small share in colony grants;

(*c*) whether in making peasant grants the claims of barani tracts particularly of those which have not received a due share of grants in the past, will be specially considered?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: (*a*) The honourable member has not given either the time or the colony, and it does not seem worth while to institute a research extending over several decades and several colonies.

(*b*) There are no data in support of or against the suggestion.

(*c*) As has been more than once stated in this Council the main principles which have been laid down for the selection of peasant grantees in the Nili Bar Colony are as follows:—

"(1) That a man is likely to make a good colonist,

(2) (*a*) that his land has been ruined by water-logging,

(*b*) that his land has been lost by chos, nala or river action,

(*c*) that he is an inhabitant of a congested district, or, lastly,

(3) that he is a resident of a tract which has so far received little or no canal land, or is liable to famine, provided that he can make a good colonist and comes from a tract where there is a goodly proportion of men skilled in agriculture."

The honourable member will observe that paragraph 3 of the above statement of principles recognises the claims of barani tracts and tracts which have so far received little or no canal land.

PEASANT GRANTS.

825. Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram: Will the Honourable Member for Revenue kindly state—

(*a*) whether any instructions have been issued to Deputy Commissioners laying down the principles which should govern their selection of men for peasant grants;

(*b*) whether Deputy Commissioners have been asked or will be asked to attach importance to the smallness of the size of the

[Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram.]

holding of their nominees or to the number of surplus men which the families of their nominees can furnish as colonists?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Yes.

BHAKRA DAM SCHEME.

826. Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram: Will the Honourable Revenue Member kindly state whether the revised estimates relating to the Bhakra Dam Scheme have been sent up to the Government of India or the Secretary of State and whether any reply has been received so far?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: The revised estimate for the Bhakra Dam Scheme has not been submitted to the Government of India as the agreement of the Government of Bombay to the withdrawal of the necessary amount of water from the Sutlej has not yet been accorded.

BHALAUT DISTRIBUTARY.

827. Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram: Will the Honourable Revenue Member kindly state—

(*a*) whether any improvement has taken place in the extent of the area irrigated by the tails of Bhalaut distributary both Asan and Ismaila branches (Rohtak district);

(*b*) whether any area, and if so, how much has received water for rabi sowings;

(*c*) what is the maximum discharge allowed to the Bhalaut distributary;

(*d*) whether water was available from June onwards to meet the demand of maximum discharge;

(*e*) what was the actual discharge of the Bhalaut distributary in June, July, August, September and October on the various occasions when it was allowed to run;

(*f*) if the actual discharge falls short of the maximum discharge allowed, what are the reasons for shortage?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: (*a*) Yes. Irrigation figures show this:—

Ismaila tail.	*Acres.*
1926-27	460
1927-28	830

Asan tail.

1926-27	848
1927-28	895

(*b*) Area irrigated in rabi 1928-29 to end of October is given below :—

	Acres.
Asan tail	165
Ismaila tail	162

(*c*) 886 cusecs ;

(*d*) Yes ;

(*e*) A statement is laid on the table ;

(*f*) Maximum discharge 886 cusecs was never required during this period. The supply was regulated according to the demand.

STATEMENT SHOWING GAUGES AND DISCHARGES OF BHALAV DISTRIBUTARY FOR JUNE TO OCTOBER 1928.

	JUNE 1928.				JULY 1928.				AUGUST 1928.				SEPTEMBER 1928.				OCTOBER 1928.			
	Indent.		*Actual.*		*Indent.*		*Actual.*		*Indent.*		*Actual.*		*Indent.*		*Actual.*		*Indent.*		*Actual.*	
	G.	D.	G.	D.	G.	D.	G.	D.	G.	D.	G.	D.	G.	D.	G.	D.	G.	D.	G.	D.
1	5.6	284	5.6	284	5.4	264	5.4	264	..	..	..	..	5.4	280	5.8	324	6.2	371	6.2	371
2	5.6	284	5.6	284	5.4	264	5.4	264	..	..	..	..	5.4	280	5.4	280	6.3	378	6.3	378
3	5.6	284	5.6	284	..	..	5.0	224	..	..	..	..	..	..	5.4	280	6.3	378	6.3	378
4	5.6	284	5.6	284	..	..	3.2	80	..	..	..	..	..	..	3.6	160	6.3	378	6.3	378
5	5.6	284	5.6	284	..	..	2.2	37	5.4	264	..	..	..	..	..	..	6.3	378	6.3	378
6	5.6	284	5.6	284	..	..	..	..	5.4	264	..	..	..	..	..	..	6.3	378	6.3	378
7	5.6	284	5.6	284	..	..	..	..	5.4	264	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
8	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5.4	264	5.4	264	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
9	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5.4	264	5.4	264	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
10	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5.4	264	5.4	264	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
11	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5.4	264	5.3	264	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
12	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5.4	264	5.4	264	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
13	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5.6	284	5.4	264	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

14	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	*5.6*	*284*	*5.4*	*284*	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
15	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	*5.6*	*284*	*5.6*	*284*	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
16	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	*5.6*	*284*	*5.6*	*284*	*5.6*	*301*	*5.6*	*301*	..	..	..	..
17	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	*5.6*	*284*	*5.6*	*284*	*5.8*	*301*	*5.8*	*301*	*6.3*	*378*	*6.1*	*369*
18	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	*5.6*	*301*	*5.6*	*301*	*5.8*	*324*	*5.8*	*324*	*6.3*	*378*	*6.3*	*378*
19	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	*5.8*	*324*	*5.6*	*301*	*5.8*	*324*	*5.8*	*324*	*6.3*	*378*	*6.3*	*378*
20	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	*5.8*	*324*	*5.8*	*324*	*5.8*	*324*	*5.8*	*324*	*6.3*	*378*	*6.3*	*378*
21	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	*5.8*	*324*	*5.8*	*324*	*6.0*	*348*	*5.8*	*324*	*6.3*	*378*	*6.3*	*378*
22	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	*5.8*	*324*	*5.8*	*324*	*6.0*	*348*	*5.8*	*324*	*6.3*	*378*	..	..
23	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	*5.8*	*324*	*5.8*	*324*	*6.0*	*348*	*5.8*	*324*	*6.3*	*378*	*4.5*	*180*
24	..	..	..	..	*5.2*	*264*	..	..	*5.8*	*324*	*5.8*	*324*	*6.0*	*348*	*6.0*	*348*	*6.3*	*378*	*4.4*	*180*
25	*5.4*	*264*	*2.6*	*46*	..	..	*2.7*	*52*	*5.8*	*324*	*5.8*	*324*	*6.0*	*348*	*6.0*	*348*	*6.3*	*378*	*3.7*	*192*
26	*5.4*	*264*	*4.3*	*161*	..	..	..	..	*5.8*	*324*	*5.8*	*324*	*6.0*	*348*	*6.0*	*348*	*6.3*	*378*	*5.9*	*336*
27	*5.4*	*264*	*5.2*	*264*	..	..	..	..	*5.8*	*324*	*5.8*	*324*	*6.1*	*359*	*6.0*	*348*	*6.3*	*378*	*6.2*	*371*
28	*5.4*	*264*	*3.2*	*161*	..	..	..	..	*5.8*	*324*	*5.8*	*324*	*6.2*	*359*	*6.1*	*350*	*6.3*	*378*	*6.2*	*371*
29	*5.4*	*264*	*5.4*	*264*	..	..	..	..	*5.9*	*336*	*5.9*	*336*	*6.1*	*359*	*6.1*	*369*	*6.3*	*378*	*6.3*	*378*
30	*5.4*	*264*	*5.4*	*264*	..	..	..	..	*5.9*	*336*	*5.9*	*336*	*6.2*	*371*	*6.2*	*371*	*6.2*	*390*	*6.4*	*390*
31	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	*5.9*	*336*	*5.9*	*336*	..	..	..	..	*6.4*	*390*	*6.4*	*390*
	*...	*5,542*	..	3,068	*..	*792	..	910	*...	*6,081*	..	7,216	*..	*6,870*	..	6,134	*..	*7,965	..	6,350

*The figures in these columns are in italics.

FOREST RANGERS.

828. Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram: Will the Honourable Revenue Member kindly state—

(*a*) whether any candidates; and, if so, how many were selected last year for training as Forest Rangers at Dera Dun;

(*b*) what were the educational qualifications of the candidates actually selected;

(*c*) whether among applicants there was one from Rohtak district a *bond fide* agriculturist in possession of a B.Sc. (Honours) degree and reading in M. Sc. class in the Government College at Lahore;

(*d*) whether candidates were invited for an interview;

(*e*) whether the applicant referred to in (*c*) was called for an interview;

(*f*) who made the selections, a Board of Selection or a single officer;

(*g*) whether the applicant referred to in (*c*) was selected; and if not, what are the grounds of his exclusion?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: (*a*) 6.

(*b*) 1 B.A.

1 F.Sc.

3 F. A.'s (two of whom had appeared in B.A. examination).

1 Matriculate—also passed Punjab Forest School examination.

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) *and* (*e*) Yes.

(*f*) The Chief Conservator of Forests made selections and forwarded all applications with his recommendations for the final orders of Government.

(*g*) On interview, he did not secure a place in the preliminary selection.

CROP FAILURE IN ROHTAK, ETC., DISTRICTS.

829. Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram: Will the Honourable Revenue Member kindly state—

(*a*) whether he has received any reports of the failure of kharif crops in the greater parts of Rohtak, Hissar, Gurgaon and Karnal districts from their respective Deputy Commissioners;

(*b*) if no such reports have been received whether he intends to call for reports showing the extent of the failure of kharif crops;

(c) what is the extent of the area sown with or prepared for rabi crops both in respect of barani and irrigated cultivation in each of these districts and what proportion it bears to the average area sown with rabi crops in each of the four districts;

(d) what relief Government proposes to afford to the zamindars of the area affected?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: (a) *and* (b) So far as cotton is concerned enquiries have been made, and report received from the Irrigation, Agricultural and Revenue staff indicates that the crop is poor and somewhat below normal in some cases but no special measures are necessary.

The rest of the question has necessitated enquiries from local officers and the replies are still incomplete. A reply will be communicated to the honourable member, as soon as the necessary information is collected.

WATER SCARCITY IN JHAJJAR TAHSIL.

830. Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram: Will the Honourable Revenue Member kindly state—

(a) whether the Jhajjar tahsil has practically no canal irrigation;

(b) whether, with the exception of a small narrow strip in the extreme south, the whole tahsil has suffered in consequence of scanty rainfall and failure of kharif and there are hardly any prospects of rabi, except in a very limited portion;

(c) whether in a large number of villages, particularly those in the neighbourhood of Mandauthi, there is no water for cattle to drink in village ponds;

(d) what steps Government proposes to take in order to relieve the keen distress caused by famine conditions prevailing in these areas?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: (a) One-fifth of the Tahsil is canal irrigated.

(b) The kharif has been poor and rabi sowings are restricted.

(c) Water is available in the bigger ponds while the smaller ponds in the barani areas have generally dried up.

(d) The following steps have been taken to relieve the distress:—

(i) Taccavi loans have been advanced for the repair of wells and the purchase of bullocks and seed.

(ii) The current kharif demand of land revenue has been suspended in 58 villages.

(iii) It is not proposed to recover this harvest any sums that are outstanding on account of land revenue for the previous harvests.

ZILLADARS.

831. Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram: Will the Honourable Member for Revenue kindly state—

(*a*) the total number of zilladars in the province and the number among them who belong to Rohtak, Hissar, Karnal and Gurgaon districts;

(*b*) the number of zilladars recruited at the last selection (*i*) by direct appointment, and (*ii*) by promotion and the number among them who belonged to Hissar, Gurgaon, Rohtak and Karnal districts;

(*c*) whether it is expected to make any selections in the near future; and if so, when?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: (*a*) The total number of zilladars is 210.

The number belonging to the districts mentioned are:—

Rohtak.	*Hissar.*	*Karnal.*	*Gurgaon.*
8	8	8	2

(*b*) 19 direct appointments and 11 by promotion were selected on the last occasion. The number belonging to the districts mentioned are:—

Hissar.	*Gurgaon.*	*Rohtak.*	*Karnal.*
..	1	1	1

(*c*) A further selection is likely to be made within the next two months.

EXTRA ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER CANDIDATES.

832. Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram: Will the Chief Secretary kindly state—

(*a*) whether any names of candidates from statutory agricultural tribes belonging to Karnal, Hissar, Gurgaon and Ambala districts have been submitted to Government for the post of (*i*) Extra Assistant Commissioner and (*ii*) Tahsildar;

(*b*) whether among the names submitted from the districts referred to in (*a*) there are any persons who own no lands and have no residence in the district from which they have had their names forwarded and have their real homes in other districts?

Mr. J. G. Beazley: The honourable member has not stated for what period the information asked for is required but presuming that the information is required for 1927-28 the answers are—

(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) One, the son of an official who was stationed in one of the districts in question.

STATUTORY AGRICULTURIST REPRESENTATION IN POLICE.

833. Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram: Will the Honourable Member for Finance kindly state whether any member of a statutory agricultural tribe from Hissar, Rohtak, Karnal or Gurgaon district has ever been appointed a Deputy Superintendent or Inspector of Police by direct recruitment ?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow: No.

SUB-INSPECTORS.

834. Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram: Will the Honourable Member for Finance kindly state the total number of Sub-Inspectors in the Province and the number among them who come from the Rohtak, Hissar, Karnal and Gurgaon districts ?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow: It is presumed that the honourable member is referring to Sub-Inspectors of Police. Enquiries are being made from district offices and the information asked for will be communicated to the honourable member in due course.

SUB-INSPECTORS.

835. Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram: Will the Honourable Member for Finance kindly state the total number of Sub-Inspectors recruited during the last three years and the number among them of those who come from the Rohtak district ?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow: It is presumed that the honourable member is referring to Sub-Inspectors of Police.

The information asked for is being collected and will be communicated to the honourable member when complete.

DEPUTY AND ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENTS OF JAILS.

836. Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram: Will the Honourable Member for Finance kindly state—

(*a*) the number of Deputy Superintendents and Assistant Superintendents of Jail selected this year and the number of statutory agriculturists among them ;

(*b*) whether Government proposes to select another batch of Deputy and Assistant Superintendents of Jail next year; and if so, how many ?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow: (*a*) If by the term 'statutory agriculturists' the honourable member means a member of a notified agricultural tribe, the answer is that five direct appointments of Deputy Superintendents have been made this year of which number two were filled by members of notified agricultural tribes. No direct appointment of Assistant Superintendent has been made.

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Eight Jailors have been promoted to the rank of Deputy Superintendent and 17 Deputy and Assistant Jailors to the rank of Assistant Superintendent and of these two and five respectively belonged to notified agricultural tribes.

(*b*) No decision has been made in this matter.

PUNJABI CONVICTS IN THE ANDAMANS.

837. Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram: Will the Honourable Member for Finance kindly state the total number of Punjabi convicts who are still in the Andamans and whether it is proposed to recall them within the next two years ?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow: The answer to this question is not yet ready. It will be communicated to the honourable member when ready.

AGRICULTURAL REFORMATORY SETTLEMENTS.

838. Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram: Will the Honourable Finance Member kindly state—

(*a*) how many prisoners have been brought out of jails in order to work on agricultural reformatory settlements in the Nili Bar ;

(*b*) whether they are allowed to bring their families to these settlements ;

(*c*) whether they are allowed any wages for their work ?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow: (*a*) The total number of prisoners released conditionally up-to-date under the Good Conduct Prisoners Probational Release Act X of 1926 from all Jails in the Punjab and Delhi and Borstal Institution, Lahore, is 950 (798 adults and 152 adolescents). Out of this number 443 prisoners (291 adults and 152 adolescents) have been employed at the two Reformatory Farms established by Government at Burewala for adults and adolescents.

(*b*) They are allowed to bring their families to these settlements after 6 months' probation provided their conduct and work have been satisfactory.

(*c*) They are allowed wages for their work.

AUCTION OF COLONY LANDS.

839. Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram: Will the Honourable Revenue Member kindly state—

(*a*) the area of colony lands sold in 1926, 1927 and 1928 by auction and the average price per acre fetched at these public sales ;

(*b*) the income derived from crown lands given on short leases for temporary cultivation in 1926, 1927 and 1928?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: (*a*) A statement showing the information is laid on the table—

(*b*) 1925-26 not recorded separately.

	Rs.
1926-27	58,858
1927-28	1,04,672

Year.	Name of colony.	Area sold in acres.	Average price per acre.
			Rs.
1923 ..	Upper Chenab Canal Colony, Sheikhupura.	3,108	93
1926 ..	Lower Chenab Canal Colony, Sheikhupura.	10,489	303
1926 ..	Ditto ditto	3,055	491
1926 ..	Lower Chenab Canal Colony, Lyallpur..	19,407	517
1926 ..	Lower Chenab Canal Colony, Jhang ..	6,450	292
1927 ..	Lower Chenab Canal Colony, Lyallpur ..	6,423	477
1927 ..	Lower Bari Doab Canal Colony, Montgomery.	8,486	214
1927 ..	Lower Bari Doab Canal Colony, Multan..	7,745	
1927 ..	Nili Bar Colony	13,000	441
1928 ..	Ditto	9,819	424
1928 ..	Lower Bari Doab Canal Colony, Montgomery.	9,858	260
1928 ..	Lower Bari Doab Canal Colony, Multan..	4,996	334

RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE FOR 1927-28.

840. Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram: Will the Honourable Finance Member kindly state the actual figures of receipts and expenditure for 1927-28.

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow: The honourable member is referred to the statement appended to the memorandum relating to the financial position of the Province prepared by the Finance Secretary which has been supplied to the members.

MANDI HYDRO-ELECTRIC PROJECT.

841. Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram: Will the Honourable Minister for Agriculture kindly state whether expenditure on individual items of works so far executed in connection with the Mandi Hydro-Electric project is exceeding original estimates?

The Honourable Sardar Jogendra Singh: The expenditure on certain sub-heads of the project estimate has exceeded the project provision.

SUTLEJ VALLEY PROJECT.

842. Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram: Will the Honourable Member for Revenue kindly state—

(*a*) the amount of the original estimate of expenditure on the Sutlej Valley Project;

(*b*) the amount of the final estimate of expenditure;

(*c*) the various occasions on which the estimate has been revised and the amount of each revised estimate?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: (*a*) The amount is Rs. 14,59,90,488.

(*b*) The amount is Rs. 23,86,13,223.

(*c*) The first revised estimate was submitted in 1924 amounting to Rs. 19,79,40,539, which was withdrawn prior to sanction.
1926 revised estimate is given in (*b*).

SUTLEJ VALLEY PROJECT.

843. Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram: Will the Honourable the Revenue Member kindly state—

(*a*) the exact percentage of return which was originally expected on the capital proposed to be spent on the Sutlej Valley Project;

(*b*) the percentage of return which is now expected on the final estimate of expenditure?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: It is presumed that the question refers to the British portion only—

(*a*) In the 1920 Project the percentage return on the British portion was calculated at 33.6 per cent.

(*b*) In the 1926 Project owing to increased cost of construction and revised financial estimate the percentage return on the British portion is estimated at 13.47 per cent. in the year 1939-40.

EXPENDITURE ON PUBLIC WORKS.

844. Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram: Will the Honourable Finance Member kindly state—

(*a*) whether he is aware of the general public feeling that our public works cost us a good deal more than they ought to;

(*b*) whether the Finance Department has ever suggested to the Public Works Department the advisability of examining this question; and if not, whether it has any intention of doing so now?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow: (*a*) No.

(*b*) No suggestion of the general nature contemplated has been made to the Public Works Department by the Finance Department but in dealing with proposals for specific major works which are, under the rules, subject to examination in the Finance Department, the latter draws attention to any features of the proposals which it considers permit of further economy or to rates which appear excessive.

MACLAGAN ENGINEERING COLLEGE.

845. Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram: Will the Honourable Minister for Agriculture kindly state—

(*a*) the approximate amount of loss suffered by Provincial finances in consequence of certain irregularities in connection with the construction of the Maclagan Engineering College building;

(*b*) whether any, and if so what action was taken against anybody in connection with these;

(*c*) whether any portion of the loss was recovered from anybody?

The Honourable Sardar Jogendra Singh: "The attention of the honourable member is invited to the answer given in reply to his question[1] No. 1255 in March Session of the Council."

PHYSICAL TRAINING INSTRUCTORS.

846. Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram: Will the Honourable Minister for Education kindly state—

(*a*) the names, educational qualifications, exact place in the pass list of those who have been appointed Physical Training Instructors recently;

(*b*) the grade in which each of the Physical Training Instructors was appointed;

(*c*) whether any differential treatment in the matter of pay was allowed which would not be justified strictly on the result of the examination; and if so, what were the grounds of that differential treatment;

(*d*) whether in any case, and if so, in how many cases, the original recommendations of the recommending authority in regard to pay were departed from, and what were the grounds of departure?

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal: (*a*) and (*b*) A statement giving the names of physical training supervisors, their qualifications and the grade in which they have been fixed is laid on the table.

(*c*) The official examination was a general test, no exact position was given to candidates in the result award and the opinions of officers responsible for the conduct of the course were taken into consideration in fixing the pay.

[1] Vol. XI pages 798-799.

[Hon'able Mr. Manohar Lal.]

(d) It is not usual to disclose information of this nature.

Name.	Educational qualifications.	Grade.
		Rs.
1. B. Thakur Singh	B A., S.A.-V.	110—5—135
2. Lala Kishan Dayal ..	Ditto	110—5—135
3. Lala Tek Chand	Ditto	110—5—135
4. Lala Goverdhan Mahtand ..	F.A., J.A.-V.	80—4—100
5. Lala Sain Datta	B.A., L.T.	80—4—100
6. Lala Sansar Chand ..	B.A., S.A.-V.	110—5—135
7. Lala Sohan Lal	B.A., S.A.-V.	110—5—135
8. Lala Bahal Chand	B.A., S.A.-V., J.A.-V., S.V. ..	80—4—100
9. Lala Dev Datta	Shastri and trained B. A. ..	80—4—100
10. Lala Hans Raj	B.A., S.A.-V.	110—5—135
11. Lala Milkhi Ram	B.Sc., S.A.-V.	80—4—100
12. B. Wadhawa Singh ..	F.Sc., J.A.-V.	80—4—100
13. M. Abdul Ghani	B.A., S.A.-V.	110—5—135
14. B. Dhupau Singh	Ditto	80—4—100
15. Lala Sarup Singh	B. Sc. (Hons.), B.T. ..	80—4—100
16. B. Indar Singh	F. Sc., S.A.-V.	80—4—100
17. B. Gopal Singh	F.A., J.A.-V.	80—4—100
18. Lala Gurenditta Mal ..	B.A., S.A.-V.	80—4—100
19. M. Abdul Hakim	B.A., B.T.	110—5—135
20. B. Indarjit Singh	Ditto	110—5—135
21. B. Nand Singh	F. A.	80—4—100

GRANT-IN-AID TO PRIVATE SCHOOLS.

847. Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram: Will the Honourable Minister for Education kindly state—

(a) how many private high schools applied for recognition and how many of them were placed on the list of recognised schools;

(b) whether the Khalsa High School of Rupar applied for recognition and has been recognised;

(c) how many and which private schools applied for a grant-in-aid and how many and which of them obtained a grant-in-aid ?

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal : (a) and (c). The honourable member has not specified the period for which he desires the information, but if he refers to the current year, the recommendations of the Divisional Inspectors regarding recognition and grant-in-aid are still under consideration.

(b) The honourable member's attention is invited to the answer to Council Question[1] No. 1338 (starred). No papers with regard to the recognition of this school have reached the Director of Public Instruction during the current year.

SUBORDINATE EDUCATION SERVICE.

848. Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram: Will the Honourable Minister for Education kindly state—

(a) the number of unconfirmed members of the subordinate educational service in the Anglo-vernacular section in the Ambala division ;

(b) how many of them have been waiting for confirmation for more than two years ;

(c) what is the normal period of probation after which an employee is either confirmed or discharged ?

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal : " (a) 24.

" (b) 18.

" (c) Ordinarily one year is the period of probation but this is extended if considered necessary."

DISTRICT INSPECTORS.

849. Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram : Will the Honourable Minister for Education kindly state—

(a) the total number of District Inspectors in the province ;

(b) the total number of :

(i) Hindu District Inspectors, and

(ii) Sikh District Inspectors and those in each group who are statutory agriculturists ?

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal : (a) Twenty-nine.

(b) The honourable member is referred to the consolidated annual statement showing the proportionate representation of the various communities serving in different departments of the Punjab Government, a copy of which has already been placed on the table.

ASSISTANT DISTRICT INSPECTORS.

850. Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram : Will the Honourable Minister for Education kindly state—

(a) the total number of Assistant District Inspectors in the province ;

(b) the total number of—

(i) Hindu Assistant District Inspectors, and

[1] Vol. XI page 939.

Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram.]

(*ii*) Sikh Assistant District Inspectors and those in each group who are statutory agriculturists ?

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal : A statement giving the requisite information is laid on the table.

STATEMENT SHOWING THE TOTAL NUMBER OF ASSISTANT DISTRICT INSPECTORS OF SCHOOLS IN THE PROVINCE AND THE TOTAL NUMBER OF HINDU AND SIKH ASSISTANT DISTRICT INSPECTORS OF SCHOOLS AND THOSE IN EACH GROUP WHO ARE STATUTORY AGRICULTURISTS.

INCLUDING OFFICIATING APPOINTMENTS.

Total number of Assistant District Inspectors in the province.	Total number of Hindu Assistant District Inspectors in the province.	Total number of Hindu Assistant District Inspectors who are statutory agriculturists.	Total number of Sikh Assistant District Inspectors in the province.	Total number of Sikh Assistant District Inspectors who are statutory agriculturists.
141	28	9	28	12
SUBSTANTIVE AND PERMANENT APPOINTMENTS.				
138	27	9	28	12

DISTRICT AND ASSISTANT DISTRICT INSPECTORS.

851. Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram : Will the Honourable Minister for Education kindly state—

(*a*) the number of Hindu District Inspectors of schools in the Ambala division and the number of those among them who belong to the statutory agricultural tribes ;

(*b*) the number of Hindu Assistant District Inspectors of schools in the Ambala division and the number of those among them who belong to statutory agricultural tribes ?

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal : A statement is laid on the table.

STATEMENT SHOWING THE NUMBER OF HINDU DISTRICT AND ASSISTANT DISTRICT INSPECTORS OF SCHOOLS IN THE AMBALA DIVISION, AND THOSE AMONG THEM WHO BELONG TO AGRICULTURAL TRIBES, EMPLOYED IN A PERMANENT AND SUBSTANTIVE CAPACITY.

	Number of Hindus.	Number of those Hindus who belong to statutory agricultural tribes.	REMARKS.
District Inspectors of Schools. ..	4	1	
Assistant District Inspector of Schools	8	5	
Including Officiating hands.			
District Inspectors of Schools ..	4	..	
Assistant District Inspectors of Schools	9	5	

SUBORDINATE EDUCATION SERVICE.

852. Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram: Will the Honourable Minister for Education kindly state the number of Hindu statutory agriculturists whom it has been found possible to employ in Rs. 80—4—100 or higher grades of the subordinate educational service in 1927 and 1928;

(*i*) in the province as a whole, and

(*ii*) in the Ambala division?

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal: The honourable member's attention is invited to the consolidated annual statement showing the proportionate representation of the various communities in the different departments of the Punjab Government, a copy of which has already been placed on the table.

LECTURERS IN INTERMEDIATE COLLEGES.

853. Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram: Will the Honourable the Minister for Education kindly state the number of Hindu Lecturers in Government Intermediate Colleges and whether any of them are statutory agriculturists?

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal: The honourable member is referred to the consolidated annual statement showing the proportionate representation of the various communities serving in the different departments of the Punjab Government, a copy of which has already been placed on the table.

SANITARY GRANTS.

854. Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram: Will the Honourable the Minister for Local Self-Government kindly state the amount of grant given to urban and rural areas for the improvement of their sanitation and water-supply during the last five years?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon:—

		Rs.	A.	P.
1923-24	Urban areas	5,29,876	0	0
	Rural areas	50,939	8	0
1924-25	Urban areas	7,67,287	0	0
	Rural areas	18,792	0	0
1925-26	Urban areas	7,87,060	0	0
	Rural areas	56,878	12	0
1926-27	Urban areas	8,73,933	10	0
	Rural areas	2,72,175	0	0
1927-28	Urban areas	9,09,814	8	0
	Rural areas	1,09,808	0	0

RURAL MEDICAL AID.

855. Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram: Will the Honourable the Minister for Local Self-Government kindly state whether any districts, and if so, which, are behind hand with the programme of their rural dispensaries?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon: A statement showing the progress made in each district is laid upon the table.

District.	Total number of dispensaries to be opened under 5 years scheme.	Number of dispensaries opened so far.	Number of dispensaries still to be opened.	Remarks.
1	2	3	4	5
Hissar	29	19	10	
Rohtak	10	9	1	
Gurgaon	13	7	6	
Karnal	18	15	3	
Ambala	10	7	3	
Kangra	13	10	3	
Hoshiarpur	8	6	2	
Jullundur	8	5	3	
Ludhiana	5	3	2	
Ferozepore	24	19	5	
Lahore	17	10	7	
Amritsar	11	8	3	
Gurdaspur	7	3	4	
Sialkot	13	7	6	
Gujranwala	11	2	9	
Sheikhupura	11	6	5	
Gujrat	12	9	3	
Attock	22	11	11	
Shahpur	11	11	..	
Jhelum	10	8	2	
Rawalpindi	13	7	6	
Mianwali	14	9	5	
Montgomery	20	12	8	
Lyallpur	15	8	7	
Jhang	13	13	..	
Multan	17	11	6	
Muzaffargarh	9	9	..	
Dera Ghazi Khan	6	6	..	
Total	375	266	119	

PANCHAYATS.

856. Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram: Will the Honourable the Minister for Local Self-Government kindly state the total number of panchayats in the Province in 1926 and now?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon: At the end of the financial year 1926-27, there were 323 panchayats and on 16th November 1928, 421 panchayats. Besides these, preliminary notifications in respect of 108 additional panchayat villages have been issued.

PANCHAYATS.

857. Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram: Will the Honourable Minister for Local Self-Government kindly state the number of panchayats formed since the appointment of Panchayat Officers and how are they distributed in the various districts?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon: A statement giving the information required by the honourable member in respect of districts to which panchayat officers have been appointed is laid upon the table.

Districts in which panchayat officers have been appointed.	Date of sanction to the appointment of panchayat officer or his joining the district.	Total number of panchayats established since the appointment of the panchayat officer up to 22nd November 1928.	Total number of panchayats regarding which preliminary notifications are yet to be confirmed.	Remarks.
Rohtak ..	12-11-27	*Nil.*	27	
Hoshiarpur ..	3-9-27	1	23	
Lahore ..	3-9-28	*Nil.*	12	
Gurdaspur ..	3-9-27	7	12	
Sialkot ..	6-9-28	*Nil.*	*Nil.*	
Gujranwala ..	20-8-28	*Nil.*	*Nil.*	
Gujrat ..	7-11-27	6	24	
Lyallpur ..	2-10-28	*Nil.*	*Nil.*	
Multan ..	22-9-27	29	2	

WATERWORKS SCHEMES AT ROHTAK.

858. Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram: Will the Honourable Minister for Local Self-Government kindly state the stage reached by the waterworks scheme at Rohtak?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : A detailed estimate has been sanctioned and the municipal committee has been asked to deposit the amount of its contribution towards the cost of the works. It is anticipated that work will be started in this month, if the necessary deposit is made by the committee.

DRAIN NO. 6 IN ROHTAK DISTRICT.

859. Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram : Will the Honourable the Minister for Local Self-Government kindly state the progress made with work on Drain No. 6 in the Rohtak district ?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : The estimated cost of the work is Rs. 94,000 and Rs. 19,000 were spent up to the end of September 1928.

COTTAGE INDUSTRIES.

860. Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram : Will the Honourable the Minister for Education kindly state the steps which he has taken to start or improve cottage industries in urban and rural areas ?

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal : (*a*) The amount actually sanctioned for loans under the Industrial Loans Act during the current year is more than double that in any previous year.

(*b*) Weavers from rural areas have been sent to industrial centres such as Surat at Government expense for preliminary training in the use of looms before setting up their own looms with the aid of money granted under the Industrial Loans Act.

(*c*) Metal and woodwork institutions have been established for the purpose of helping those industries.

(*d*) Relief has been and is being given to Industrial Surveyors so as to enable them to devote greater time in advising industrialists generally.

(*e*) It is proposed to develop the intelligence branch in the office of the Director of Industries with effect from 1st April next to furnish the required industrial data to existing and prospective industrialists, and a second touring Assistant is being sanctioned for the Director of Industries to help further in the development and starting of cottage industries.

(*f*) Monographs on different industries have been or are being prepared ; one is ripe for publication.

(*g*) A survey as to the prospects of fibre industry has been carried out by an expert whose report is awaited.

(*h*) Schemes to further the establishment of power and hand loom industry generally in the province are under consideration, but as a preliminary the Demonstration Weaving Factory at Shahdara will train and is training professional weavers, matriculates and graduates to enable them to set up improved hand or power looms as a cottage industry throughout the province.

(*i*) Village Tanning Demonstration Parties have been sanctioned to tour round the province in order to teach the village *chamar* improved methods of flaying, curing, tanning and the use of improved implements. The work of the first party, already working in the Sialkot district, has been appreciated.

(*j*) Two Industries carriages are being run with the Demonstration Train of the North-Western Railway in which, in addition to exhibits, practical demonstration in the use of different machines is being given.

(*k*) Technical advice is being placed more and more at the disposal of industrialists in rural as well as urban areas, and industrial and technical institutions under the control of the Industries Department such as the Government Industrial Schools, Central Weaving Institute, Amritsar, Institute of Dyeing and Calico Printing, Shahdara, Hosiery Institute, Ludhiana, Demonstration Weaving Factory, Shahdara, etc., are being expanded and developed to meet the present needs and requirements of various industries of the province.

GRANTEES IN MONTGOMERY COLONY.

861. Lala Bodh Raj: Will the Honourable Member for Revenue please state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that a large number of grants made in Montgomery Colony are by way of rewards on account of war services;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that these grantees are charged the same rate for the purchase of proprietary rights as the other grantees, who have not rendered any war service?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: (*a*) and (*b*) Yes.

GRANTEES IN LOWER BARI DOAB, ETC., COLONIES.

862. Lala Bodh Raj: Will the Honourable Member for Revenue please state—

(*a*) the number of grantees, who can purchase the proprietary rights at the reduced rates in Lyallpur, Lower Bari Doab and other Punjab colonies;

(*b*) how many of such grantees have applied for the purchase of rights at the reduced rates;

(*c*) if it is a fact that the grantees of proprietary rights in the Lower Bari Doab Colony (*i*) before 1925 and (*ii*) from 1st January 1925 to 16th September 1927 have applied for the refund of difference between the original price they were made to pay and the reduced price referred to above;

(*d*) what orders have been passed on their applications for refund;

(*e*) what is the total number of such applications? Will the Honourable Member please lay on the table the list of such applicants?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: (*a*) and (*b*) The labour involved in collecting this information would be out of proportion to the advantages to be obtained and it is not in public interest to institute such an enquiry.

(*c*) Some applications have been made.

(*d*) Orders were issued that no refunds should be granted, but that if those who had started paying on the previous terms wished to surrender those instalments, they might do so and purchase on the new terms.

(*e*) Government is not aware of the total number of such applications. These were made mostly to the local officers.

IRRIGATION DEPARTMENT, FEROZEPORE.

863. Mr. Din Muhammad: Will the Honourable Member for Revenue please state—

(1) whether it is a fact that there are about a dozen Sub-Divisions attached to the First British Circle, Irrigation Department, Ferozepore?

(2) if so, how many Muslim Sub-Divisional clerks and Accounts clerks are employed in these Sub-Divisions?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: (1) Yes. There are 12 Sub-Divisions.

(2) 1 Sub-Divisional clerk and 2 Assistant Sub-Divisional clerks.

Accounts clerks are not employed in Sub-Divisional offices.

PATTOKI MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE.

864. Dr. Gopi Chand, Bhargava: Will the Honourable Minister for Local Self-Government please lay on the table the latest copy of the Auditor's report of the accounts of the Pattoki municipal committee?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon: The report covers five foolscap pages of print, and failing any indication of the public purpose which might be served by laying a copy of it on the table, I do not think I should be justified in agreeing to the expense involved in having it reprinted in the proceedings of the Council. If the honourable member wishes to have a copy of the report, I shall be glad to give instructions for one to be supplied to him.

PLYING OF MOTORS ON TALAGANG-INJRA ROAD.

865. Sardar Ujjal Singh: Will the Honourable the Revenue Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) if it is a fact that the Commissioner, Rawalpindi, to the following telegram,

"Deputy Commissioner refuses licences Talagang-Injra road. Governor referred matter to your good-self. Please wire, if you will grant licences for that road, Hem Raj-Fateh Chand,"

wired back on 18th May 1928, "Question of monopolies referred to Government, orders awaited, Commissioner."

(*b*) what steps have been taken by Government to issue licenses to such individuals or companies, who apply for permission to ply motors and lorries on hire on the Talagang-Injra road;

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The issue of road certificates rests with the District Magistrate, not with the Local Government.

RULES REGARDING POSTPONEMENT OF LAND REVENUE.

866. Khan Bahadur Mian Muhammad Hayat Qureshi: Will the Honourable Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government has made an announcement that in the case of postponement of land revenue for a particular crop, recovery of which is not made for three successive crops, the land revenue will be totally remitted?

(*b*) whether the Government has so far framed any rules in this connection? If not, when it is proposed to be done?

(*c*) whether the Government proposes to consult the Standing Committee of the Punjab Legislative Council on Land Revenue before framing these rules?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: (*a*) Government has decided to amend the existing rule relating to suspension and remissions of land revenue, so that the question of the remission of suspended land revenue should begin to come under consideration after three harvests instead of six harvests, on barani and chahi lands, subject to fixed land revenue.

(*b*) The matter is receiving the attention of the Revenue Department.

(*c*) In view of (*a*) above, seems hardly necessary.

INTERMEDIATE COLLEGE AT SHAHPUR SADAR.

867. Khan Bahadur Mian Muhammad Hayat Qureshi: Will the Honourable Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the Government has finally decided to open an Intermediate College at Shahpur Sadar;

(*b*) if the reply to the above is in the affirmative, when it is proposed to start the college and what arrangements have so far been made to carry out the objects of the proposed scheme?

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) It is proposed to start the college in May next. The question of additions and alterations to the existing buildings is receiving attention.

STATEMENT *RE*: WATERCOURSE ACREAGE RATES.

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: (Revenue Member):

As recent questions have shown that there is some misapprehension on the subject of the watercourse acreage rate of the Upper Jhelum, Upper Chenab and Lower Bari Doab Canals, it is desirable that a statement on the subject should be laid before Council.

2. The watercourse acreage rate is a temporary addition to the canal occupiers rates amounting to 8 annas per acre matured, levied with the sanction of the Government of India with the object of meeting the cost of certain works undertaken by Government which are usually carried out by, or at the cost of, the proprietors of the land served.

3. The services, the cost of which is covered by the rate are:—

(*a*) construction of watercourses including the surveys necessary to determine their alignment,

(*b*) rectangulation and *kila bandi*, and

(*c*) road-culverts for the watercourses.

4. Under the orders of the Government of India recoveries of this rate are to be continued until such time as the expenditure by Government on these services is balanced by the recoveries. In the case of the Upper Chenab Canal this has already occurred and recoveries have been suspended. In the case of the other two canals concerned, the Upper Jhelum Canal, and the Lower Bari Doab Canal, realizations are approaching expenditure including that estimated to complete the work. The accounts are now being made up and it is anticipated that when ready they will permit of the rate being discontinued after the expiry of the current crop, rabi 1928-29.

5. It is the intention of Government that where any of the above services have been carried out by proprietors independently of the Irrigation Department the cost incurred by them will be refunded. It is possible, however, that in some cases claims on this account have not been lodged. In such cases it is advisable that the Irrigation Branch authorities should be approached before the end of the current financial year in order that claims may be settled before the accounts are closed.

RESOLUTION *RE*. POLICE ASSAULT ON LEADERS AT LAHORE—(*continued*).

Mr. President: The Council will now resume discussion on resolution* regarding police assault on leaders at Lahore.

Dr. Gopi Chand, Bhargava: [Lahore City, Non-Muhammadan (Urban) Urdu]: Sir, last Friday I was explaining my position regarding

*This Council recommends to the Government that a Committee of non-official members of this Council be appointed to enquire into the conduct of those officials, including Mr. Scott, the Superintendent of Police, who assaulted and beat leaders of the public on 30th October 1928 at Lahore and arrested and detained Pandit Peyare Mohan, Assistant Editor of the *Tribune* on the same date.

the resolution and the reasons why I supported the same. I want also to add that I feel the loss of Lala Lajpat Rai much more than anybody else does as I had the privilege of being one of his disciples and colleagues. There was and is even now a feeling of anger against the system of government which is the cause of his premature death. But it is not out of that feeling of anger that I am supporting this resolution. My spirit of anger does not imply thirst for blood or punishment to the culprit.

Sir, the official version as reported in the *Civil and Military Gazette* and in the Associated Press telegram, the official version in the *Tribune*, the version of Deputy Inspector-General of Police, the version that appeared in the Government *communiqué*, the statements made before Mr. Boyd and the report submitted by Mr. Boyd are so conflicting that every man, who is not prejudiced and is neither connected with the Government, nor with the Congress nor with the persons injured, would advise the Government, in the interest of the Government, to hold a non-official enquiry. Now after the death of Lala Lajpat Rai, it has become all the more important that a just and fair enquiry be made. Lalaji in his lifetime, had thrown a challenge to the Government which it had not the courage to accept. Just after the death of Lala Lajpat Rai, the Honourable Mr. Patel stated that it was the right of the people to demand a thorough enquiry into the matter. This opinion was expressed after Mr. Boyd was appointed to make an executive enquiry. Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru, and Mr. Chintamani, who were connected with the Government and held high positions, moved and supported a resolution urging upon the Punjab Government to hold an enquiry.

Before explaining why I boycotted Mr. Boyd's enquiry I desire, with your permission, Sir, to state a few facts. The other day the honourable Chief Secretary made mention of the bomb outrage on the occasion of the Dasehra festival. In this connection I may point out that on being called the very next day after this outrage I had a talk with an high official over this matter. I told him in plain words that there were reasons to believe that this outrage might be the act of one of the *agent provocateurs* of the Government. In support of this belief the chief reason that I advanced before him was that the police wanted to find a plausible plea for promulgating the order under section 144 with a view to stop all demonstrations on the arrival of the Simon Commission. They wanted to have a ground to say that there appeared to be bombs in the possession of the public and, in order to make it impossible for the mischief—mongers to make any mischief on the 30th October, the promulgation of that order was necessary. During the course of that talk the official mentioned above told me that the District Magistrate was determined not to apply section 144 unless of course orders were received from above. Sir, even a man in the street knows that the District Magistrate of Lahore is not the Deputy Commissioner. The Deputy Commissioner, in the real sense, is the Secretariat. This view was expressed before a deputation that waited upon the Deputy Commissioner after the last communal riots. Section 144 was applied on the 30th October under orders from above. The Inspector-General of Police has admitted, in his statement, that a conference of high officials was held and in that conference they decided their line of action. The details must have been discussed there. I know of persons who saw the constables being taught how to charge and beat the peoples who shouted—

[Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava.]

Go back, Simon. This matter was reported in the Press too. Sir, it has been said that we held meetings in connection with the arrival of the Simon Commission and that a report about one of them which was held on the 29th and which is said to have been held after the public meeting, was received by the Government. That report is believed to be true although it was incorrect and the honourable the Chief Secretary says that in that meeting it was decided to break the law. About the proceedings of the meeting held on the 30th he says he is not aware because no information was given to the Police in regard to the holding of that meeting. The Chief Secretary ought to have known that it was not our duty to inform the Police what we were going to do and as a matter of fact, we never informed the Police of our intention to hold the first meeting about the proceedings of which he received reports. The statements of the Police and others about the fact that Lalaji and others were attacked with *lathis* differ very much. The version that appeared in the *Civil and Military Gazette* soon after the occurrance was probably the one given by the Police and the Magistracy on the spot because the representative of that paper was seen with them at that time. On that ground we are sure that what appeared in that Gazette was nothing short of official version. According to that version Lala Lajpat Rai wanted to push his way through the Police and to climb over the barricade. What a despicable lie it is ? The Police officers in other statements say that Lalaji did not make any such effort. In those statements it is said that we were only pushed back and were not beaten with *lathis*. This, again, is false. We were at least, if I am not underestimating it, about three feet behind the barricade when we were attacked. If it were not so we could not receive injuries with *lathis* on our head or back or arms. No *lathi* can strike if the assailant and the person assailed upon are very close to each other. Again, Sir, if there were no space between, how could we rush to the place and try to save Lalaji by receiving injuries on ourselves ? If *lathis* were not hurled upon us and if we were only pushed back, how could we receive injuries on head, shoulders and arms ? It is said by some that *lathis* were used but injuries were slight. The only reply I can give is, let me strike the sturdiest person who says injuries were slight and then let him state whether they were slight or otherwise. It is said that minimum force was used. If an injury which can cause death, which can cause pleurisy, is slight, God knows what can a severe injury be. It is said that scuffle lasted a minute. I received nine blows on different parts of my body. Either many men struck me or the beating lasted longer than a minute. After this beating we stepped a pace forward and offered ourselves for more beating or for arrest. At this stage we were pushed back and Lala Dharam Das Suri, was caught by the throat by the Inspector-General of Police. I forgot to mention the story of leaving some space without a barricade where we were attacked and where Police were posted. It is said that because the work could not be finished, therefore, this space was left open. Some say that it was for passengers to go, others say that as certain sections of the barricade were to be taken from the *thana* it was left open. It is also said that a sergeant was attacked when he was putting wires. The barricade consisted of several pieces of wood. Therefore, there was no question of putting more wires on the spot and this explanation that the

masses provoked the police was wrong. All passenger traffic was closed that day long before the arrival time of the Commission and, therefore, this explanation is also a manufactured one. The Police did know that we were coming *vid* Landa Bazaar and they ought to have closed it before we reached. Sections were kept ready in *thana*. There is an open space on the back of the octroi post where no one could be expected to stand. Well Sir, some space could be left there to carry sections through, if this explanation is accepted to be true. After beating was over a section was brought from the police side and this space was also blocked. The sergeant was in a hurry to close this space after beating, and he might have hurt himself by wires if he was hurt at all. Just after this some pieces of stones lying on the road were collected by the police and we cried out that now that shall be argued that we threw them; a piece which was put under the leg of one of the sections was also taken away. When we were stopped again outside the Lohari Gate, two police officials came in a motor cycle and its side car. They were heard talking this way. "Well, Mr. so and so, it is due to your folly that this thing has happened." The other man replied that he thought that if leaders were attacked they would run away in their cars and then they would be able to disperse the crowd as they liked.

It is said that the officials did not know Lalaji or others. This is also incorrect. Mr. Morris used to bring us from the jail to the court room in 1921. Mr. Scott knew me very well as one of these who had issued a statement against the Police on the 28th October 1928 and also as one of those who were arranging Bharat Milap procession and to his astonishment the procession was very successful in spite of the fact that he was much frightened and had lost his head.

But suppose it were correct that they did not know Lalaji the only person who was protected by an umbrella was Lalaji. One of the masses was holding that umbrella, and it was sufficient to show that he must be a leader and, therefore, the blows were aimed at him.

Mr. President: The honourable member is repeating the arguments of Raizada Hans Raj.

Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava: No, Sir.

Mr. President: Order, Order. The honourable member is repeatng the arguments advanced by Raizada Hans Raj. Raizada Hans Raj mentioned the umbrella affair.

Besides, I may point out that as many honourable members are anxious to speak on the resolution, I feel called upon to enforce the time limit of 15 minutes. The honourable member has already spoken for more than 20 minutes to-day and had also spoken for a few minutes on the 30th. I would ask him, therefore, to finish his speech as soon as possible.

Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava: With your permission Sir, I would say that as Raizada Hans Raj did not point out how Lala Lajpat Rai was singled out, I am going to say that Lala Lajpat Rai had been singled out with an umbrella. (Continued in Urdu):

This is the true statement of facts. It is clear that Police did not want any demonstration to take place and, therefore, they wanted to

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disperse them before the Commission arrived, if it is true that we were attacked before arrival of the Commission. It was pre-arranged to attack the masses. They did not know that we would be in the first row. They knew that we were in the crowd but whether we would be in the front or not they could not realise. They provoked us and wanted us to become violent in return.

Sir, as I said before, I do not grumble at the beating but I have got a right to say that we were not beaten while violating the orders. We had not crossed the cordon line. We would have done if we could do it without violence. But to have a determination to break a law in a civil way and not in a criminal way but not actually doing it, is no crime and no violence and it is, therefore, we say that the Police acted in an illegal way in attacking us. I do not grumble beating even when the Police went beyond its rights to attack us. The victory of non-violence lies in the fact that the persons who believe in violence violate the law and act criminally.

As the Inspector-General of Police said, all the details of the day were discussed in the conference of officers. After a notice of a resolution was given by a honourable member an executive enquiry was ordered. A departmental enquiry was held before this. As I have stated above, in Lahore it is the rule of the Secretariat. Under the above circumstances and in an atmosphere of political freemasonry we could not have any faith in any executive enquiry. General Dyer admitted before the Hunter Committee that he fired at an unarmed mob when it was dispersing. The verdict was only an error of judgment. Could we except any better from a person who had to look to and was a part of the Secretariat?

There is a feeling of indignation all over the country. There is a spirit of vengeance cropping up amongst the masses and it may lead to violent outbursts. For myself, I would like indignation spreading with greater force so as to end this system by non-violent means. Yet there is a section of people who have still got faith in this system and are desirous of giving a chance to the Government to clear its position. It is only for those that I support this resolution.

I have, Sir, to submit a few words about the second part of the resolution. It is said that the Government sent a letter of regret to Pandit Peyare Mohan of the *Tribune*. They say that it was due to misunderstanding, what this misunderstanding was no one knows? It might be that the person was not identified, but how could he be identified on the station when he was himself in lock up? Why was his pass taken back without producing him for identification? The facts are different. Sir in the *Tribune* of May 15th, 1928 an allegation was published under the heading—"Constable killed for untidy dress" "Allegations against Police officer," an enquiry is said to have been held whether it is true or not. I am not concerned with it at the present moment but it is evident that the Police officer against whom it was alleged was bound to be enraged against the "*Tribune*" and its Editor in charge Pandit Peyare Mohan. The same officer was by chance on duty. He saw the name, Pandit Peyare Mohan on the pass and he thought it proper to take his revenge against him and also to satisfy his vanity by the idea that he showed the

"*Tribune*" that he was there. Sir, I think this is a point which it is the duty of the Government to enquire into. Mr. Boyd says that it was an ordinary incident and that the leaders, because they are sensitive, are making fuss over it and that a crowd would have been handled no better in England too. I only beg to remind him that in western countries, Presidents and Kings are not spared by masses. They are shot at by them.

Pir Akbar Ali [Ferozepore (Muhammadan), Rural] (Urdu): Sir, the untimely death of Lala Lajpat Rai is indeed very regrettable. He was a man who had devoted the best part of his life for the social as well as the political uplift of his country. It is even a matter of greater regret that he should have died at a time when he was most needed by his country. The country is at this time face to face with political problems of such far-reaching character, that we could ill afford to lose him at this critical juncture in the history of the country. Had he been spared to us a little longer, this stalwart warrior of a hundred fights would have steered his motherland clear of the many pitfalls awaiting her at every step of her political advance.

Now, as regards the resolution under discussion, I submit that this has nothing to do with his death, directly or indirectly. The honourable mover of this resolution has threatened the members with dire consequences if they do not vote upon it honestly. If by this threat he wants the members of this House to vote for his resolution against the voice of their conscience, then I am afraid he is very much mistaken. He need not hold out threats of public inquisition. The public have become more wary. It is not so easy to deceive them now, as it was possible a few years ago. It will be within the recollection of the honourable members of this house that a few years ago certain interested persons asked the people of this country to migrate to Afghanistan and that this movement resulted in a heavy loss to the people who were taken in by the specious arguments of the preachers of this movement. Now the people do not put faith in the words of leaders, who ask their followers to do certain things, which they themselves are not prepared to do. The public will judge their honesty and integrity of purpose first before they allow themselves to be duped.

The resolution under consideration consists of two parts and the honourable mover in the course of his speech referred to the fact that the Simon Commission has been boycotted because it does not contain any Indian members. But my contention is that had Indians been appointed on this Commission, even then there would have been dissatisfaction in the country. If more Hindus had been appointed, the Mussalmans would have felt dissatisfied with it and *vice versa*.

Dr. Shaikh Muhammad Alam: On a point of order, Sir, is not the honourable member repeating the arguments used by Chaudhri Zafrullah Khan?

Pir Akbar Ali: Not at all. This argument was not used by Chaudhri Zafrullah Khan.

Mr. President: The honourable member is requested not to repeat arguments.

Pir Akbar Ali: I am not repeating any arguments, Sir. Take for instance, the case of Hindu and Muslim Ministers in the Punjab. The Muslims are greatly dissatisfied with the policy pursued by the Hindu Minister of Education. There is not even a single Muslim Inspector of Schools in the Punjab.

Chaudhri Afzal Haq: May I know the relevancy of this argument to the question before the house?

Mr. President: I am inclined to think that the honourable member is wandering away from the resolution before the House (*Hear, hear*). Will he please speak to the motion?

Pir Akbar Ali: If the honourable mover of this resolution was allowed to put forward his argument for the boycott of the Simon Commission, then I am not out of order in referring to it. The only point I wish to make is that the reason given by the honourable mover of this resolution for the boycott of the Simon Commission is not enough. If he had put forward some other argument, we might have taken into consideration this resolution.

Mr. President: If the honourable member continues his speech in that strain, I shall have to request him to resume his seat.

Pir Akbar Ali: Very well, Sir. In this resolution, the Government has been asked to appoint a committee of three non-official members to enquire into the conduct of certain police officials. The first enquiry committee, presided over by Mr. Boyd was appointed at the instance of Raizada Hans Raj.

Mr. President: The honourable member is repeating the arguments which were advanced by a Government member the other day. (*Hear, hear*).

Pir Akbar Ali: I was not present then, Sir. (*Laughter*).

Mr. President: Is that the fault of the other members of the House?

Pir Akbar Ali: Sir, so many speeches have been delivered on the resolution under discussion that it is inevitable that some member may repeat the arguments used by another member. But so far as I remember, the argument advanced by me was not used by another member. Our Council, Sir, is a legislative body, and it behoves every member of this honourable House to see that law is respected. As long as a law is in force it is the duty of the Government to see—(*Dr. Shaikh Muhammad Alam*:—That *lathis* are showered on the people?)—that this law is respected by all whether high or low. If the Government fails to do it, then we should be the first to take it to task for it. A man who breaks the law—no matter if he is a member of this Council—is a breaker of the law and should be treated as such. There should be no distinction between a poor labourer and a highly placed person. On this ground, I strongly oppose this resolution.

There is, however, one thing in the speech made by the mover of this resolution which deserves consideration. He says that the leaders of the boycott movement did not ask for a permit, it was thrust upon them. If that is so, the Government deserves a censure. This action on the part of

Government shows that they are afraid of agitators. They are teaching the non-agitators to take to agitation. It does not become the Government to bow their head before agitation and refuse to take into consideration the demands of the people who desist from agitation. It does not add to the prestige of Government to show a white feather before agitators and to treat with contempt the poor people. With these words, Sir, I oppose this resolution.

Pandit Nanak Chand [Hoshiarpur (Non-Muhammadan) Rural]: Sir, I was very anxious to hear from the Government as to what it had to say on this most important and grave question. So great was my anxiety that though I was not able to be present on the first day of the present session of this Council I took care to be present on the day when the statement was made by the Government in regard to the grave allegations against its responsible officers in connection with the incidents of the 30th October. There have been four speeches made on behalf of the Government. I must, however, confess that after giving my best and very close attention to these speeches, I am compelled to come to the conclusion that those very speeches and Mr. Boyd's report condemn the Government for the action that its officials took on that occasion. (*Hear, hear*). I have very carefully read the report of Mr. Boyd which has now been laid on the table and which is the Magna Charta of the Government officers. I will try to show that this very report of Mr. Boyd conclusively proves that the Police officers were guilty of oppression and tyranny and that their assault was wholly unprovoked and was absolutely unmerited.

Before I reply to my friend Chaudhri Zafrullah Khan, (because he is not at present here in the Council), I would first take up the report of Mr. Boyd and I will try to show to the House that this very report supports the contention made by Dr. Muhammad Alam and the other gentlemen who were present on the occasion. Now, Sir, I may, in the very beginning, state that I do not question the honesty or the impartiality or the integrity of Mr. Boyd. As a matter of fact, the report itself shows that this gentleman has tried his level best to be as impartial as possible. If I have got any grievance against him, it is this, that in his conclusion he has drawn inferences which are not warranted by the facts on which his report is based. Now, Sir, first of all we must remember that this report is based not on the evidence of those people who are called agitators or of those who are said to represent the popular side. This report is based on the evidence of high Government officials and those people upon whom the Government tries to place full reliance and if such a report condemns Government, then I submit that Government has no case to make out and no legs to stand upon.

What is the finding of Mr. Boyd with regard to the crowd that collected at the railway station? The Honourable the Chief Secretary yesterday told us that the crowd was stimulated to violent action by violent speeches delivered the previous night and that students and others had collected in order to hear those speeches and that they were inflamed by the speeches of Dr. Shaikh Muhammad Alam and his friends who exhorted them to trample under foot the orders of the Deputy Commissioner, and the crowd thus excited and stimulated to violence in their thousands repaired to the

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railway station. What happened? What does Mr. Boyd find on this? I will read out to you the report of Mr. Boyd on this point:

> "It is clear that when the procession reached the barrier it was fairly orderly although there was shouting and waving of black flags."

This is the finding of Mr. Boyd. He repeats this once more in another part of the report. What does he say about the jostling of the sergeant which unduly provoked him? Mr. Boyd says:

> "As the sergeant bent down to tie the wire he was pushed down, possibly unintentionally as he says that the people in the front line were trying to keep back those who were behind."

that is, the leaders who were in front of this crowd were trying to keep back the crowd that was at their back.

Then, further, in another portion, Mr. Boyd repeats the same thing as regards the conduct of the crowd. This is what he says with regard to their conduct:

> "There can be no doubt that missiles were thrown by the crowd and that it surged forward, possibly merely on account of pressure from behind. It cannot therefore be held to have been perfectly orderly."

Here you find that throughout his statement, throughout the report of Mr. Boyd, he found that this crowd which was alleged to have been excited to violence and which had come with the express purpose and intent of trampling under foot the orders of the Deputy Commissioner, as tried to be made out by the Chief Secretary, this crowd, so far as its behaviour at the barrier is concerned, so far as the time before the actual assault by the Police is concerned, was orderly, fairly orderly. Then at what time and on what occasion did the scuffle take place? How did it arise? Now, Sir, I will draw your attention to another part of the report. Mr. Boyd says:

> "I am quite satisfied that the scuffle arose because Sergeant Ward was, probably quite unintentionally, jostled and knocked over when stooping down to fix barbed wire to a trestle. Up till that time the crowd was orderly, if noisy, and was behind the barrier but was being pushed forward from behind and the little incident connected with Sergeant Ward resulted in a forward surge and in efforts of the Police to push the crowd back."

Then what happened:

> "Thereupon the Police reserve came up and the Police, including the Inspector-General, the Senior Superintendent and several officers started pushing the crowd back with their arms and bodies, with *lathis* held horizontally in front of them and, in the case of one officer, at least, with short jabs with a cane. Some of the witnesses say that the Police constables waved their *lathis* in a threatening manner without actually hitting people and the only blows of which evidence has been given before me are as follows."

Then, Mr. Boyd gives the names of those gentlemen who have deposed to the fact that the Police showered *lathi* blows. But where and when does Mr. Boyd find that the crowd became violent and started showering *lathis*? Not a word is to be found in the report of Mr. Boyd. What happened? The legal inference, an inference which a man of common sense will draw is this. The crowd was orderly. The leaders were trying their utmost to keep back the crowd. There was absolutely no desire to go beyond certain limits fixed by the Police itself. This is the legitimate and natural inference to be drawn. One gentleman, called Sergeant Ward, according to the report came down towards the side of the people. He was jostled or knocked down unintentionally. The finding

is that it was unintentional. The finding is that nobody intended to do any injury to the Police. The finding is that the leaders at that time were trying to keep back the crowd. Suddenly one of the sergeants fell down, quite unintentionally. Then the police force there and from other quarters came rushing and showered blows on the people and thus the injuries were inflicted. This is the only inference. Let anybody who has read Mr. Boyd's finding carefully and who has tried to analyse it point out to me where and how the assault first came from the people. Sir, I would like to draw your attention to the speech made by the Honourable (as he then was) Sir Geoffrey deMontmorency, when he made a certain statement with regard to the incidents which took place in March last. Therefore, then, though there was jostling, though there was pushing forward and surging forward, the Police did not behave in the manner in which they behaved on the last occasion. This is what Sir Geoffrey deMontmorency said about the Police incident last time:

> "When the Commission arrived the persons who were on the Empress Road made their demonstrations and as far as I know the Police in spite of the great crush and pushing and so forth, did their best to allow them to make their demonstration and the only force they used was to prevent the road getting blocked so that cars could not get through. I myself was taking down one of the members of the Commission and experienced considerable difficulty. I was in the last car and had a hard task in getting my car through. Flags, etc., were thrown into my car and I had distinct physical difficulty in getting on my way because these demonstrators had crowded there and by sheer weight of numbers had forced the Police more or less into the middle of the road."

Then, Sir, this is a very important sentence to which I wish to draw your attention:

> "But every one was good tempered. While one party had its demonstration inside the station, the other party had equally free demonstration of their views along the Empress road."

Here, Sir, in this very Council chamber, I paid a compliment to the method in which the Police controlled the activities of the people on the railway station last March. Sir, some surging forward and some pushing forward is bound to take place, which no one can control and that sort of surging took place on this occasion too. It must be remembered that this surging forward was not within the prohibited area, but within the area where the people had a right to assemble. It is there that the surging forward took place. True, there were *lathi* blows; for after having seen that surging and pushing forward, Sergeant Ward and others started beating the people with *lathis*.

Now, Sir, it is absolutely clear, it is perfectly clear to those who will read this report without any prejudice, and without any bias of any kind that this crowd was not in any way doing anything which was illegal or unlawful. I have yet to ask the officials whether they can tell me whether this section 144 was applied inside this area where the barbed wire was or whether it applied both inside and outside. I understand that section 144 was not applied to the place which was outside the barricade wire. Therefore, even if there was pushing or some slight or big surging, even if the people were not acting in perfectly orderly manner, was the Police justified in showering *lathi* blows on them? Now, Sir, it has been made out by the Police that there were no *lathi* blows, but that as a matter of

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fact there was only holding back of the people by the use of arms and batons of the Police. Unfortunately here is the testimony of these very Police gentlemen who gave their evidence. One gentleman definitely made a statement that there was showering of *lathi* blows, though they have tried to minimise the actual situation. The report says :

> "Mr. Saunders, Assistant Superintendent of Police, saw a blow struck with a *lathi*, but caught the stick before it hit anybody."

Mr. J. G. Beazley : Please read further.

Pandit Nanak Chand : Yes, I am going on further. Then the report says :

> "Mr. Morris, Deputy Superintendent of Police, thought Sergeant Roblin struck a man but there were so many sticks in the air at the time that he could not be certain.
>
> "Mr. Jenkins, Superintendent of Police, Criminal Investigation Department, saw one *lathi* being used by a constable who was at the back of the Police and the officer thinks that probably the Police in front got most of the blows.
>
> "Sergeant Roblin says that a man in the crowd with an open umbrella, who was not Lala Lajpat Rai jabbed the umbrella into his face. It missed his eye but caught the chin strap of his helmet."

Dr. Muhammad Alam and others must have been wearing a helmet—

> "He naturally put his hand out and it went through the umbrella. The same man caught Sergeant Roblin by the left wrist and tried to pull him into the crowd. The Sergeant rapped him across the knuckle with a cane."

(At this stage the gong was sounded indicating that the honourable member's time was up).

Pandit Nanak Chand : I want to request you to extend my time by about 10 minutes. It will be noticed, Sir, that I have not repeated any argument so far.

Mr. President : How many minutes more does the honourable member require ?

Pandit Nanak Chand : I would require about ten minutes.

Mr. President : That would be unfair to others who desire to speak after the honourable member.

Pandit Nanak Chand : The Chief Secretary and the honourable mover of the resolution spoke for more than half-an-hour each.

Mr. President : Only two members of the House, the mover and the Chief Secretary, had spoken for 50 minutes each.

Pandit Nanak Chand : I will try to finish in about five minutes. Now, Sir, the finding of Mr. Boyd is that so far as the injury to Raizada Hans Raj was concerned, it cannot be explained. But so far as the injury to Lala Lajpat Rai was concerned, we find a definite finding in the report, namely, that the blow fell on the umbrella. The injury to Raizada Hans Raj is not explained ; he makes a statement, and the Police statement does not contradict this statement and, therefore, we must accept what Raizada Hans Raj says as the true version. We must, therefore, take it that he was dealt with harshly by the police. If, as is alleged by the police, Lala Lajpat Rai's umbrella received the blows, how did he get his injury on the breast ? This umbrella is responsible for the injuries that he received on his

breast, otherwise the blows would have fallen on his head. The men knew that the umbrella was protecting Lalaji and so they started beating him on the chest.

Sir, the Commissioner's report is a document which sufficiently condemns the Government. There are only two things more which I would state. One thing which was stated by my honourable friend Chaudhri Zafrullah Khan and also stated by the Honourable the Finance Member was this, that the resolution is not an honest effort to get at the truth. What they said was that it was merely to make political capital out of the present situation that this resolution was moved. Sir, we all know what capital means, that is, the power of granting means to make capital, the power of giving ministerships, the power of making executive councillors, the power of giving grants of lands, the power of giving titles and other things. It is the Government that possesses these powers. It is the supporters of the Government who can be charged with those motives and not those people who are fighting for the popular cause, and if the people have to get anything, it is what Lala Lajpat Rai got, that is deportation, exile, imprisonment and finally *lathi* blows. Therefore this charge that is brought forward against the mover of the resolution and his supporters is a malicious one which deserves to be treated with the contempt it deserves because it does not contain any honest truth.

Then, Sir, the second point which I submit with regard to this is with reference to the remark of the honourable member Chaudhri Zafrullah Khan. He stated that the resolution assumed certain things and that the Council in accepting it would make themselves parties to certain allegations contained therein. The resolution definitely demands an enquiry and it does contain certain allegations. I am yet to know whether any case which has been tried in any court, whether any charge that is preferred, does not contain any assumptions. These certainly, Sir, are not assumptions; these are not presumptions, but they are facts which have been found to be correct by Mr. Boyd himself. Sir, a few months back, in March it was, that Chaudhri Zafrullah Khan grew eloquent against executive officers being called upon to perform judicial functions. I have got his speech but for want of time I shall not read it. Now, Mr. Boyd is stated to be an ideal person, a person against whom nothing could be said, I do not mean personally, Sir, but in his capacity as the enquiring officer and he is the only person, so my honourable friend, Mr. Zafrullah thinks, who could have conducted this enquiry. Sir, I remind him that even if the Government wanted to make an impartial enquiry, they could have deputed a High Court Judge assisted by two Sessions Judges for the purpose, or again, if the Government were really anxious to get at the truth of the thing, they could have appointed a committee of officials and non-officials to make the enquiry into the most serious allegations made against the police. Nothing of the kind is done. My honourable friend representing not only the rural constituency of Sialkot but also representing the legal talent of the Lahore High Court bar is satisfied because on one of the gravest charges an enquiry has been conducted by an officer who is in a way the head of the police, for he is at the head of five Deputy Commissioners who are in their turn the head of the police. By his training and by his experience, Mr. Boyd was absolutely unfit for the task which

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he was called upon to perform and his very report shows that the conclusions which he has drawn are conclusions which no judge, no person with any legal training, will arrive at. (*Cheers*).

The Honourable Sardar Jogendra Singh (Minister for Agriculture): Sir, I had no desire to take part in the discussion raised by this resolution but the mover of the resolution definitely referred to the Ministers in his speech. Therefore it seems to me that I should explain my position in regard to this resolution. I need hardly emphasise, after what His Excellency the Governor said in his speech and the Honourable the President gave expression to in his opening remarks in the Council, how deeply we are all grieved at the loss which the country has suffered in the death of Lala Lajpat Rai. I have never seen my colleague sitting next to me more indignant than when he heard the news and his indignation was shared by us all.

Dr. Shaikh Muhammad Alam: The Honourable Member is reading from his paper.

Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq: Essays could not be read here, Sir.

Mr. President: Is not the honourable member reading a paper?

The Honourable Sardar Jogendra Singh: I am just consulting my papers, Sir. I was about to say that our kindly Governor was no less grieved and his sympathies are well-known throughout the Punjab. No member of this House can with equanimity regard that men like Lala Lajpat Rai should be subjected to ill treatment.

Mr. President: If the Honourable Member has no objection to my seeing his notes, will he please pass them on to me? I think there is some force in what the honourable members say.

The Honourable Sardar Jogendra Singh: I can go on without my notes. Indeed, I am voicing the feeling of the whole House when I say that every member of the House is deeply concerned in this matter.

Dr. Shaikh Muhammad Alam: On a point of order, Sir. Who has written these notes?

The Honourable Sardar Jogendra Singh: At any rate, you have not written them.

Dr. Shaikh Muhammad Alam: No, Sir, I have not, because they do not have even the smell of my feeling.

The Honourable Sardar Jogendra Singh: Sir, the mover of this resolution said that he and his supporters were giving expression to the feelings of the country. He has possibly forgotten that this House represents the Province and that this House elected a committee to co-operate with the Simon Commission. Therefore, it is not right to say that the mover was voicing the feeling of the whole country when he spoke. It was not left to the mover of the resolution to take the matter up, for His Excellency had taken the earliest possible opportunity by appointing Mr. Boyd to hold an enquiry.

Chaudhri Afzal Haq: The Honourable Minister is still reading from his paper, Sir. Under the Constitutional Manual, a Minister can read a statement only when he wishes to resign his place. (*Laughter*).

Mr. President: I would request the honourable member not to read a written speech.

Khan Bahadur Captain Sardar Sikandar Hayat Khan: Would the honourable member be in order to consult his notes just to refresh his memory and then deliver his speech?

Mr. President: Refreshing one's memory by occasional reference to notes is entirely different from reading a written speech. Members in this House are expected to make oral speeches and to express their thoughts in the form of an unwritten composition. If only reference were made to his notes, I would be the last to object to it, but it appears clear that the Honourable Member is reading a written speech and this cannot be allowed.

The Honourable Sardar Jogendra Singh: I bow to your decision, Sir, and I shall continue without my notes. My only reason for using my notes was to be able to be rather concise in my remarks.

I have stated, Sir, that the Government anticipated the demand of this House in appointing Mr. Boyd to conduct this enquiry. The enquiry even according to Pandit Nanak Chand, who just spoke in favour of the resolution has resulted in the finding with which even the Pandit does not find himself at variance. The Government are not to blame if no evidence was produced before Mr. Boyd. What does the mover want by means of this resolution? Does he want another Committee to be appointed by this House to reach a decision on matters on which almost all the leading members of this House have expressed an opinion? Does the mover think that such a committee would be able to arrive at the truth? Is he really justified in asking for the appointment of a committee of this House to conduct an enquiry of this nature when all the leading members of the House have expressed their opinion on the matter? And his resolution, so far as I can see, only asks for a Committee of this House.

Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq: What is your proposal, then?

The Honourable Sardar Jogendra Singh: It is this, that it is not necessary to appoint a Committee of the House, that Mr. Boyd had conducted such an enquiry and that if there are any further facts placed before the Government, it would be for the Government to sift the facts further if it is considered desirable.

The second part of the resolution refers to the Assistant Editor of the *Tribune*. The Government have already expressed their unqualified regret and I do not see any reason why this should not be accepted by my brother journalist.

I cannot close my remarks without paying a tribute to the crowd for the peaceful manner in which they behaved after the incident. Lastly, I feel taking everything into consideration, this House will not be justified in accepting a resolution of this kind and appointing a committee of the House to hold an enquiry as it is not likely to secure a verdict which would be acceptable to all parties.

Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq [Amritsar City-Muhammadan (Urban)]: Sir, in speaking on this resolution, I do not speak as a member of the Nationalist benches. I am speaking as a free man. For, the question involved in this resolution is not a party question, in fact, it is an all-party question, and there is no question of nationalists *versus* unionists or reformists, it

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is a question which concerns all. I want to make a speech which is absolutely fair and unbiassed.

I must concede, at the outset, that putting up the barricade was a necessity in the circumstances for, it will be just possible that the crowd would have swept into the station yard and stopped the course of the Commission from the station and probably Sir John Simon and others would have had to force their way. What I am really concerned with in speaking on this resolution is the behaviour of the Police. (Dr. Shaikh Muhammad Alam: It was shameful). I agree that it was shameful and nothing less. What did the police do? At a particular place a gap was left and when they saw that a huge gap was created, they should have the sense enough to at once close it, knowing the nature of the processionists, knowing that the mob, as it always does, will try to rush through the gap. An officer who is in charge, who does not proceed at once to bridge this gap should be severely censured.

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: Yes, but the mob came in too early.

Dr. Shaikh Muhammad Alam: Rather, the police were late in making the arrangements.

Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq: The officer in charge could see the crowd coming; there was plenty of time to barricade the space. Instead of doing that, what was the treatment meted out to these leaders? I am sure that had they been hatted gentlemen who were being pushed from behind, the Inspector-General of Police would not have beaten them in the way he did. Because they were Indians, that treatment was accorded to them. I ask, Sir, if only Mr. Stow, or Mr. Craik, or Mr. Gill, for the matter of that, were there in the crowd if it would so happen, or even if it were Mr. Lloyd George on the Opposition side and the Baldwin Government were accused of this rude police behaviour, what would have happened? The officer would have been severely dealt with. Simply because we are Indians, because we are of a different colour, we have been subjected to this treatment both by the Inspector-General of Police and by the Government here.

Sir, if you read Mr. Boyd's report carefully, you will find that it is full of inconsistencies. My time is very short, so I will read out only a few quotations to prove my point. On page 5 of his report he says something which he later on contradicts. He says on page 5—

> "Mr. Stead says that before starting to push the people back he asked them to retire, but one man thrust his face into Mr. Stead's and said, "You shall arrest us. We will not go back." This statement is corroborated by Mr. Saunders, Assistant Superintendent of Police, who says that Lala Lajpat Rai had an argument with Mr. Stead and asked the latter to arrest him."

But lower down the page we read:

> "Mr. Scott, the Senior Superintendent of Police knew none of the leaders by sight, and Mr. Saunders apparently knew none unless perhaps Lala Hans Raj."

In the first statement the report says that Mr. Saunders said that it was Lala Lajpat Rai who had an argument with Mr. Stead and in the second statement that Mr. Saunders did not know any one other than perhaps Lala Hans Raj. This is absolutely inconsistent. Then again,

Mr. Stead says that he did not know Lala Lajpat Rai or any other of the leaders by sight except Dr. Muhammad Alam and he did not notice Dr. Muhammad Alam, as if my friend Dr. Muhammad Alam is such a thin man as not to be seen easily. I think he can be seen even if he is miles away.

Mr. Boyd quotes Lala Nath Ram who said in his evidence that more force is used by the Police at a *kabaddi* match than was used at the Railway Station. That just shows the mentality of the officer who gave that evidence.

Then, Sir, Mr. Beazley, the Chief Secretary, told us with his tongue in his cheek, that Lala Lajpat Rai, Lala Hans Raj and others received cuts from barbed wires. He has been a District Magistrate and he should know that there is a difference between a cut from barbed wires and injuries received from *lathi* blows.

Now, Sir, Government says that they have appointed Mr. Boyd to hold the enquiry. As soon as the appointment was announced people raised objections to the enquiry and said that they did not want an enquiry of that sort. It was the people who were the injured party and if they did not want the enquiry where was the necessity for Government to appoint Mr. Boyd? But if the Government did want to institute an enquiry, had they not any judicial officer who could be appointed? An executive officer is always under the thumb of the executive Government, whereas a judicial officer is not. It is true that Mr. Boyd is a very senior officer of Government, but even a senior officer can be reprimanded or transferred or punished in other ways by Government if he does anything not in the interest of the executive Government, whereas a Judge of the High Court has no fear at the hands of the executive Government. If they had appointed a high judicial officer, his appointment would have carried weight, but since Government has not done so they have shown that they do not care for public opinion, and the result is what we are seeing. And yet Government does not feel even sorry for it. Sir, I may be a nationalist, but I am in no way against Government officers as such, and I say that if Government had the courage of conviction they would have come forward and ordered an impartial judicial enquiry so as to remove the blot from their name. It is alleged that the Police have committed murders. I would be the last person to say so. Whether Lala Lajpat Rai and the other leaders were beaten intentionally or unintentionally, the charge lies on the shoulders of Government. And it is for them to clear that charge.

My honourable friend from Sialkot says that an enquiry has already been held and that therefore there is no need for a second enquiry, and he waxed eloquent in defending the Commissioner. I can say that if he had chosen to use the same high class oratory to defend the other side, he would have been able to defend still more strongly because then he would have been on stronger grounds. But I cannot understand why we have not been able to convince him as to the strength of our case. He says that only three or four honourable members of this House were beaten and now they come and say, please help us. He says that since they did not take advantage of the enquiry that was appointed by Government, we cannot help them. Why should they, he says, come to us in the House and ask

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our help? Well, Sir, is there any harm if in the absence of expecting anything from Government, these members come to the bar of this House and request us to help them to make this enquiry through this House? Is there any bar to the members coming to this House and asking for an enquiry through the channels of this House? And here is my friend the member for Sialkot who wants to decrease our power which is against all constitutional usage. Because Shaikh Saadi says:

هر کس از دست غیر بے نالد

سعدی از دست خویشتن فریاد

We have to appeal to the honourable members. We find them throwing all their weight on the side of Government who throws them up like a shuttlecock when they have finished hugging them.

Mr. President: The honourable member's time is over.

Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq: Will you allow me just two minutes more?

Mr. President: Exactly two minutes, not more.

Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq: Sir, I know that such acts on the part of Government committed like a drunken person will lead to self-destruction, and these repeated acts, I am sure, will destroy any faith that the people have in Government. If they do not stop this sort of work, and if they do not redress the public grievances, I am sure that the government of this country will become more and more difficult.

Mr. V. F. Gray (Punjab Chamber of Commerce and Trades Association, Commerce): Sir, may I point out that of the last two speakers who spoke in favour of the resolution, one, the honourable member from Hoshiarpur, seemed to be perfectly satisfied with the enquiry held by Mr. Boyd. His words were I think, "I am satisfied with this report, the Government are damned out of their own report"; if this is so, why want another? The other honourable member from Amritsar I think it was, had the sole grumble that the enquiry held by Government was made by an executive officer, whereas he considered it ought to have been by a judicial officer, but Sir, I see nothing in the resolution asking for the appointment of a judicial officer, the resolution merely asks for a committee of non-official members.

It seems to me that the proposed committee, if appointed, would be no more satisfactory to the mover, than Mr. Boyd is, unless the members were actually nominated by him and his supporters, in which case there would be objections from other parts of the House. It seems to me impossible to appoint a committee to satisfy all sides, so is it not better to let the matter slide? It is on this account I cannot support the resolution.

At this stage I would like to point out I am only speaking in connection with the first part of the resolution.

An enquiry has been held and it was a public enquiry, there was no question of favouritism in that; whatever difference of opinions either side might have had about the findings, the fullest information was asked for, and heard in public. The public proceedings have also been published.

The fact that certain interested parties boycotted the enquiry is no reason to hold another.

There is no one, not a single person in this Council, who does not regret the death of Lala Lajpat Rai, but I must acknowledge there are very few of us who really think his death was due to any blows he received.

I agree with the honourable member who stated that no leader of a party should lead a crowd in person, unless he is young and robust; leaders are too valuable to their party and their country on whichever side their views are; it is not fair to themselves, it is not fair to their party, nor is it fair to the police (*Hear, hear*).

The Simon Commission was sent here by His Majesty, and this Council welcomed the sending. We debated whether to co-operate or non-co-operate, and by a big majority decided to co-operate, and therefore the majority wished the Simon Commission to come. Under these circumstances it was essential that the police should keep the roads clear. To do this they put up a barricade and took other precautions to allow a free arrival of the Commission.

I don't know how many of you have ever tried to control a crowd, but if you want to keep a crowd back that has made up its mind to push forward, you can only do so by using force or counter-pushing in which latter case you would want as many police as units of the crowd. Can any Province pretend to keep such a police force?

The honourable mover said that if India were a free country, such an incident would have meant war. I cannot think he seriously meant such a statement. May I trespass on your time for a few minutes with an illustration, in connection with an incident that happened to me in a foreign country? It was some time ago now, 1907 to be precise, I was in Germany in Berlin and I found myself in a mob; instead of slipping out, I pushed further in to see what it was all about, it turned out to be a large socialist gathering, I soon found myself helplessly being carried along in the crowd and when we got to Rathaus Platz, we were suddenly met by a mounted police charge and I found myself under a horse and quite badly cut about and bruised. It was nobody's fault but my own, going into such a crowd I was bound to take the risks of the crowd. Even if I had been killed, trodden to death by the police or the crowd, no one could have accused the German Government of murder; the English Government would not have attempted to do so.

I am sure Lala Lajpat Rai was in no way picked out and I am confident the police sergeant on duty did not know him even by sight.

We must support the police in doing their duties. They are ordered to keep law and order and if they cannot do so without using force occasionally, then force must be used, and we must support them in the use of it.

In my opinion the coming of the Simon Commission caused a small minority to rise in opposition. First they opposed their coming by debate in this Council, and being defeated here, they try by processions and mob demonstrations to prevent their arrival from the station and not succeeding there, they now try to get into trouble the police who kept the roads clear.

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I am therefore not prepared to support the resolution-(*Hear, hear*) in so far as the first part is concerned.

As regards the second part of the resolution, Government have acknowledged that a mistake was made by a subordinate and they have apologized to the gentleman inconvenienced. No doubt, it is regrettable, but luckily no real harm has been done except some inconvenience and annoyance certainly. But what more can Government do than to acknowledge and apologize and I therefore think it would be more graceful to accept this apology rather than ask for an enquiry for something never in dispute.

For these reasons, I cannot support either part of the resolution.

Mr. H. M. Cowan (Home Secretary): Sir, I desire to refer very briefly to two incidents connected with this resolution. The first is in regard to the so-called arrest and detention of the representative of the *Tribune*. I have listened very carefully to the arguments of the honourable mover of the resolution. Listening to that I was reminded of a phrase used by another honourable member of this House well-known for his literary attainments in another connection. There was a great deal of cackling and a great deal of fluttering of wings, but no egg was laid.

Now let us look at the facts. First, I will refer very briefly to actual incidents merely to focus attention. The first is, there was a necessity for great precaution on that day. The second is that passes were issued to the press. The third is that identity of each of the press representatives had to be checked as they passed from the barrier. Adequate arrangements had been made at the station where identity was being checked by the Director of Information Bureau. By an unfortunate oversight proper arrangements had not been made at the outer barrier. When the Senior Superintendent of Police went along that way he saw the representative of the *Tribune* standing within the barrier in a place from which all other people had been excluded. He at once enquired who he was and was informed that he was a press representative. At that moment the attention of the Senior Superintendent of Police was called elsewhere, because there was a danger of a rush by the crowd. He therefore, ordered this representative of the *Tribune* to be taken to the rear. Then occurred this unfortunate mistake of which we know.

It was the duty of the Superintendent to order the checking of the identity of that gentleman, or of any other gentleman whose identity he questioned. This representative of the *Tribune* was taken to the police station and within about five minutes of the time he arrived at the police station two gazetted officers of the police came, having discovered the mistake that had been committed. They said to him "We are sorry. Now let us take you to the station." I wonder whether that fact is realised by the honourable members of this House. Two gazetted officers came within five minutes and said: "We are very sorry, we will take you to the station." The press representative was quite pleased and even shook hands, I understand, with these police officers. He was very friendly with them, but would not go to the station. If he had gone with them to the railway station he would have been in good time at the station. But he chose to remain at the police station of his own will. He had thus the apology of the police officers

and subsequently the Government formally expressed regret to the Editor of the *Tribune* for this unfortunate occurrence. I do not know whether that letter was acknowledged or not, but at all events there was an apology of the Punjab Government. Then thirdly, the Chief Secretary on a later occasion, when he happened to meet this individual representative, took the opportunity of privately expressing his regret to him. (*Hear, hear*).

Thus, to begin with, you had an arrest, which was hardly an arrest, I do not think it is legally to be termed an arrest, and detention, which was hardly detention and three apologies. What more can be expected of any civilised government? Would it not be more graceful and better if the apologies had been accepted in the spirit in which they were offered?

I have now to turn to a much graver incident, that is, the question whether the death of Lala Lajpat Rai, which is lamented by so many, was accelerated either directly by the blow he had received during the clash with the police or indirectly by the shock he had received on account of that blow. Fortunately there is the direct evidence which shows that the actual blow he had received was not, and cannot be taken as a direct cause of his death in any way.

Firstly, you have medical certificates which show that there was one superficial bruise; one says, two bruises, and others, one. There was no question at that time of his being seriously injured.

Secondly, we have, what I think this House must accept as a very good statement, and that is, the statement of the late Lala Lajpat Rai himself to the effect that the injuries which he received from the police were in themselves not at all serious. Besides these two pieces of evidence, we have the record of his activities from the time he received this blow up to the time of his lamented death. We find that on the evening in question he attended a meeting and he remained till a late hour at that meeting. Subsequently he went to Delhi on the night of November 2nd. Mr. Ghaznavi who travelled to Delhi in company with Lala Lajpat Rai, later stated in his message that he was surprised when he heard of his sudden death, because when he saw him last he considered him (Lala Lajpat Rai), in very good health indeed. After that he attended the All-India Congress Committee on the 3rd and the 4th November. On his return from Delhi he appears to have followed his usual course of life up to the last. He attended a meeting of the Lakshmi Insurance Company as late as the 12th November, that is, nearly a fortnight after his injury. On the night before his death he is reported to have gone for a walk. I think these facts very clearly prove that the blow he received was in no way the direct cause of his death.

Now, we pass on to the larger question whether the incident of the collision with the police hastened his death. In regard to this, the most that can be said is that the excitement of that day and the subsequent days might have affected his health. It is known that for some years the health of the deceased had not been good. His age was approximately 65 and that is a very good old age for a man to be in the front line of a crowd. In 1923 he was released from jail before the expiry of his sentence because of suspected phthisis and a private medical practitioner who examined him several times gave it as his opinion that rest was essential and that he should

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avoid every kind of excitement for a long time. In 1924 he visited England. He is stated to have there developed pleurisy of a chronic character. His health in May 1927 was again reported to be bad and he went to England to recuperate.

It is to be remembered that the demonstration was one of a series of incidents calculated to affect one whose health for some years had not been good. He was indisposed on his return from Ettawah on the morning of the 30th. He attended a meeting that morning. There was excitement connected with the demonstration and the meeting on the night of the 30th. There was the strain of the journey to Delhi and the meeting of the All-India Congress Committee where there were sharp differences of opinion. To single out one particular incident out of this chain of incidents and to declare this incident alone has contributed either directly towards his end or even indirectly towards his end, is, I think, not only unscientific according to medical evidence, but is also unfair.

Rana Firoz-ud-Din Khan [South East Town (Muhammadans), Urban] (Urdu): Sir, this resolution has been sufficiently discussed and I need not go into elaborate details. In speaking upon it I will confine myself to the following four heads:—

(*i*) the events that took place on the 30th October 1928,

(*ii*) their gravity,

(*iii*) the necessity of instituting an enquiry, and

(*iv*) the nature of the enquiry to be held and the agency by which it should be held.

Three honourable members of the House have made their statements regarding the deplorable happenings of the 30th of October 1928. They were present at the spot at the time these incidents occurred. They have narrated what they saw. As they have not been contradicted we see no reason to disbelieve them. Briefly the incidents are as follows. A procession is organised; it starts, and is allowed to proceed on until it reaches a certain limit where its way is blocked by a barbed wire barrier. The procession was a peaceful one throughout as has also been held by Mr. Boyd, who found that it was not unruly either before or after the incidents in question.

Before I proceed any further I must confess my inability to understand the logic of the honourable member representing Amritsar (Rural). He took it in the wrong light, and his commentary of all these incidents was quite unfounded and out of place. In presenting it to the House, he has put a wrong colour to the whole incident, and has delivered a lengthy lecture on the observance of law. He has impressed upon the House the necessity of respecting law, and has sounded a note of warning to those who disobey it. He observed that law is quite inconsiderate of the status of a person and that it does not make any distinction between rich and poor. Whosoever is guilty of contravening its provisions must be visited by the sanction prescribed by it. It was an expression of excellent ideas, but the honourable member has scrupulously avoided to say which party in the case under discussion was guilty of unlawful and lawless conduct.

The fact is that the crowd remains orderly to the last, and stops where it is so ordered, even the official witnesses have borne testimony to this. Only Mr. Scott says that the crowd was becoming provocative and that he guessed it from the shouts of "Simon go back." There was nothing illegal in the object of the procession which was simply to make a demonstration, and the processionists had no idea of breaking the law and did nothing of the sort. To attack a peaceful gathering of this description without first asking them to disperse is in itself a highly illegal and unjustifiable act, and the police officers who did it were themselves guilty of breaking the law. What law is there to justify this course of action? Even in the case of an unlawful assembly it cannot, according to law, be dispersed with force unless it has previously been ordered to disperse, and even then the minimum force is to be used. In the first place my contention is that the gathering never become unruly and unlawful, but even supposing it did become unlawful at any time, the duty of the police officers concerned was first to read to it the order of dispersal and then if necessary, charge it. The facts show, that the police officer concerned was himself anxious to employ force, and as the gathering was quite peaceful and he had no apparent reason to employ force, he sent Rai Bahadur Nathu Ram to request Mr. Puckle to give orders to disperse. Mr. Puckle, however, refused and his very refusal establishes my contention that the gathering was not unlawful at the time. He did not deem it unlawful and so found no occasion to give the order applied for. The Senior Superintendent of Police, however, in spite of the repeated refusal by Mr. Puckle and without any rhyme or reason resorted to brute force in flagrant disregard of law. The honourable member representing Ferozepore (Rural) also stated the same thing, namely, that a person who violates the law must be visited by the punishment prescribed therefor. But I fail to see to what law, and to the law of what country he was referring. Surely the law in force in India on the subject which is not very voluminous does not justify such action of the Police.

Next comes the gravity of the consequences and I need not dilate upon it. The honourable member representing Amritsar, has himself admitted the importance of the resolution at present before the House, and the gravity of the question involved. According to him the death of Lala Lajpat Rai has enhanced the importance of this resolution.

But I say the importance of this resolution would not have been in any way diminished even if the death of Lala Lajpat Rai had not occurred. No doubt, Lala Lajpat Rai did receive injuries at the hands of the police, and also died within seventeen days of that; but still it was an ordinary thing, for the excesses of the police are an affair of daily occurrence. But here what is of vital importance is the principle underlying this resolution. The times have changed, and the people are becoming more and more alive to their rights, but it is a pity the police is not realising its responsibility. The public can no longer tolerate highhanded repression. The gathering, whether of the poor or rich, makes no difference in the eye of the law. We are to see into the legality of charging and employing force against a gathering like the one that assembled on the Railway premises on the day of the arrival of the Simon Commission. Whether Lala Lajpat Rai was or was not present at the spot is immaterial. At present we are not concerned with it. His presence makes little difference. Even without

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him the situation would have been the same. I need not further discuss this aspect as His Excellency the Governor and the Government have acknowledged the gravity of the situation by ordering an enquiry. The statement that all this hue and cry is being raised in order to make political capital out of it is quite unwarranted and unfounded, and we emphatically refute the accusation. We want to make no political capital out of it nor do we intend to strengthen the present political situation of the country by it. It is in itself a very important matter which has been admitted even by His Excellency the Governor.

Now I come to the third point, *i.e.*, the necessity of an enquiry. The honourable member representing Sialkot District, has urged that the enquiry has been made by a person who is a very senior officer and is at present working as a Commissioner, that there is no allegation of partiality against him and that without any reason, the popular party concerned has refused to appear before him, that in so refusing they have not acted wisely and that they should not be given another chance. First of all, we must examine the circumstances under which the incident referred to took place. It happened on the occasion of the arrival of the Simon Commission. The country had resolved to boycott it and its honour was at stake. The people wanted to make the Commission a failure and the Government wanted to make it a success. On this question the conflict arises; and the conflicting parties to it are the officials of the Government on one side, and the leaders of the people on the other. The issue between them was one of great importance. The Government instituted an enquiry and appointed one of its officers to investigate and enquire into the conduct of the other officers. In other words a member of the same family and party was authorised to make an enquiry into the conduct of some other members of the same family. All the members of the Indian services are parts of the "steel frame" which not only Mr. Lloyd George and Lord Birkenhead, but some of our own Ministers deem necessary to be retained in India in the interest of Indian administration. When some members of this 'steel frame' service are charged and one of their own brotherhood is appointed to make an enquiry, there is no wonder that the deceased Lala Lajpat Rai and other leaders decided to have nothing to do with the enquiry and refused to appear and lead evidence before the officer appointed under these circumstances. It is an open secret that some officials did not scruple to produce tutored witnesses before the enquiring officer. Under these circumstances, how could the popular leader be expected to lay their grievances before such a Committee? Hence they decided to non-co-operate with it.

In the end, I will submit, Sir, that notice of this resolution was given many days before the death of Lala Lajpat Rai. His death which has been mourned throughout the length and breadth of India and even in foreign countries has greatly added to the gravity of the issue. A leader of great eminence dies and even His Excellency the Viceroy and other notables express their sorrow and sympathy. His Excellency the Governor himself acknowledges his political services to the country. The importance of the matter is much enhanced by his own last statement and that of his doctors. It is Lajpat Rai's statement that he was singled out and beaten intentionally. The members of the House have stated that all the blows were meant-

for him and in the opinion of his doctors the injuries hastened his death. Very serious charges have been made against Government officials with respect to the death of a person whose demise is regarded as a great loss to the country. This resolution gave a God-sent opportunity to the Government to clear the position of its officers by making an impartial enquiry. It was a golden chance for the Government to render justice instead of supporting its officers who had acted improperly. We don't want to make a propaganda with regard to this occurrence and I believe that Dr. Alam did not move it with that intention. It was a chance offered to the Government to show its impartiality and to clear its position. It was in the interest of the Government to accept this resolution, and I did not expect that it would throw out this opportunity. I was rather surprised to see the Government members oppose it. This resolution is not a party resolution and we have no political object in view. When the Government has refused to benefit by the chance offered to it, I would suggest to the honourable mover not to press the resolution and withdraw it.

5 P.M.

Rai Bahadur Pandit Daulat Ram, Kalia (East and West Central Towns-Non-Muhammadan-Urban): Sir, the honourable member who spoke before me raised a question of law and asked under what section of the Indian Penal Code or any other Code did the police beat the leaders that were present the other day. For his information, I may tell him that if there was a barrier and the police were kept to protect that barrier, then the police had every right to use force against those who were attacking the barrier because they were on duty there and could use as much force as was necessary for the occasion.

Leaving that question, I come to the point that has been raised by Pandit Nanak Chand, that at the last occasion of the Simon Commission's visit to Lahore the police were quite orderly, the crowd was quite orderly and that, therefore there could be no reason to suppose that the crowd was not orderly at the station even on this occasion. From the experience gained at that time, it has seen that it was possible that in a running motor car some bundle of flags could be thrown, and if that was possible, the Punjab Government who were responsible for the safety of the Commission who were visiting the Province were to take care of the situation and make arrangements for the prevention of anything being thrown in the cars that were going. Not only that. On the last occasion, there was no barrier, there was no order to be broken. But on this, there was a barrier to be protected and there were orders that a certain portion of the road should be prohibited for traffic; and there were people who wanted to go there in defiance of the law. I should think that they wanted to go there deliberately with the object of showing to the other provinces in India that they were doing something heroic. Otherwise, where was the necessity for them to get up a demonstration? There was no hartal in the city and the citizens of Lahore had given clear proof of their sentiments that way in favour of the Commission. Where was the need, I ask, for a procession or a demonstration? What was the intention of the leaders in attempting at the barrier? They had a meeting there and at the background of their efforts was the intention to hoot the members of the Commission with a view to insult them, though it was no fault of theirs that they had come. The only hukkum that was given by the Congress Committee was that they should hold meetings, they should

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get up hartals in the several places. But, here when there was no hartal, they had a procession. Why take the procession through the streets with cries of "Simon, go back" "Simon, you are not wanted" and so on? Were these things ever prescribed by the Congress Committee in order to insult the Commission? The Congress Committee simply prescribed boycott of the Commission and the leaders should not have gone further than that. Because they were boycotting the Commission, they did not appear as witnesses before them, they did not welcome them. Well and good. But where was the necessity to go to them, tell them in their face, "you go from our country, you are not wanted here." The leaders were going there not with the intention of carrying out the boycoott plan but deliberately with the intention of creating trouble for the police and finding fault with them. The police were there to see that they did not go beyond the barrier. The leaders should have stopped there as non-violent non-co-operators. They are always non-violent, they say, but when a man stops you in the front because of a barrier, to push from behind, to apply force and pressure from the back, is it not force? When such force is being used, it is the right of every policeman who stands there to use his baton against any one whether he be a leader or a follower. The law as all know is no respecter of persons. He may be a leader, a follower or a member of the riff-raff society, but it is the duty of the police not to make any distinction there. Had the police exercised any discrimination between a leader and a non-leader, they deserve to be dismissed and the Government should deserve a vote of censure. In this case it is commendable that the officers and the police, ill-paid men, who were at the place did their duty even against those persons who were universally respected by the people. Why did they do that? Because there were orders of the Government that the barrier should be protected and true to those orders, they were keeping out the people. And in that scuffle, if some people received injuries which were quite simple, they should not raise the cry that they should have another judicial enquiry. These very illustrious politicians who were preaching from the platfrom and the press that they had sacrificed much in the interest of the country, it is they who are responsible, I say, who are mainly responsible, for sending so many young men to the jails and for asking them to court the gallows. They had been asking youngmen not to go to schools and colleges and the result is, that so many young men are found loitering about in the streets with no means of livelihood. If these politicians got certain injuries, as they would call it, in the interest of the motherland, why should they say there should be an enquiry, why should the non-co-operators say there should be an enquiry? Far from it, they should rather welcome the injuries for, they are the injuries received in the interest of the Motherland. Those who tell us, go to the gallows, they should not have minded it even if there were no judicial enquiry into the circumstances of their injury. Why come to this Council, for such an enquiry? The courts are open: they could lodge complaints there and make a test case of it. The High Court and the Privy Council are there open and they could very well have a judicial enquiry. They did not try that because they know that they have not got evidence, that they have a bad case and that if there were a judicial trial they would fail. They come to the Council because they think the injuries received

were by some superhuman beings, some people who have got superior notions of their self-importance. They want a special tribunal; there should be a judicial enquiry not by a judicial court, but by a special tribunal. It is then the very reason which made them follow in the attempt to cross the barrier that is bringing them here again to the Council saying that they want a special tribunal, the reason being that they are a special class of people. They should on the other hand think that they are but ordinary citizens and it is not real democracy to say "I am like you but you are not like me." If they were beaten by others, it is for them to go court and seek redress.

Then there remains the question of the Senior Assistant Editor of the *Tribune*. He has already given notice to the Government that he claims damages from it. He already intends to take this question to the court. Why ask for a committee of enquiry when he claims damages and it is his intention to go to court where the matter will be judicially sifted and all parties will have the opportunity to produce evidence? Why do you ask for an enquiry now? An enquiry there has already been which has been more than satisfactory and which has clearly shown that nobody was at fault. The fault was this that the people who were leading the mob were not standing there as on the previous occasion without taking any part, but they were there with the evident intention of raising a scuffle with the police so that they may get notoriety in India that they have defied the police and even when there was no hartal, have shown that Lahore was not welcoming the Commission.

Sardar Harbakhsh Singh: I move—

That the question be now put.

Mr. President: The question is—

"The question be now put."

The motion was carried.

Mr. President: Does the honourable mover wish to reply or withdraw?

Dr. Shaikh Muhammad Alam: No, Sir, I want to give my reply.

So far as the question of withdrawal is concerned, I may tell my friend sitting on my left who made the suggestion, through you, Sir, that I would have withdrawn this resolution in deference to his suggestion but for the reason that in that case it will be alleged against us that we really intended to raise the question for purposes of political agitation and were not serious in pressing it to a division. Moreover, Sir, as long as I am convinced of the truthfulness of my allegations, so long I feel convinced that if there is an impartial non-official enquiry, the truth will come out to be known to the world at large. I therefore regret that I cannot at the present stage meet the wishes of my honourable friend on my left to withdraw the resolution.

On this resolution much has been talked on both sides. In introducing this resolution before this honourable House I addressed three parties. I addressed the officials, I addressed the non-official members of this House and in particular, the third party whom I addressed were the Ministers,

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whether they should be classed as officials or non-officials is still to be seen! These were the three parties whom I addressed, when I introduced this resolution, and I think in replying I will adopt the same classification. I would like to say a few words in the beginning to the official benches, then I will reply to the non-official side and finally I will say a word again to the Ministers. So far as the official case is concerned, i.e., how the resolution has been opposed by the official members of this House, I am disappointed in them altogether, Sir. I am not only disappointed in their sentiment, I am disappointed in their wisdom. I agree, I totally agree with my honourable friend on my left (Rana Firoz-ud-Din Khan), that I was giving an opportunity to them to clear the conduct of their officials if they so desired, but guilty as their conscience stands, there can be no effort to clear the conduct of those officials at all, and I declare it, Sir, that as the Black Hole was the earliest incident, whether rightly or wrongly described, in the early advent of the British people in India, this incident will stand as the latest incident in the latter portion of their rule. It is a significant incident, it is not an ordinary incident. I have charged the Government with the murder of Lala Lajpat Rai, I have charged them with beating and assaulting non-violent people, and I have charged them, Sir, with wrongful confinement of Pandit Pearey Mohan. Then, Sir, as I was submitting it was in their interest that they should have invited a non-official enquiry if they desired to clear their conduct. There was no other way absolutely. I do not think I need supplement in this House whatever is being said outside this House in the four corners not only of the Punjab but throughout the whole of India, and there is no other course for the Government to clear the conduct of its officials but by a non-official enquiry. See what the historians are writing about this incident outside for the future generations of India. So I think in rejecting the offer that I made to the Government benches, in refusing to accept that offer, they have done a greater harm to themselves than to myself or to my party, and I still doubt if at the final moment they will not think more in their own interest and will vote for this resolution and welcome an enquiry by non-officials. Nothing could be more graceful on their part, nothing could be more honourable on their part than that. And it will be more harmful on their part to avoid a non-official enquiry in a concern and an incident of this magnitude and of this significance. My honourable friend, Mr. Bezaley, the Chief Secretary, was the first to reply to me or to oppose this resolution and whatever he stated mainly rested on the report of the learned Commissioner or say, on the statement of the Inspector-General of Police and other officials whose evidence has been discussed and pointed out in this report which was put in our hands on the 30th of November. As a matter of fact what he tried to do was simply to support the evidence which was produced before the Commissioner and to adopt or add to the arguments which were given by the Commissioner in that report. So really this report forms the basis of his opposition to this resolution. So far as the report itself is concerned, a lot has been said about it, its inconsistencies, its improbabilities and its absurdities. But let me just point out to the House one or two things more and before saying anything about the report let me make this position clear that whilst I am not in possession of acts to impute dishonest motives to the Commissioner, I do not adopt the

position of even calling it an honest enquiry into the question and the circumstances of the case. My position towards him is neutral altogether. I do not say that he is honest and in the absence of sufficient material, I cannot say that he is dishonest. Much compliment has been paid by some of my honourable friends to the honesty of that gentleman. I know nothing about it. All I know about it is that he belonged to that opposite party which was responsible for beating the people, for murdering Lala Lajpat Rai and for wrongfully confining Pandit Peyare Mohan. He therefore constituted a tribunal coming from one party. He might have tried to feel impartial, but I doubt whether it was possible for him to remain impartial under the circumstances of this case. And then, Sir, as to the standard of honesty, I do not know what that standard is. We are told that such standard is different with every man. I do not know if I wrote in favour of my party when the question was between my own party and another, and if I were influenced by prejudices in coming to certain conclusions in favour of my party, would I be then called honest or would I be dishonest? This standard will be different with different people. So, I think even under the circumstances if the Commissioner has done any act in favour of the Government by which his services were retained and to which side he belonged; to allow his inferences to be influenced by conscious or unconscious prejudices it is difficult to say whether he has been honest or dishonest. The standard is different with different people. We need not talk about his honesty or dishonesty at all. All that we know is that he was a partisan. He could not be called an impartial man. He belonged to the executive side of Government, which side is being charged with such heinous crimes as are being discussed in this House to-day. So far as the actual report is concerned, if I were to argue against that report, I hope, Sir, I would win the case in any court, I would win my case in any appellate court.

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: Even if it were a Civilian Judge?

Dr. Shaikh Muhammad Alam: I would win my case before any impartial judge. I am sure that if the Honourable Member for Revenue were not influenced by his position as a Member of Government, even he would decide the case in my favour. What I am submitting is this that so far as the report itself is concerned, it is inconsistent, it is absurd from one end to the other, and I can tell the honourable members of Government in this House that they have weakened their case by this official report instead of strengthening it as they think. Leaving aside all other things, look at this. What is the popular side according to the learned Commissioner? He discusses in his report the evidence that was produced before him, and who were the witnesses? He says that five non-officials have made statements, one in support of the accusations against the Police and four in opposition to them. He says that the only witness on the popular side who has given evidence is Mr. K.L. Jolly, a student 19 years old, who has stated that a British Police Sergeant started the scuffle by aiming a blow at Lala Lajpat Rai with a hunting crop. This is the popular story so far as placed before him. What is the authority for the learned Commissioner to hold that it is the popular story? If it were proved that Mr. Jolly was sent by Muhammad Alam or Lajpat Rai, or by any member of their

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party, then and then only could it be held that his story is the popular one. Who knows that Mr. Jolly was not sent by the Criminal Investigation Department ? Who knows that this Mr. Jolly was not more of a policeman than a man representing the people ? But this is the popular story so far as placed before him. He does not doubt that this is not the popular story, but what he means by that sentence is that the popular story whatever is placed before him is only so much. So he came to this conclusion that the evidence of Mr. Jolly is the popular story. There he has no doubt. He says it unequivocally that that is the popular story. Decidedly that in itself shows that the Commissioner is not taking the view that an impartial enquirer would take, whether on account of conscious or on account of unconscious bias or prejudice. What is according to him the popular story he bases the whole of his report on. Believe it or disbelieve it, but this is the popular version ! And Mr. Jolly will probably be no more acquainted with the popular side than the gentleman who appeared before him, a legal practitioner, whom we have never met before even if we were to believe in the different stages of transmigration of souls. Later on it is said in the report, and now I put this for the consideration of my honourable friend the member for Sialkot Rural Muslim. The report says :—

> "It is extremely improbable that without any provocation a Police Sergeant or three Police Officers, according to the *Tribune*, should wantonly attack members of the procession. Such an attack would have been contrary to paragraph 4 of the Police instructions which had been issued for the day and the Sergeant or Officers would have been liable to disciplinary action for breach of orders. I reject this story as hopelessly improbable."

Then, the only improbability with him is that because there would have been a breach of instructions therefore, the whole story is improbable.

Mr. President : The honourable member has only two minutes more.

Dr. Shaikh Muhammad Alam : I thought that you will allow me a little more time in view of the fact that so much has been said by different members against the resolution.

Mr. President : The Government member is entitled to give a reply and he may take 15 minutes. How many minutes does the honourable member require ?

Dr. Shaikh Muhammad Alam : It all depends upon how much you are prepared to give.

Mr. President : Then, the honourable member may wind up his speech in five minutes.

Dr. Shaikh Muhammad Alam : It is again an ordeal for me to finish my speech in such a short time.

Mr. President : It will be unfair to the Government member if he does not get his full time. Otherwise, I have no objection to give the honourable member as much time as he may wish to take.

Dr. Shaikh Muhammad Alam : All right, Sir. this report has been placed on the table of the House just when we are discussing the resolu-

tion. Read along with this the statement I had made to the public, which was to the effect that the executive enquiry by Mr. Boyd was being made merely to aid the Government later in canvassing the members against my resolution intended for this session. I anticipated there and then that it would be sought in this Chamber that because the Commissioner had made an enquiry therefore no other enquiry was needed. The same argument was actually used by my friend the member for Sialkot (Chaudhri Zafrullah Khan). He told us that if we had not boycotted the Boyd enquiry and had gone there and given our statements, and if our statements were not believed, then we would have had a chance of coming to this House and ask for a non-official enquiry. I doubt whether he would have supported me even then. But I think my case would have been decidedly weaker, if I had given my statement and that was not believed in. It is a much stronger case as it stands now. Notwithstanding the fact that he says he has no suspicions about anything and that he does not want to cast aspersions upon others—and he seems to be quite honest in his assurances—he says he has the suspicion that this resolution is not put forward solely for the purpose of asking for an enquiry, but for creating a great political agitation, legitimately or not. While thinking that at least this remark is quite honest on his part, I submit that this should be a stronger reason for the Government and for the learned member to agree to my proposition lest we should succeed in the creation of a political agitation which was far from my mind. There is no question of any suspicion of our honest motives. I still ask the Government, I still challenge the Government to hold an impartial non-official enquiry.

Here again the question has been raised that I would not be satisfied with even this sort of enquiry, because the members of the enquiry committee would still be called an interested party. But why should we presume that every non-official member in this House is an interested party. In order to show the *bona fides* on my part, in order to show that I am not in favour of certain individuals being on the enquiry committee, and because I want only an impartial inquiry, I purposely omitted to mention the names of members who should constitute the committee. I left the names to be filled up with the names of members who could be thought impartial or not belonging to either side. This shows good intention on my part. I have left the names purposely lest it should be suggested that I have put in only such members as were favourably disposed towards me. This goes further to strengthen my position. Of course, if we have to recommend to Government the names of members who are to constitute the committee or if the Government wants to find such non-officials who are really uninterested in the matter, I think the task is not difficult for either of us. It was suggested by the Honourable the Finance Member that after the death of Lala Lajpat Rai the question has become complicated. Probably he wants us to understand from the statement that once a question becomes complicated it ought not to be enquired into. The question has not merely become complicated, but has become more serious. It has been asked, "Why did you not take so much notice in the beginning?" Certainly people will take less notice of an injury coming under section 323 than if it is a case of death or murder. The question has become more serious by the death of Lala Lajpat Rai. Besides I may state that I gave notice of the

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resolution even before the death of Lalaji occurred thus showing that we did take notice of the incident.

I have not got much time before me and I shall therefore resume my seat after making a few remarks only in regard to the Honourable Minister for Agriculture. I have not been really able to follow the notes from which the Honourable Minister spoke on behalf of Ministers. It would have been better if he had kindly supplied me with a copy of those notes so that I could have studied them for myself and been able to follow his speech about which he was so very careful in reading from a manuscript so that he should say neither a word more nor less than in the written document. Decidedly it was something like a gospel for him. He was very cautious in his recitation. I am not going to discredit him, I am not going to say he cannot make a good speech. He is a learned man, perhaps more learned than myself (Laughter and interruption). It seems he was reading his written speech after getting it approved from the Government and so the honourable gentleman would not read a word more nor would he read one word less than his note. This is the impression we have formed of the Minsiters to-day. They are not free men at all. They can neither talk freely nor think and act freely.

Mr. President : May I ask if this is relevant to the question before the House ?

Dr. Shaikh Muhammad Alam : Yes, Sir. I just meant to ask the Ministers to feel their duty and not to feel the fetters on their tongues and their hands. I wanted them to realise that they constitute a section of the Government on the popular side and also to realise the significance of the request made to them. I hope that at last they will realise their duty. The only thing that I could understand from his speech was that because law and order should be protected therefore the beating was quite right whether it was a punishment prescribed under the Indian Penal Code or the Criminal Procedure Code or any old Sikh Code or Rajput Code. (A voice : I do not think I said anything of that sort). I hope that this House will take into consideration the significance of the question and I hope it will support my resolution.

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain (Revenue Member) : Sir, this important resolution has been discussed by the Council for full two days. Far be it from me to say that the time devoted to it was not justified by the importance of the resolution. Far be it from me to say that the time has not been well occupied in discussing this matter. In fact, I think the Council Chamber is the right place for ventilating feelings on subjects of acute controversy whenever they happen to arise in the province. Nothing would have given me greater pleasure than to have had the benefit of this controversy before Government was called upon to arrive at a decision in a matter of such great importance as is involved in this resolution. We all know the occasion of this unfortunate occurrence, it took place on the 30th of October in connection with the arrival of the Simon Commission. I am afraid I cannot agree with the honourable mover of the resolution when he says that he and his friends were there in order to demonstrate

to the Commission the *united* voice of the country. I am afraid he has probably overstated his case. The question whether we should co-operate with the Commission or not was considered both within the Council and without and there can be no manner of doubt as to the verdict of the province on the question. A very important minority, I acknowledge, but a very small minority indeed, within the House, as well as without, has been in favour of not co-operating with the Commission. A very large majority within this House and in the province has been for co-operating with the Commission. Knowing this we must realise that Government was most anxious that this important minority, but a very small minority, should not in any way be prevented from giving expression to their views in this matter. It was not necessary for Government at all to make any pretence whatsoever, there was no occasion for Government to fake an atmosphere wherein it could establish that the province was for the Commission. I leave it to the House to decide whether as a matter of fact it was a very large number of members of this House who decided that they should co-operate with the Commission or whether it was a small minority that wanted to co-operate with the Commission. The Punjab Government knowing that there was a small minority, though an important minority, that was against the Commission accorded to it every opportunity of demonstrating its feelings to the Commission. But there were certain circumstances which compelled Government to take every precaution that no member of the Commission or the Committee came to grief in the Punjab to the discredit of the province as a whole. A single individual in the crowd might do mischief, and when it is done, it is impossible to undo it. It was really this fear which compelled the Government to take every precautionary measure short of altogether curbing the voice of the important but very small minority which wanted to be there, which wanted to pretend that the country was against co-operating with the Commission, nay I won't say, country, because this discussion is limited, to the Punjab, I would say that the Punjab was against co-operating with the Commission.

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang: With due deference, to the Honourable Member, is not that irrelevant to the subject matter of the resolution?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: I am grateful to the honourable member for supporting me in my contention that when Dr. Shaikh Muhammad Alam devoted such a large part of his speech in developing the point that the country was against co-operation with the Commission, he was not justified in doing so. My honourable friend's interruption enables me to dispense with the argument that even those who differ from me on this resolution in this House are with me in holding that Dr. Shaikh Muhammad Alam was wrong in bringing into the discussion of this resolution that part of the argument relating to co-operation with the Commission.

Mr. President: It was open to the Government members to object to the introduction of irrelevant matters.

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: I know, Sir and I would have done it, but for the fact that the honourable mover was representing a very small and touchy minority.

Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq : I suppose the honourable member himself wanted to be irrelevant and so he did not raise any objection then.

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : However, to cut a long story short, since it is well understood that the Punjab, at large, was for co-operation I appreciate the honourable members wishing me to proceed with the next point instead of beating a dead horse.

Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq : Beating a live horse.

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : The next point is what occurred at that place. It seems, to me, as was rightly pointed out by one or two members who spoke from my right, to convert this debate into a judicial hearing of the evidence and arriving at decisions on points of fact or even of law involved in the incident of 30th October is futile. I will not attempt it and nobody would like to do it because it involves the unpleasant task of differing from certain views of honourable members of this House. They may be justified in what they noticed with reference to particular circumstances. They may be perfectly right. That may be their impression, yet other circumstances which may be within the congizance of other members may lead one to believe that that statement is untrue. Take for instance the statement made by Raizada Hans Raj to the press that the occurrence took place after the Commission had left the railway compound. It appeared that all his colleagues of the procession were of the view that it took place before the arrival of the Simon Commission even at the railway station. Well, I know perfectly well that Raizada Hans Raj will never knowingly make an incorrect statement either to the press or on the floor of the House. He himself explained that his impression was based on the fact that a particular police officer whom he believed to be on duty at the platform came to the barrier from the railway station and from that simple incident Raizada Hans Raj proceeded to infer that that police officer finished his duty with the Commissioners, which merely consisted, according to Raizada Hans Raj, in receiving the Commission and sending them off and after having finished that duty, the whole thing closed and he came to the barrier. That only shows the extreme danger of trying to infer things from inadequate data. I absolve Raizada Hans Raj altogether of any desire, howsoever vague, of mis-stating facts. But however, he himself acknowledged the errors of his inference and it is extremely difficult to know which is the inference and which is the fact.

The third point which I want to make is this. The whole controversy is one of a partisan political nature and hence the refusal to lead evidence before the officer appointed to conduct an enquiry into this occurrence. This policy of non-co-operation is one on which I have had occasion to differ from the important political school of thought that is represented by my honourable friends opposite. That is we will not play. I do not think really the country situated as ours is can afford to say : we will not play the game, as there is not the field we desire and as there is not the arrangement that we like. Well, Sir, I had occasion to appear before Mr. Boyd about 21 years ago. I do not believe he remembers it. I had occasion to appear before him when there were riot cases connected with Gujranwala affairs, Punjabee Sedition case, etc. I was trying to make a precarious living as a fresh barrister in those days. There were riots and so on after the judgment

was announced by the Sessions Judge, and Mr. Boyd was appointed Special Magistrate then to try these cases. He heard them in the court room of the Commissioner of Lahore. I remember very well that Mr. Boyd brought an unusually unprejudiced and even pro-Indian mind to bear on his work, and people suggested that he may have Irish sympathies. That is 21 years ago and I as a counsel for the defence realised that probably I could not have had a better magistrate to deal with these cases. I am not here, Sir, to sing eulogies of Mr. Boyd and I think even this personal reflection would not have crept into my speech but for the more or less unfair observations which the honourable mover of this resolution indulged in. It is not fair, it is not right, it is not suited to the dignity of the House to make mention of individual officers and then proceed to make personal observations and strictures about them, and they are not here to defend themselves. Moreover you can decry the whole service. I do not mind your decrying the whole constitution. I do not mind that. But there is something undignified, if I may venture to put it so, in naming individual officers and beginning to talk unpleasant things about them. This appointment was not of the seeking of Mr. Boyd. I can assure you of that. I think on the materials before him he has tried to do his best. Some of us may disagree with him. Some of us may hold that his conclusions are wrong. But knowing a little of legal procedure, having practised a little myself, with indifferent practice no doubt, still I must say that the Council without having seen the record of the case, without having seen the evidence recorded by him, is not justified in saying that his conclusions are wrong. Well, Sir, it is open to members to say that he did not have all the materials before him on which he could frame his judgment, but it cannot be said that on the materials before him he could have arrived at a decision other than that which he has actually arrived at. Therefore however much one may regret the conclusions he has arrived at from the point of view of my honourable friends opposite, they must have known that it was inevitable

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It is well understood that having decided once to boycott the enquiry they could not look for a report to their liking.

There is one more point and it is this. The honourable member has picked a number of holes in the fact of Mr. Boyd being a member of the Civil Service, of the steel frame service and so on. Am I, Sir, wrong in thinking that one of the members of this Council for whom we have the utmost respect did go to a member of the steel frame service in order to apprise him of the incident.

Dr. Shaikh Muhammad Alam: That was a mistake on his part to have done so.

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: It appears, Sir, that one whose loss I along with others mourn, I mean Lala Lajpat Rai, he also made the same mistake of coming to one who has had the good fortune to be his friend for some years past and who had the privilege of knowing him for all these years but was a Member of Government at the time. Lala Lajpat Rai came to me within an hour or two of the occurrence to tell me all that had happened. It seems to me, Sir, that the honourable mover of the resolution takes too much responsibility upon himself, if he lays down the law for all

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his colleagues and all his leaders and followers. It is not right in this way to condemn either his colleagues or the departed leader for whom all of us to have the greatest respect.

Dr. Shaikh Muhammad Alam : I did not condemn. I said it proved to be a mistake.

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : When he says that one of his colleagues, for whom he has great respect, was wrong when he went to His Excellency, is it not condemning him ?

Dr. Shaikh Muhammad Alam : On a point of personal explanation, Sir.

Mr. President : Order, order. The proper time for making a personal explanation is after the speaking member has resumed his seat.

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : These personal explanations and points of order all proceed from the same profession to which the mover and myself belong. But they should not become too frequent.

Mr. President : The honourable member has already spoken for 15 minutes.

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : Is that so, Sir ? It did not look like that to me.

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : Not all on relevant points.

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : The honourable mover will not like that observation. I shall finish just in one or two minutes. I was observing that it is really with some earnestness that I appeal to the honourable mover of this resolution and to members who belong to his school of thought that it is their duty to leaders not to put too much strain upon them. We, Indians, must learn one thing before everything else, that is that we should realise that the men whom we respect like other people, specially when they are growing in age need rest, need comfort. It is not right that they should be expecting at that age to be asked to go like soldiers who ought to be there in their places. I think, Sir, Lala Lajpat Rai more than once had occasion to write to the Press saying that a large number of visitors who at all times went to see him put all sorts of enquiries before him and that he really had not the strength to meet all of them. If he were prepared to meet those visitors at all times, then so much of the time that he ought to be spending in the service of the country, in doing the best he can for the country is taken away.

Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq : Why this lecture on dead persons ?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : Sir, I trust that this incident will be a lesson to them, that it is not fair to put too great a strain on our leaders.

I think if the honourable member had devoted even two minutes to thinking before urging on the Government the appointment of a committee of enquiry, consisting of three non-official members of this House—he excludes me naturally from that committee—he would have realised that he would not have been satisfied with this committee any more than with Mr. Boyd. I cannot imagine that after the conclusion of this debate His

Excellency the Governor could nominate three members in whom the House would have confidence. (Laughter).

Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq : Pandit Daulat Ram Kalia, and two other members like him.

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : It would be as difficult for the Governor to appoint my honourable friend Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq as Pandit Daulat Ram, Kalia. Many estimable gentlemen have spoken and others will presently vote. Therefore I think no useful purpose will be possibly served by this resolution being carried.

Dr. Shaikh Muhammad Alam : On a point of personal explanation, I did not condemn Raizada Hans Raj . All that I said was that his going to His Excellency the Governor proved to be a mistake ultimately.

Chaudhri Afzal Haq : I understand from the statement of the Honourable Minister for Agriculture that Government is going to make a further enquiry into the matter. Is it so ?

The Honourable Sardar Jogendra Singh : No.

Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq : You said so.

Mr. President : The resolution moved is—

> "This Council recommends to the Government that a committee of non-official members of this Council be appointed to enquire into the conduct of those officials, including Mr. Scott, the Superintendent of Police, who assaulted and beat leaders of the public on 30th October 1928 at Lahore and arrested and detained Pandit Peyare Mohan, Assistant Editor of the *Tribune*, on the same date."

The question is that that resolution be adopted.

When the division bell was ringing—

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : I say that official members should not vote in this because they are directly concerned in the matter.

Mr. President : When a division is going on, no speech should be made or point of order raised by a member standing. If anything is to be said, it ought to be said sitting.

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : I am sorry for having risen from my seat and raised the point. I thought it might be disrespectful to raise the point of order while I was seated.

Dr. Shaikh Muhammad Alam : The Honourable Ministers too should not vote.

The Council then divided : Ayes 22, Noes 51.

AYES.

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang.	Rana Firoz-ud-Din Khan.
Mr. Labh Singh.	Dr. Shaikh Muhammad Alam.
Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram.	Lala Bodh Raj.
Lala Mohan Lal.	Chaudhri Muhammad Abdul Rahman Khan.
Pandit Nanak Chand.	Chaudhri Afzal Haq.
Chaudhri Baldev Singh.	Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq.
Dr. Gopi Chand, Bhargava.	Sardar Hira Singh, Narli.
Rai Sahib Lala Ganga Ram.	Sardar Hari Singh.
Lala Jyoti Prasad.	Sardar Partap Singh.
Lala Kesho Ram, Sekhri.	Sardar Harbakhsh Singh.
Sardar Buta Singh.	Rai Bahadur Lala Dhanpat Rai.

NOES.

Colonel C. A. Gill.
Mr. H. D. Craik.
Mr. C. A. H. Townsend.
The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon.
Khan Bahadur Nawab Muzaffar Khan.
Mr. W. R. Wilson.
Mr. R. Sanderson.
Mr. A. R. Astbury.
Mr. M. A. Ghani.
Mr. J. B. G. Smith.
The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal.
The Honourable Sardar Jogendra Singh.
The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow.
The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain.
Mr. J. G. Beazley.
Mr. J. D. Penny.
Mr. H. M. Cowan.
Mr. D. Milne.
Dr. (Mrs.) M. C. Shave.
Khan Bahadur Shaikh Sir Abdul Qadir.
Mr. S. L. Sale.
Khan Bahadur Captain Sardar Sikander Hayat Khan.
Mian Ahmad Yar Khan, Daultana.
Mr. Owen Roberts.
Rai Bahadur Pandit Daulat Ram, Kalia.
Rai Bahadur Lala Rattan Chand.
Khan Sahib Khan Muhammad Saifullah Khan.
Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram.
Chaudhri Zafrullah Khan.
Maulvi Sir Rahim Bakhsh.
Malik Nawab Major Talib Mehdi Khan.
Dr. Sir Muhammad Iqbal.
Khan Bahadur Nawab Muhammad Jamal Khan.
Shaikh Faiz Muhammad.
Pir Akbar Ali.
Chaudhri Ali Ahmad.
Sayad Muhammad Husain.
Chaudhri Yasin Khan.
Khan Bahadur Malik Muhammad Amin Khan.
Malik Khan Muhammad Khan, Wagha.
Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Fazl Ali.
Khan Bahadur Mian Muhammad Hayat, Qureshi.
Chaudhri Umar Hayat.
Makhdumzada Sayad Muhammad Raza Shah, Gilani.
Sardar Habib Ullah.
Mr. V. F. Gray.
Lieutenant Sardar Raghbir Singh.
Sardar Bahadur Captain Dalpat Singh.
Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sheo Narain Singh.
Sardar Sahib Sardar Fateh Singh.
Mr. E. Maya Das.

The motion was lost.

The Council then adjourned *sine die*.

189 & 195 PLC—620—22-12-28—SGPPLahore.

PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

3RD SESSION OF THE 3RD PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Monday, the 25th February 1929.

The Council met at the Council Chamber at two of the clock. Mr. President in the Chair.

OATH OF OFFICE.

The following members were sworn in :—

Mitchell, Mr. Alan (Official nominated).

Mehr Chand, Pandit (Jullundur-*cum*-Ludhiana) (Non-Muhammadan), Rural.

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

SANGHAR HIGH SCHOOL.

***1701. Lala Bodh Raj :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education please state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the authorities of Sanghar high school, Taunsa in Dera Ghazi Khan waited in a deputation at Simla on the predecessor of the present Director of Public Instruction for sanctioning grant-in-aid for their school ;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that they were asked to stop their high classes and promised a grant-in-aid for the middle school from April 1927 ;

(*c*) if so, whether any grant has been sanctioned and paid for the middle school and if not, why ?

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) There is nothing on record.

(*c*) A special grant of Rs. 600 was given to the school last year, and the question of a grant for the current year is under consideration.

DISTRICT BOARD SCHOOL, LYALLPUR.

***1702. Lala Bodh Raj :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education please state—

(*a*) whether it has been brought to his notice that the District Board, Lyallpur, have dispensed with the services of a number of Naib-teachers employed in their schools ;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that this was done to provide funds for making undue promotion of certain other teachers ?

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal: (*a*) Yes. The services of some temporary assistant teacher were dispensed with in uneconomical schools.

(*b*) No. It was done because the income of the Board suffered a heavy loss on account of the failure of the wheat crop.

BOYCOTT PROCESSION AT LAHORE RAILWAY STATION.

*1703. **Lala Bodh Raj:** Will the Honourable Member for Finance please state—

(1) if it is a fact that a conference of certain officials of Government was held to consider the question of stopping the procession of boycotters at or near the octroi barrier, Railway Station, Lahore;

(2) if so, the names of such officials as joined the conference and what were the decisions arrived at in the matter of stopping the procession of boycotters?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow: (1) Yes.

(2) Government does not consider that any public purpose would be served by giving the names of the officers who were present. The actual decisions arrived at by Government were explained in a statement made by the Chief Secretary in this House on the 30th of November, 1928.

SMALL TOWN COMMITTEE, KOT ADU.

*1704. **Lala Bodh Raj:** Will the Honourable Minister for Local Self-Government please state—

(*a*) if it is a fact that the elected members of the small town committee of Kot Adu prayed for an interview with the Deputy Commissioner, Muzaffargarh, in connection with the affairs of the committee;

(*b*) whether they have not been allowed the interview so far;

(*c*) if so, what are the reasons for refusing or delaying the interview?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon: (*a*) Yes, on the 11th October 1928.

(*b*) The interview duly took place on the 21st October 1928.

(*c*) Does not arise.

DAUGHTER OF HIRA DHANAK, ROHTAK.

*1705. **Lala Bodh Raj:** Will the Honourable Minister for Education please state—

(*a*) if it is a fact that the daughter of one Hira Dhanak was attending the Municipal Girls' School, Rohtak, but she was not admitted on the roll of the school;

(*b*) if it is a fact that she was made to sit in the class room quite separate and at a distance from the other girls of the school;

(c) if replies to (a) and (b) be in the affirmative, what were the reasons for meting out such treatment to her?

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal : (a) It is a fact that the daughter of one Hira Lal Dhanak attended the Municipal Girls' school, Rohtak, without gaining admission. This was brought to the notice of the Circle Inspectress who wrote to the president of the municipality as follows :—

"I shall be much obliged if you will kindly enquire into the matter and inform the headmistress that she is not allowed to refuse admission to any girl merely because she belongs to the depressed classes."

On the receipt of this letter the president of the municipal committee instructed the headmistress to admit the girl.

(b) Enquiries seem to show that this girl was not made to sit apart and at a distance from other girls.

(c) The headmistress refused admission on the ground that it might affect adversely the attendance of girls of other classes.

ATTOCK OIL COMPANY.

***1706. Dr. Shaikh Muhammad Alam :** Will the Honourable the Revenue Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether any land was acquired from the land-owners of Khaur in Campbellpur district for the Attock Oil Company in the years 1920 to 1921 and 1926;

(b) if so, how much land was acquired and on what payment;

(c) if it is a fact that this land was acquired through the Deputy Commissioner of Campbellpur;

(d) if it is a fact that zamindars were unwilling to sell this land;

(e) if it is a fact that the sale was made under compulsion which was exercised through the Deputy Commissioner of Campbellpur and the Sub-Divisional Officer of Pindigheb;

(f) whether there is any note to the effect on the file that the sale money was paid by compulsion to the zamindars although they were unwilling to accept it;

(g) if it is a fact that several representations particularly by Hayat Khan, Pattidar of Khaur, were made to the Government in this concern;

(h) whether any notice was taken of them;

(i) whether the Government proposes to acquire some further land for the Attock Oil Company;

(j) if it is a fact that zamindars are unwilling to part with their land and in the alternative require land in exchange instead of cash;

(k) what is the total area of land acquired up till now from the zamindars of Khaur and for how much sum;

(l) what criterion was adopted in fixing the sale price?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : (*a*) Yes in 1921, but not in 1926.

(*b*) 546·81 acres for Rs. 1,17,560-2-3.

(*c*), (*d*) Yes.

(*e*) Acquisition was under the Land Acquisition Act, and the award was not contested.

(*f*) Has the honourable member looked into a confidential file or is he putting a leading question ? Government knows nothing of the suggested transaction.

(*g*), (*h*) Yes.

(*i*) Yes, *vide* Government notification No. 365, dated 11th December 1928.

(*j*) Government has no information on the subject and is not aware whether the honourable member has been instructed by the zamindars to move in the matter.

(*k*) 569·25 acres for Rs. 1,22,803-5-0.

(*l*) The acquisition was under the Land Acquisition Act.

ARRESTS AT MULTAN UNDER S. 107, CRIMINAL PROCEDURE CODE.

***1707. Lala Bodh Raj :** (*i*) Will the Honourable the Member for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the police prepared a list immediately before or during the days of the last Dussehra festival at Multan for proceeding against certain persons under section 107, Criminal Procedure Code ;

(*b*) whether any warrants were obtained from the court of a second class magistrate for the arrest of all of those persons or for the arrest of any one of them ?

(*ii*) Will the Honourable Member also please lay on the table a list of persons referred to in (*a*) above as well as the names of those for whose arrest warrants were obtained ?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow : (*i*) (*a*) No.

(*b*) No.

(*ii*) Does not arise.

BHAKRA DAM SCHEME.

***1708. Chaudhri Duli Chand :** Will the Honourable Member for Revenue kindly state—

(*a*) whether the Bhakra Dam Scheme has recently been examined by an expert ;

(*b*) what is his opinion about the scheme ;

(*c*) whether the scheme has been forwarded to the Government of India for sanction ;

(*d*) whether the sanction has been obtained ;

(*e*) when the construction of the scheme will be taken in hand ;
(*f*) whether the survey of the tract to be irrigated has been made ;
(*g*) whether the detailed plans have been prepared ;
(*h*) if so, what tracts will be irrigated by the scheme ;
(*i*) how many cusecs of water will be allotted to it ;
(*j*) how many million acres of land approximately can be commanded by it ?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : (*a*) The report of the Expert Committee on the Bhakra Dam was received in January, 1928, and a copy of it has been placed in the Library.

In this connection a reference may be made to the replies to starred questions Nos. 951[1], and 1047[2].

(*b*) The opinion was favourable and it was recommended that the Dam be increased in height from 400 to 500 feet resulting in the volume of water held in the reservoir being nearly doubled.

(*c*) No.

(*d*) Does not arise.

(*e*) When it has been sanctioned by the Secretary of State.

(*f*) Surveys were carried out in 1915-18, to show that the scheme was feasible but the detailed surveys that will ultimately be required for the construction of the distributaries and watercourses have not yet been commenced.

(*g*) Detailed plans were prepared for all the Major Works in the original project.

(*h*) The tract to be irrigated is that between the Sutlej and Jumna rivers extending as far south as the upper limit of the Sutlej Valley Project and along a line through Hissar to Delhi.

(*i*) The original project provided an increased canal capacity of 11,000 cusecs for the area. With the higher dam proposed as the result of the expert Committee this figure will be increased.

(*j*) The total gross area benefited by the Project will be 11,800,000 acres of which 4,700,000 acres will receive irrigation for the first time.

HINDU ZAMINDARS ON THE WESTERN JUMNA CANAL.

***1709. Chaudhri Duli Chand :** Will the Honourable Member for Revenue kindly state—

(*a*) the total number of Hindu zamindars on the Western Jumna Canal classifying them as agriculturists and non-agriculturists ;
(*b*) the number of Hindus recommended for appointment as Zilladars by the Superintending Engineer, Western Jumna Canal, and the number of Hindu agriculturists among them ;
(*c*) what steps have been taken by the Superintending Engineer, Western Jumna Canal, for the increased employment of zamindar candidates as required by Government circulars issued from time to time ?

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[1]Volume XI, page 148.
[2]Volume XI, page 341.

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: (*a*) It is not clear what the honourable member means. If he would make his meaning clear, I will be glad to do what I can for him.

(*b*) Three Hindus out of a total of nine have been recommended for appointment as Zilladars by the Superintending Engineer, Western Jumna Canal Circle; two out of these three are agriculturists.

(*c*) In giving appointments a preference is given to agriculturists as well as to the community not fully represented at the time.

Since 1924 the following have been given appointments by Superintending Engineer, Western Jumna Canal Circle:—

Hindus 27; Non-Hindus 20. Of the 27 Hindus 11 are agriculturists.

DRAIN NO. 8, PANIPAT TAHSIL.

***1710. Chaudhri Duli Chand:** Will the Honourable the Minister for Local Self-Government kindly state—

(*a*) whether drain No. 8 is not in working order near Maharana, Dahar and other villages in the Panipat tahsil;

(*b*) whether he is aware that spills from this drain are ruinous to the health of the people of these villages and to their crops?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon: (*a*) Maharana and Dahar are situated at the head of drain No. 4 which leads to and joins drain No. 8 lower down. Drain 4 is silted up but drain 8 is reported to be in working order.

(*b*) It is alleged that spills from this drain are partly responsible for unhealthy conditions and for some damage to agricultural land. It is proposed to re-excavate drain No. 4 and remove silt from the drain No. 8.

BAIRAGI JAT TRIBES.

***1711. Chaudhri Duli Chand:** Will the Honourable Member for Revenue kindly state—

(*i*) the result of his investigations promised by him in the answer to my question No. 1554[1] asked on 12th March 1925;

(*ii*) whether the tribe of Jaimal entered as Bairagi in the revenue records of village Makroli Kalan in the district of Rohtak has been corrected and re-entered as Bairagi Jat in accordance with the judgment of Sub-Judge, class III, at Rohtak, dated 9th July 1928, in civil suit No. 15;

(*iii*) whether accordingly the tribe of the collaterals of Jaimal has also been corrected and re-entered as Bairagi Jat under orders of revenue authorities;

(*iv*) whether it is a fact that proprietors of the village of Dig in the Kaithal tahsil of the Karnal district are classed as Jats and Bairagis;

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[1]Vol. VIII-A, pages 405-06.

(*v*) whether both these classes have the same *got* or descent named * * *nain*;

(*vi*) whether he is aware that these Bairagi proprietors are Jats by tribe and Bairagi by religious creed;

(*vii*) whether in the revenue records of village Dig their tribe has been entered as Bairagi and not as Jat;

(*viii*) if so, whether Government intend to take any steps for correcting the entry relating to Bairagis in the revenue records of the Karnal district?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: (*i*) This was given, when the honourable member's Question No. 2170[1] was answered in 1925. Some Jats are Bairagis, but all Bairagis are not Jats.

(*ii*) to (*vii*) Yes.

(*viii*) No; village Dig is not the whole of the Karnal district.

ACCOMMODATION OF GOVERNMENT OFFICES IN GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS.

*1712. **Chaudhri Zafrullah Khan:** Will the Honourable the Minister for Agriculture please state—

(*a*) how many private houses in Lahore are at present rented by Government for various offices, together with the rent paid in each case;

(*b*) whether Government propose to accommodate all these offices in Government buildings and if so, what steps are being taken in this direction?

The Honourable Sardar Jogendra Singh: (*a*) A list of Provincial Government Offices at present accommodated in private houses in Lahore is laid on the table. The information regarding the rent paid in each case is being collected and will be communicated to the honourable member when ready.

(*b*) Government propose to accommodate all these offices in Government Buildings to be erected on a site near Charing Cross and preliminary drawings and estimates are under preparation :—

LIST OF BUILDINGS RENTED BY GOVERNMENT FOR GOVERNMENT OFFICES AT LAHORE.

1. Office of the Director, Civil Veterinary Department.
2. Office of the Deputy Commissioner, Criminal Tribes.
3. Office of the Divisional Criminal Tribes.
4. Office of the Industrial Surveyor.
5. Office of the Chief Inspector of Boilers.
6. Office of the Industrial Instructress, Punjab.
7. Office of the Inspector of Factories.
8. Office of the Textile Inspector.

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[1]Vol. VIII-B, page 1388.

[Hon'ble Sardar Jogendra Singh.]

9. Office of the Inspector of Industrial Schools, Punjab.

10. Office of the Secretary, Communications Board, Punjab.

11. Office of the Deputy Inspector-General of Police, Punjab, Central Range.

12. Office of the Honorary Extra Assistant Commissioners, 1 temporary Extra Assistant Commissioner, and Honorary Magistrate and 1 Panchayat office.

13. Office of the Superintending Engineer, Upper Chenab Canal Circle.

14. Office of the Assistant Engineer, Discharge Sub-Division.

15. Office of the Superintending Engineer, Rural Sanitary Board.

16. Office of the Executive Engineer, Rural Sanitary Board.

17. Office of the Joint Secretary to Government, Punjab, and Director of Information Bureau.

18. Office of the Laboratory Assistants, Epidemiological Bureau, Punjab, King Edward Medical College, Lahore.

19. Office of the Engineer member of the water-logging enquiry committee and its staff.

20. Office of the Registrar, Co-operative Credit Societies.

21. Office of the Deputy Registrar, 2 Assistant Registrars, 3 Inspectors and 1 Inspectress.

22. Office of the Director of Land Records.

23. Office of the Executive Engineer, II Sanitary Provincial Division.

24. Office of the Executive Engineer, III Lahore Provincial Division.

25. Office of the Superintendent of Fisheries, Punjab.

26. Office of the Executive Engineer, Jail Provincial Division.

27. Offices of the Chief Engineer, Hydro-Electric Branch, and Headquarter offices.

ANARKALI'S TOMB.

***1713. Chaudhri Zafrullah Khan:** Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state—

(*a*) whether the tomb of Anarkali near the Civil Secretariat at Lahore is being used by Government as an office or a record room;

(*b*) whether Government proposes to vacate the building and to preserve it as an ancient monument?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow: (*a*) It is used as a record office for the old historical records.

(*b*) There is no proposal under consideration for the vacation of the building, which is already a protected monument.

CIVIL PRISONERS.

*1714. **Chaudhri Zafrullah Khan:** Will the Honourable Finance Member please state—

(a) the number of persons who have been committed to the civil jails in execution of money decrees in this province during each of the years 1925, 1926, 1927 and the first half of 1928;

(b) how do these numbers compare with the numbers of persons committed to the civil jails in execution of such decrees during the corresponding years of the previous decade;

(c) if there is a steady increase in such numbers during the present decade, what are the reasons for this increase?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow: (a)—

1925	669
1926	1,633
1927	2,227

(b)—

1915	436
1916	412
1917	319

(c) Enquiries have been instituted.

RURAL UPLIFT.

*1715. **Chaudhri Zafrullah Khan:** Will the Honourable Minister for Local Self-Government please state what steps are being taken by Government to introduce rural uplift propaganda in the various districts of the province on the lines followed in the Gurgaon district?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon: Government has encouraged the formation of Rural Community Councils in all districts and many of these councils have commenced various forms of uplift work in their respective districts.

As the Palwal Show of 1928 was designed to illustrate every side of the work being done in the Gurgaon district to ameliorate the conditions of village life, Government recommended all district boards to send a deputation of their members to visit the show.

Work on the lines initiated in the Gurgaon district has been taken up in the districts of Rohtak, Ludhiana, Jullundur, Ferozepore, Lahore, Amritsar, Sialkot, Sheikhupura, Mianwali, Dera Ghazi Khan and Muzaffargarh.

GOVERNMENT COLLEGE, LAHORE.

*1716. **Chaudhri Zafrullah Khan:** (i) Will the Honourable Minister for Education please state—

(a) the number of students on the rolls of the Government College, Lahore, in each of the years beginning with 1909 and ending with 1928;

(b) the additions to the accommodation, equipment and staff of the college during those years;

[Chaudhri Zafrullah Khan.]

(c) whether the accommodation, equipment and staff are adequate to meet the present demands of the college and also those likely to be made in the immediate future;

(d) If the answer to (c) be in the negative, what steps does the Honourable Minister propose to take in order to meet such demands?

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal: (c) (a)—

1909	383
1910	402
1911	389
1912	397
1913	481
1914	549
1915	551
1916	584
1917	604
1918	598
1919	587
1920	575
1921	583
1922	618
1923	633
1924	625
1925	673
1926	733
1927	759
1928	818

(b) (1) *Additions to accommodations during the last 20 years*—The main items are:—

Laboratories for Physics, Botany, Zoology, extensions to Physical, Chemical and Biological Laboratories; Green House; two quarters for Professors; a new hostel; two tube-wells; menials' quarters.

(2) *Equipment*—

The annual allotment for the purchase of chemicals and apparatus has been raised from Rs. 4,000 to Rs. 18,500; special grants amounting to Rs. 1,56,637 have been given towards the equipment of the college and Laboratories.

(3) *Additions to the staff during the last 20 years*—

I. E. S. .. Three Professors.
P. E. S. .. Twelve Lecturers.
S. E. S. .. Two Lecturers and one Physical Training Supervisor.
S. E. S. .. Two Hostel Superintendents.
One Demonstrator.
Four Lecture Assistants.
Two clerks.
One Library Assistant.

(c) The matter is under consideration.

SUPERINTENDENTS, CIVIL SECRETARIAT.

***1717. Chaudhri Zafrullah Khan:** Will the Chief Secretary to Government, Punjab, please state the number of office Superintendents in the Punjab Civil Secretariat, together with their respective educational qualifications?

Mr. J. G. Beazley: There are twelve Superintendents and their educational qualifications are as follows:—

1 M.Sc.

1 M.A.

5 Matriculates.

4 have passed the High School Examination for European Schools held by the Education Department.

1 has passed the School-Leaving Certificate Examination.

SUPERINTENDENT, LEGAL REMEMBRANCER'S OFFICE.

***1718. Chaudhri Zafrullah Khan:** Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state—

(*a*) the educational qualifications of the Superintendent of the Legal Remembrancer's office, Lahore;

(*b*) the date on which he attained the age of 55 years and the number of extensions granted to him after that date and the reasons for granting such extensions;

(*c*) whether he has already attained or is about to attain the age of 60 years and if so, whether he will retire on attaining the age of 60 years;

(*d*) whether it is proposed to grant an extension to him even after he has attained the age of 60 years and if so, what are the reasons for the grant of such extension;

(*e*) whether there is any precedent in the clerical establishment of the Civil Secretariat in which an extension has been granted to an employee beyond the age of 60 years?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow: (*a*) The Superintendent in question passed the middle school examination. Subsequently he served a six months apprenticeship in a solicitor's firm at Calcutta and then obtained considerable experience in legal matters as a Barrister's clerk before joining the Legal Remembrancer's office as second clerk in 1909.

(*b*), (*c*) and (*d*). He attained the age of 55 years on 22nd November 1928. He was granted three extensions. The last extension operates from the date on which he attained the age of 60 years. This was granted owing to his continued efficiency and to special circumstances which rendered the extension advisable in the public interest.

(*e*) Yes, but such extensions are only granted in very special circumstances.

MACLAGAN ENGINEERING COLLEGE.

***1719. Dr. Shaikh Muhammad Alam:** Will the Honourable Minister for Agriculture please state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that students of last two years in "A" class work all the month in railway workshop;

(*b*) what part of a month do students of those years in "B" class work in railway workshop;

(*c*) what is the distinction between "A" and "B" classes which justifies the grant of stipends to the latter class;

(*d*) whether there is any guarantee of appointment to students of Maclagan Engineering College;

(*e*) whether they have any preference over students of the same education from institutions outside the province;

(*f*) whether the Government is aware that students of "A" and "B" classes are often treated for the purpose of recruitment to Government service as equally qualified and no distinction is made between them?

The Honourable Sardar Jogendra Singh:—

(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) During the period October to April in each year 'B' Class students spend alternate weeks in college and in the Railway Workshops, while the period May to September is spent entirely in the Workshops. This programme does not only refer to the last two years of a 'B' Class student's training, but is followed throughout the 5 years' course.

(*c*) The attention of the honourable member is invited to the reply given to part (*d*) of Council Question No. 2331[1], dated the 11th December 1925.

(*d*) No.

(*e*) No. It is confidently hoped that this college will earn a cachet of its own that will bring recognition to its qualified students on their own merits.

(*f*) No cases of the kind referred to have come to the notice of Government but as the honourable member must have particulars of such cases, the Ministry would be glad if he would furnish them in due course when the Ministry would enquire into them. It is presumed that the Honourable Member is aware that the difference in the kind of training given to the 'A' and 'B' Classes renders the men suitable for different kinds of posts, and that in consequence for some posts a 'B' class man is more suitable than an 'A' class man.

AIDS TO EUROPEAN SCHOOLS.

***1720. Dr. Shaikh Muhammad Alam:** Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) how much aid is granted to European Schools in Lahore;

(*b*) what is the number of Indian students in each of these schools;

[1]Vol. VIII-B, page 1654.

(*c*) whether the number is fixed for every school;

(*d*) whether there is any fixed number for European students in the said schools;

(*e*) whether the Indian students are below their fixed numbers in the said schools? If so, what is the condition in this behalf in each of these schools;

(*f*) what is the number of Indian students living as boarders in each of these schools;

(*g*) whether the number of boarders is also limited in case of Indian students? If so, how many in case of each school;

(*h*) whether it is true that these schools refuse to observe religious prohibitions in the food of boarders from Indian students.

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow: (*a*), (*b*) and (*e*). A statement giving the required information is laid on the table.

(*c*) Non-Europeans may be admitted to these schools up to 15 per cent. of the total enrolment. In addition to this Indian Christians and Indians whose vernacular is not the local vernacular, may be admitted up to a maximum of 10 per cent. of the total enrolment with the sanction of the Director of Public Instruction, Punjab.

(*d*) and (*g*) No.

(*f*) *Nil.*

(*h*) The question is not understood.

Name of European Schools in Lahore.	(*a*) Amount of grant sanctioned in 1926-29.	(*b*) Number of Indian students.	(*c*) Proportion of Indian pupils.
	Per mensem. Rs.		Per cent.
1. Jesus and Mary Convent School, Lahore.	918	21	13·3
2. St. Anthony's School, Lahore ..	1,750	50	25
3. Cathedral Girls School, Lahore ..	652	42	25
4. Railway Day School, Lahore ..	391	16	14·5

NOTE.—No maintenance grant is given to any of these schools in respect of the boarding side.

CHALANS UNDER SECTION 109, CR. P. C., IN LUDHIANA, ETC., DISTRICTS.

***1721. Sardar Partap Singh:** Will the Honourable Finance Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of "chalans" made under section 109, Cr. P. C., and also the number of persons so challaned from each of the districts of Ludhiana, Ferozepore, Jullundur, Amritsar and Lahore during the last five years from January 1, 1923 to December 31, 1927;

[Sardar Partap Singh.]

(*b*) the number of cases so challaned that were dismissed by the courts;

(*c*) the number of persons who were called upon to furnish securities;

(*d*) the number of persons who underwent imprisonment on account of failure to furnish securities?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow: (*a*), (*b*), (*c*), (*d*). A statement is laid on the table.

STATEMENT SHOWING PARTICULARS FOR THE YEARS 1923 TO 1927 (INCLUSIVE).

Serial No.	Name of district.	Number of chalans under section 109, Criminal Procedure Code.	Number of persons challaned under section 109, Criminal Procedure Code.	Number of cases dismissed by courts.	Number of persons called upon to furnish security.	Number of persons imprisoned for failure to furnish security.	REMARKS.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	Ludhiana ..	785	993	189	746	105	
2	Ferozepore ..	256	358	58	264	166*	*Most of these were for very short periods.
3	Jullundur ..	357	633	79	470	212	
4	Amritsar ..	442	442	156	286	18	
5	Lahore ..	535	618	35	529	36	

LALA MUNSHI LAL OF REWARI.

***1722. Lala Joti Parshad:** Will the Honourable Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether dismissed *sarbarah* lambardars and zaildars are debarred from standing as candidates for municipal and district board elections;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that they are not in receipt of any pay from Government and as such are not Government servants in any sense of the term;

(*c*) if the answer to (*a*) and (*b*) be in the affirmative, why was the nomination paper of Lala Munshi Lal of Rewari rejected by the Deputy Commissioner, Gurgaon, in the last municipal election at Rewari;

(*d*) what steps Government is prepared to take to redress the injustice done to Lala Munshi Lal?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon: (*a*) No.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) The Deputy Commissioner held that Lala Munshi Lal was proscribed from Government service and thus was disqualified for membership under clause (*d*) of sub-rule (2) of rule 6 of the Municipal Election Rules, 1926.

(*d*) An election cannot be called in question except by an election petition. Lala Munshi Lal's election petition was dismissed for non-compliance with the Municipal Election Rules, 1926.

REMISSION OF LAND REVENUE.

***1723. Lala Joti Parshad :** Will the Honourable Revenue Member please state in detail—

(*a*) whether in the districts of Hissar, Gurgaon, Karnal and Rohtak land revenue or *abiana* was remitted in view of the Punjab Government Resolution of 2nd June and 26th June, 1928 ;

(*b*) if not, why ?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : (*a*) No special remission was granted.

(*b*) The operation of the ordinary rules of suspension and remission was considered sufficient.

COLONISATION SCHEMES.

***1724. Lala Joti Parshad :** Will the Honourable Revenue Member please state—

(*a*) whether Government is aware that Hissar district got very little share in the colonisation schemes of Lyallpur and Montgomery districts ;

(*b*) if so, what special measures does Government intend to adopt to give a fair share to this district in the colonisation of the Nili Bar ?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The attention of the honourable member is drawn to the reply given to Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram's Council Question No. 824[1] on the 3rd of December, 1928, which explained the principles on which peasant grantees were to be selected for the Nili Bar Colony.

RURAL SANITATION.

***1725. Lala Joti Parshad :** Will the Honourable Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state the practical steps taken by the district boards of Rohtak, Karnal, Hissar and Gurgaon for improving rural sanitation during the last three years ?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : Some of the measures adopted are—

(*a*) Removal of manure and dung cake heaps from inside the *abadis* of villages—in the case of Gurgaon, manure heaps have been removed from the *abadis* of 1,000 villages.

(*b*) Pitting of manure in pits outside the *abadis* and in the Rohtak district provision of a pit for manure for each house at sites outside the village *abadi*.

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[1]Pages 272-73.

[Hon. Malik Firoz Khan Noon.]

(*c*) Improvement of the water-supply of 5 villages in the Gurgaon district.

(*d*) Protection of ponds and wells used for drinking purposes.

(*e*) Cleaning and repairing public wells—in Karnal 78 wells were so treated during the last three years and 2,660 wells were treated with permanent permanganate of potash during the same period.

(*f*) General cleaning up of villages, and daily cleaning of lanes and public places by staff employed for the purpose either by village communities or by district boards.

(*g*) Prohibition as to carrying on offensive trades, etc., in the village *abadi* and as to steeping hemp in ponds near the *abadi*.

(*h*) Adoption and enforcement of regulations for the improvement of sanitation in the case of a number of villages.

(*i*) Lecturing in village on public health and sanitation and other propaganda work.

POLICE REWARDS.

***1726. Lala Joti Parshad:** Will the Honourable Finance Member please state—

(*a*) whether any reward is given to the subordinate officials in police department for their honesty;

(*b*) if so, the names of those officers of police in Hissar, Rohtak, Karnal and Gurgaon districts who received such a reward during the last two years?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow: (*a*) The attention of the honourable member is invited to the answer to Council Question No. 2589[1] of 1926.

(*b*) Does not arise.

BHAKRA DAM SCHEME.

***1727. Lala Joti Parshad:** Will the Honourable Revenue Member be pleased to state in detail what further progress has been made in expediting the Bhakra Dam Scheme since March 1928 and when the scheme is expected to be submitted for sanction of the Secretary of State?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: The situation regarding the Bhakra Dam project was last described in the Council on 5th March, 1928,[2] in my speech on a motion by the member for Rohtak for reduction of the Irrigation Budget by Re. 1.

Since then the Punjab Government have addressed the Government of India stating that before they incur expenditure on any scale in surveying and working up the scheme they consider that they must first obtain the assurance that the Project when submitted will be generally acceptable by reason of its further utilisation of the waters of the Sutlej which now run wastefully to the sea.

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[1] Vol. IX-A, page 46.
[2] Volume XI, pages 426-27.

This step has been taken to avoid a repetition of what has occurred in the case of the Thal Project as objections raised by Bombay have prevented the scheme from being proceeded with. The reply from the Government of India has not so far been received.

NEW RAILWAY LINES.

*1728. **Lala Joti Parshad:** Will the Honourable Revenue Member please state—

(a) whether there were any proposals before the Railway Board—

(i) to connect Sirsa and Jakhal *vid* Fatehabad in the Hissar district by a broad gauge line;

(ii) to have a meter gauge line from Bhattu to Jakhal *vid* Fatehabad in the Hissar district;

(b) whether it is a fact that traffic survey was made for the metre gauge line in August 1927;

(c) whether up till now any of the above two lines has been sanctioned? If not, what action is being taken by the Government in the matter?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: (a) & (b) The Railway Board had under investigation during 1927, the prospects of a metre gauge connection between Bhattu and Jakhal, but on the representation of this Government sanctioned, last September, a traffic survey on the broad gauge from Bhattu to Jakhal.

(c) Till the result of this survey is available no further action can be taken.

BHIWANI-ROHTAK RAILWAY SCHEME.

*1729. **Lala Joti Parshad:** Will the Honourable Revenue Member please state—

(a) whether the construction of the Bhiwani-Rohtak railway has been sanctioned by the Railway Board and the work started;

(b) if not, what is the reason of this long delay and when the construction is expected to be taken in hand?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: (a) & (b) The Bhiwani-Rohtak railway has been sanctioned by the Railway Board, and Government understand that its construction will be put in hand as soon as it is found possible to allot funds for the purpose.

ROADS IN HISSAR DISTRICT.

*1730. **Lala Joti Parshad:** Will the Honourable Minister for Agriculture please state—

(a) what is the mileage of the metalled roads in the Hissar district leaving the Delhi-Montgomery road and the municipal roads out of account;

(b) whether the Government is taking any action towards removing the hardship of the people on account of want of transport facilities?

The Honourable Sardar Jogendra Singh : (*a*) There are in the Hissar district 82·89 miles of metalled roads, exclusive of municipal roads and the Delhi-Montgomery Arterial Road, 53·89 miles of which are metalled and 78 unmetalled, but passable for wheeled traffic.

(*b*) Government is fully alive to the desirability of improving road communication in this district.

Hissar was one of the first districts in which serious efforts have been made to improve roads on an unmetalled basis, and it is expected to have in this district by the end of March 1929, 71 miles of improved unmetalled roads passable for wheeled traffic, and approximately 30 more in the year following.

ELECTIONS AT KAITHAL.

***1731. Lala Joti Parshad :** Will the Honourable Minister for Local Self-Government please state—

(*a*) when were the last municipal elections held at Kaithal ;
(*b*) whether any election petitions were filed ;
(*c*) whether these election petitions have been disposed of ; if so, when ;
(*d*) what were the reasons for the delay ?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan Noon : (*a*) From 16th to 18th February, 1927.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) No.

(*d*) A further report in the matter has been called for and the reasons for the delay in the disposal of the petitions will be communicated to the honourable member in due course.

NAGARKIRTANS AT KAITHAL.

***1732. Lala Joti Parshad :** Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state—

(*a*) whether for the last two years the *nagarkirtan* of Kaithal *Gaushala* anniversary is being stopped ;
(*b*) whether prior to that there was no ban on such *nagarkirtans* ;
(*c*) if the answer to (*b*) be in the affirmative, why this new departure has been made ?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow : (*a*) and (*b*) Licensed processions have never been forbidden within the last 10 years ;

(*c*) does not arise.

ORIENTAL TRAINING CLASS.

***1733. Lala Joti Parshad :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education please state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that one Shri Paras Nath, teacher, Government High School, Hissar, has been applying to the Principal, Training College, Lahore, for admission to the Oriental Training Class since 1922, and that his last application was submitted on 29th February, 1928 ;

(*b*) if so, a copy of the last application may kindly be laid on the table;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that Pandit Tula Ram, Shastri, teacher, Government High School, Gurdaspur, and Maulvi Muhammad Ibrahim, M.O.L., teacher, Government High School, Hissar, both older than him, were admitted to the Oriental Class of the Lahore Training College and trained;

(*d*) if the answer to (*c*) be in the affirmative, what are the reasons for refusing admission to Shri Paras Nath?

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal: (*a*) No. Shri Paras Nath has been applying for the last two years; his last application was received in August 1928.

(*b*) A copy of the last application is laid on the table.

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) Shri Paras Nath did not present himself for an interview which is a condition precedent to admission to the college.

APPLICATION OF L. SHRI PARAS NATH SINGH FOR ADMISSION TO THE O. T. CLASS OF PERSIAN ATTACHED TO THE CENTRAL TRAINING COLLEGE, LAHORE.

Name.	Residence.	Present post occupied, if any.	Academic qualifications (including knowledge of English).	Age.	Teaching Experience.
Shri Paras Nath Singh.	Hissar ...	1st Oriental Teacher.	Munshi Fazil, Maulvi Fazil with English Test.	Date of birth 24th March 1899.	1. Acted as Professor of Persian and Arabic at Hindu College, Delhi, from 14th April 1924 to 8th August, 1928. 2. Arabic teacher, Government high school, Karnal, for about 8 months. 3. As first Oriental teacher in several Government high schools from 29th June, 1909 to this day.

SHRI PARAS NATH SINGH,
(Signature of the applicant).

No. 864, dated 22nd May 1928.

SUBMITTED to the Inspector of Schools, Ambala Division, in compliance with his C. M. No. 8183, dated 8th July, 1928 for favour of disposal.

BAWA NAND SINGH,
Headmaster.

OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR OF SCHOOLS, AMBALA DIVISION.
Receipt No. 7670.
Dated 24th August 1928.

True Copy.
W. H. F. ARMSTRONG,
VICE-PRINCIPAL,
for Principal, Central Training College, Lahore.

SUB-DIVISIONAL OFFICER, KAITHAL.

*1734. **Lala Joti Parshad :** Will the Chief Secretary please state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the Sub-Divisional Officer, Kaithal, holds his court from 8 P.M. to 8 P.M. in summer and from 4 P.M. to 10 P.M. in winter ;

(*b*) if so, does Government propose to issue any orders enforcing the usual court hours ;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that no timing is entered by the said officer in the daily attendance register maintained for the purpose ?

Mr. J. G. Beazley : (*a*) No.

(*b*) Does not arise.

(*c*) No.

SUB-DIVISIONAL OFFICER, KAITHAL.

*1735. **Lala Joti Parshad :** Will the Chief Secretary please state—

(*a*) whether the present Sub-Divisional Officer, Kaithal, is a very junior officer and he is holding charge of the sub-division for the last two years and-a-half ;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that there are Sikh and Hindu officers who have been superseded by him and who have not been given a chance to officiate as Sub-Divisional Officer ;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that communal tension has increased in Kaithal during the last two years and-a-half ?

Mr. J. G. Beazley : (*a*) & (*b*) The present Sub-Divisional Officer, Kaithal, has been incharge of the sub-division since 27th November, 1926. Although there are some Sikh, Hindu and Muhammadan officers senior to him who are not in charge of sub-divisions, this in no way implies that they have been superseded.

(*c*) There has been some communal tension which the Sub-Divisional Officer has done his best to compose.

HYDRO-ELECTRIC BRANCH.

*1736. **Lala Bodh Raj :** Will the Honourable the Minister for Agriculture please state with reference to reply to Question No. *1099[1] asked on 5th March, 1928—

(*a*) what is the total amount of expenditure on account of establishment of the hydro-electric branch of the Public Works Department ;

(*b*) the amount of salary drawn on account of 80 posts held by the Hindus ?

The Honourable Sardar Jogendra Singh : The figures to 31st December 1928 are—

(*a*) Rs. 16,54,356.

(*b*) Rs. 2,95,641.

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[1] Vol. XI, pages 400-401.

FOOT-BRIDGE OVER THE RAILWAY LINE AT ROHTAK.

*1737. **Lala Joti Parshad:** Will the Honourable the Revenue Member please state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that there is no foot overbridge over the railway lines at Rohtak Railway junction and the railway passengers have to cross the lines for going from one platform to the other;

(*b*) whether the Rohtak public and the local bodies ever applied to the railway department through their Deputy Commissioner for the construction of an overbridge two years ago;

(*c*) if so, what steps have so far been taken or are proposed to be taken in the matter?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: (*a*) No foot overbridge between the platform exists at present, but the North-Western Railway propose to provide one in connection with the new junction arrangements.

(*b*) The North-Western Railway state they received an application from certain local bodies for a foot overbridge to meet the convenience of the general public for crossing the railway line and not specifically for railway passengers.

(*c*) A proposal was submitted by the North-Western Railway to the Deputy Commissioner for providing at the cost of the local authorities a foot overbridge to which the public would have access.

The local authorities having expressed their inability to meet the cost, the North-Western Railway is at present reconsidering the project with a view to providing something cheaper that will meet the requirements of passengers and the general public and reduce the share to be borne by the local authorities.

PHYSICAL TRAINING INSPECTORS.

*1738. **Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram:** With reference to my unstarred question 846[1] asked on the 3rd December, 1928, will the Honourable Minister for Education please state—

(*a*) the number of Hindus, Sikhs and Moslems appointed as Physical Training Inspectors and the number of Statutory Agriculturists under each of the three heads;

(*b*) the number of men with F.A. or F.Sc. qualifications with—

(*i*) a S. A.-V. certificate; or

(*ii*) J. A.-V. certificate appointed in the grade of Rs. 80—4—100;

(*c*) the number of men with a B.A. or B.Sc. Degree and with B.T. or S. A.-V. qualifications appointed in the grade of Rs. 80—4—100;

[1] Pages 285-286 *ante*.

[R. S. Chaudhri Chhotu Ram.]

(*d*) the number of men with a Degree and B.T. or S. A.-V. qualifications appointed in the grade of Rs. 110—5—185;

(*e*) the number of men with no degree and with no B.T., S. A.-V. or J. A.-V. qualifications appointed in the grade of Rs. 80—4—100;

(*f*) the reasons justifying equality of treatment given to men of groups (*b*), (*c*) and (*e*);

(*g*) the reasons justifying the distinction of treatment between men of groups (*c*) and (*d*);

(*h*) the number and names of men who took up Physical Training in 1926-27 and underwent a further course of Physical Training in 1927-28 and the grade in which they have been appointed;

(*i*) if anybody who underwent a single course of Physical Training has been appointed in the grade of Rs. 110—5—185, the reasons justifying this preference over men of group (*h*)?

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal:

	Hindus.	*Muslims.*	*Sikhs.*
(*a*) (*i*)	12	2	7
(*ii*)	4	2	5

(*b*) (*i*) 1.

(*ii*) 3.

(*c*) 6.

(*d*) 9.

(*e*) 1.

(*f*) The reason for this is that Rs. 80—4—100 grade was the lowest in which some of the posts for physical training supervisors were created.

(*g*) The length of service of some of the officers in question in the grade of Rs. 80—4—100, the fact of some of them having undergone double training together with the opinion of the officials responsible for the conduct of the course form the basis of the distinction in question.

(*h*) (*i*) 4.

(*ii*) 1. Lala Kishen Diyal appointed physical training supervisor in the grade of Rs. 110—185.

2. Lala Tek Chand, appointed physical training supervisor in the grade of Rs. 110—185.

3. Lala Milkhi Ram appointed physical training supervisor in the grade of Rs. 80—100.

4. Bhai Thakar Singh appointed physical training supervisor in the grade of Rs. 110—185.

(i) (1) Yes.

(2) As in (g) above.

DISTRICT INSPECTORS.

*1739. **Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram:** With reference to my unstarred question 849[1] asked on the 3rd December, 1928, will the Honourable the Minister for Education please state whether the consolidated statement referred to by him indicates what persons are District Inspectors of Schools, and if not, whether he will give the information now?

The Honourable Mr. Mancher Lal: A statement giving the information asked for is laid on the table.

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[1] Page 287 *ante*.

STATEMENT SHOWING THE NAMES OF DISTRICT INSPECTORS OF SCHOOLS UP TO THE 15TH FEBRUARY 1929.

Name.	Designation.	Religion.	Member of the Notified Agricultural Tribe.	Remarks.
		AMBALA DIVISION.		
M. Abdul Latif	District Inspector of Schools, Gurgaon.	Muslim ..	Member of the Notified Agricultural Tribe.	
Ch. Ghulam Hussain, Bhatti ..	District Inspector of Schools, Karnal.	Do. ..	Ditto ..	
L. Sita Ram, Aggarwal ..	District Inspector of Schools, Rohtak.	Hindu ..	..	
L. Hardayal, Chopra ..	District Inspector of Schools, Hissar.	Do. ..	..	
L. Prabhu Dayal	District Inspector of Schools, Ambala.	Do.	..	
Ch. Jhandu Lal	District Inspector of Schools, Simla.	Do.	..	
		JULLUNDUR DIVISION.		
L. Amir Chand	District Inspector of Schools, Hoshiarpur.	Hindu ..	..	Officiating as District Inspector, Sheikhupura, *vice* Rai Sahib Chaudhri Gyan Singh, Lala Diwan Chand, a Hindu and non-agriculturist, Principal, Government High and Normal School, Kasur, is officiating as District Inspector, Hoshiarpur, *vice* L. Amir Chand.

L. Indar Bhan	District Inspector of Schools, Ferozepore.	Sikh	..	
B. Amar Singh	District Inspector of Schools, Kangra.	Do.	..	
Sh. Ghulam Hussain	District Inspector, Ludhiana	Muslim ..	..	
B. Jogindra Singh	District Inspector, Jullundur	Sikh	Member of the Notified Agricultural Tribe.	
		LAHORE DIVISION.		
Rai Sahib Ch. Gyan Singh ..	District Inspector of Schools, Sheikhupura.	Sikh ..	Member of the Notified Agricultural Tribe.	Officiating as Inspector of Schools, Lahore Division, *vice* Mr. R. Sanderson who is officiating as Director of Public Instruction, Punjab, L. Amir Chand officiating at Sheikhupura.
B. Barkat Singh	District Inspector of Schools, Lahore.	Do.	..	
M. Rahim Bakhsh	District Inspector of Schools, Gurdaspur.	Muslim ..	..	
M. Muhammad Nawaz Khan ..	District Inspector of Schools, Sialkot.	Do.	..	
Vacant	District Inspector of Schools, Gujranwala.	..	..	L. Bhana Ram (Hindu and does not belong to the notified agriculturist tribe), Headmaster, Government High School, Khanewal, is officiating as District Inspector, Gujranwala, against a permanent vacancy.
Sodhi Jagat Singh	District Inspector of Schools, Amritsar.	Sikh	..	

STATEMENT SHOWING THE NAMES OF DISTRICT INSPECTORS OF SCHOOLS UP TO THE 14TH FEBRUARY 1929—concluded.

Name.	Designation.	Religion.	Member of the Notified Agricultural Tribe.	Remarks.
		Rawalpindi Division.		
Mr. Pran Nath	District Inspector of Schools, Gujrat.	Indian Christian	..	
Ch. Ghulam Mohy-ud-Din	District Inspector of Schools, Mianwali.	Muslim	Member of the Notified Agricultural Tribe.	
S. Muhammad Yaqub Shah	District Inspector of Schools, Shahpur.	Do.	Ditto.	
M. Ahmad Said	District Inspector of Schools, Attock.	Do.	Ditto.	
B. Bikram Singh	District Inspector of Schools, Rawalpindi.	Sikh	..	
Ch. Ahmad Hasan	District Inspector of Schools, Jhelum.	Muslim	Member of the Notified Agricultural Tribe.	
		Multan Division.		
M. Ghulam Rasul Shaug	District Inspector of Schools, Dera Ghazi Khan.	Muslim	Member of the Notified Agricultural Tribe.	
Ch. Muhammad Hussain	District Inspector of Schools, Montgomery.	Do.	Ditto.	

M. Mahmud-ul-Hasan ..	District Inspector of Schools, Jhang.	Do. ..	Ditto.	
Sh. Ghulam Muhy-ud-Din ..	District Inspector of Schools, Multan.	Do. ..	..	Officiating as District Inspector, Delhi, *vice* L. Rang Bihari Lal (L. Ram Chandra Sudhwani, Hindu and non-agriculturist, Headmaster, Normal School, Jul. Junior, is officiating as District Inspector, Multan, *vice* Sh. Ghulam Muhy-ud-Din.)
Sh. Muhammad Zahur-ud-Din ..	District Inspector of Schools, Lyallpur.	Do. ..	Member of the Notified Agricultural Tribe.	Officiating as Deputy Inspector of Schools, Lahore, *vice* Ch. Fateh-ud-Din, (Ch. Pran Nath, Hindu and belongs to notified agricultural tribe), teacher, Government Intermediate College, Lyallpur, is officiating as District Inspector, Lyallpur, *vice* Sh. Muhammad Zahur-ud-Din.
M. Sardar Alam	District Inspector of Schools, Muzaffargarh.	Do. ..	Ditto.	

N. B.—The name of L. Rang Bihari Lal, District Inspector of Schools, Delhi, who is a Hindu and non-agriculturist and is at present officiating as Reporter on Books, Punjab, has not been shown in the above statement as Delhi is a separate Province.

STATUTORY AGRICULTURISTS.

*1740. **Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram:** With reference to my unstarred question 852[1] asked on the 3rd December, 1928, will the Honourable Minister for Education please state whether the consolidated statement referred to by him in his answer shows exactly the number of statutory agriculturists appointed in a particular year in a particular grade, and if not, will he please give now the information asked for in that question?

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal: The consolidated annual statement contains the actual position as at every year, and is a full index of the change that may have come about during the course of the year immediately preceding. The statement, therefore, gives all the information that the honourable member requires.

The honourable member in Council Question No. 852[1] requires a separate statement compiled about practically the whole of the Subordinate Educational Service. It is to meet inquiries asking for such statements that the consolidated statement is prepared.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE, LUDHIANA.

868. **Rai Bahadur Lala Mohan Lal:** Will the Honourable Minister for Local Self-Government please state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that prior to 1919 there was a joint electorate system for municipal elections in Ludhiana;

(*b*) the date of the general election of the committee?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon: (*a*) Yes, there was joint electorate system prior to 2nd September 1918;

(*b*) the last general elections took place in 1926 between the 25th November and the 8th December and the next elections will be held towards the end of the current year.

PRICE OF LAND IN LOWER BARI DOAB CANAL COLONY.

869. **Lala Bodh Raj:** Will the Honourable Member for Revenue (*a*) please lay on the table a copy of the rules determinating the price for the purchase of proprietary rights to Government grants in the Lower Bari Doab Canal Colony before 1927; and (*b*) be pleased to state whether the Government had promised to reduce the price in any case; if so, has the said promise been redeemed, and what is the reduced price per acre?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: (*a*) The honourable member is referred to the conditions given in clause "Firstly" on page 181 of the revised Punjab Colony Manual, Volume II.

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[1]Page 289 *ante*.

(*b*) No such undertaking was given to any person but the price was reduced as given in the table below—

For purchasers in	Number of half-yearly instalments.	Amount of each instalment per acre.	Total amount payable.
		Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
One year	2	20 0 0	40 0 0
Two years	4	11 0 0	44 0 0
Five years	10	5 0 0	50 0 0
Ten years	20	2 12 0	55 0 0
Fifteen years	30	2 4 0	67 8 0
Twenty years	40	2 0 0	80 0 0
Thirty years	60	1 8 0	90 0 0
Forty years	80	1 4 0	100 0 0

PROTECTION TO SIMON COMMISSION DURING NIGHT JOURNEYS.

870. Dr. Shaikh Muhammad Alam : Will the Honourable Finance Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that during night journeys of the Simon Commission by trains in the Punjab men with lighted torches were kept standing in rows extending to a good long distance off the railway stations *en route* ;

(*b*) if so, were these men provided through police agency or how ;

(*c*) what was approximately the total number of men employed on this duty ;

(*d*) was any payment made to them ; and if so, by whom ;

(*e*) whether it is a fact that they were employed on 'begar' system without payment ;

(*f*) whether it is a fact that even women and children were employed on this duty ;

(*g*) whether it is a fact that coercion was used by policemen and local executive authorities to obtain the services of these persons ?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow : Government do not consider that it is in the public interest to say what steps, if any, are taken for the protection of any individual.

If the honourable member will communicate to me any information which he may have as to particular cases in which any precaution taken on any occasion involved hardship to any individual, I shall be glad to make enquiries.

CANAL IRRIGATION.

871. Mr. Labh Singh : With reference to question No. 678,[1] dated the 25th February, 1928, will the Honourable Revenue Member be pleased to say what stage the consideration of the question of the extension of canal irrigation to the villages of Kana Machora, Sadhoke, Nabu Raza, Mona and Thatta Slakat in the Hafizabad tahsil of the Gujranwala district has reached and when final orders may be expected to be passed ?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : Final orders have been passed. They are to the effect that irrigation cannot be extended to this area.

DIVISIONAL AND DISTRICT INSPECTORS OF SCHOOLS.

872. Pir Akbar Ali : Will the Honourable Minister for Education kindly lay on the table a statement showing the following details :—

(*a*) the number of Divisional and District Inspectors of Schools in the province with their names and places of posting ; and

(*b*) which of them have been promoted to their present grades during the last two years ?

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal : (*a*) and (*b*). A statement giving the information asked for is laid on the table.

[1]Vol. XI, page 152.

STATEMENT REGARDING DIVISIONAL INSPECTORS OF SCHOOLS.

Serial No.	Name.	Designation.	Place of posting.	Date of promotion to present grade during the last two years, i. e., in 1927 and 1928.	REMARKS.
1	Mr. R. Sanderson, M. A., I. E. S. ..	Inspector of Schools ..	Lahore	1st October 1927 to higher selection grade of the I.E.S.	Mr. Sanderson is officiating as Director of Public Instruction, Punjab, from the 7th October, 1927, and Rai Sahib Ch. Gyan Singh, P.E.S., is officiating for him from the 12th October, 1927, against a temporary gazetted post.
2	Khan Bahadur Sh. Nur Elahi, M.A., I.E.S.	Inspector of Schools ..	Multan	..	Khan Bahadur Sh. Nur Elahi is officiating as Inspector of Training Institutions, Punjab, from the 12th October 1927, against a vacancy, Ch. Fateh-ud-Din, P.E.S., is officiating for him from the 1st October 1928.
3	Rai Bahadur Mr. Atmaram, M.A., I.E.S.	Ditto ..	Rawalpindi ..	..	
4	Vacant	Ditto ..	Ambala	..	Mr. J. L. Wilson, holds a special temporary gazetted post on Rs. 1,000 per mensem from the 27th March 1925.
5	Do.	Ditto ..	Jullundur ..	..	Mr. Man Mohan, P.E.S., is officiating against a temporary gazetted post from the 5th October 1928.

Hon'ble Mr. Manohar Lal.

STATEMENT REGARDING DISTRICT INSPECTORS OF SCHOOLS.

Serial No.	Name.	Designation.	Place of posting.	Date of promotion to present grade during the last two years, viz. 1927 and 1928.	Remarks.
1	M. Abdul Latif, P.E.S.	District Inspector of Schools.	Gurgaon.		
2	L. Sita Ram, Aggarwal, P.E.S.	Ditto	Rohtak.		
3	Ch. Ghulam Hussain, Bhatti, P.E.S.	Ditto	Karnal.		
4	L. Hardyal Chopra, P.E.S.	Ditto	Hissar	4th February 1927.	
5	L. Prabhu Dyal, S.E.S.	Ditto	Ambala	15th October 1928.	
6	B. Jogindra Singh, S.E.S.	Ditto	Jullundur	1st July 1928.	
7	Sh. Ghulam Hussain, S.E.S.	Ditto	Ludhiana.		
8	L. Indar Bhan, P.E.S.	Ditto	Ferozepore.		
9	L. Amir Chand, P.E.S.	Ditto	Hoshiarpur		Officiating as District Inspector of Schools, Sheikhupura, vice Rai Sahib Ch. Gyan Singh. (L. Dewan Chand, officiating at Hoshiarpur).
10	B. Amar Singh, P.E.S.	Ditto	Kangra (Dharmsala)	16th May 1928.	
11	Bawa Barkat Singh, P.E.S.	Ditto	Lahore.		
12	M. Rahim Bakhsh, P.E.S.	Ditto	Gurdaspur		
13	Sodhi Jagat Singh, S.E.S.	Ditto	Amritsar	1st August 1927.	
14	M. Muhammad Nawaz Khan, P.E.S.	Ditto	Sialkot.		

15	L. Bhana Ram, P.E.S. ..	Officiating District Inspector of schools.	Gujranwala ..	10th August 1928.	
16	Rai Sahib Ch. Gyan Singh, P.E.S. ..	District Inspector of Schools.	Sheikhupura ..	..	At present officiating as Inspector of Schools, Lahore Division.
17	B. Bikram Singh, P.E.S. ..	Ditto	Rawalpindi.		
18	Mr. Pran Nath, P.E.S. ..	Ditto	Gujrat		
19	S. Muhammad Yaqub Shah, P.E.S.	Ditto	Shahpur (Sargodha).		
20	Ch. Ahmad Hasan, S.E.S. ..	District Inspector of Schools.	Jhelum.		
21	Mufti Ahmad Said, P.E.S. ..	Ditto	Attock (Campbellpur).		
22	Ch. Ghulam Muhay-ud-din, P.E.S. ..	Ditto	Mianwali.		
23	Sh. Ghulam Muhay-ud-Din, P.E.S. ..	Ditto	Multan	..	Officiating as District Inspector of Schools, Delhi, *vice* L. Ram Bihari Lal (L. Ram Chand, Sadwani, officiating at Multan).
24	Ch. Muhammad Hussain, P.E.S. ..	Ditto	Montgomery.		
25	M. Sardar Alam, S.E.S. ..	Ditto	Muzaffargarh.		
26	M. Ghulam Rasul Shauq, P.E.S. ..	Ditto	Dera Ghazi Khan		
27	M. Mahmud-ul-Hasan, P.E.S. ..	Ditto	Jhang.		
28	Sh. Muhammad Zahur-ud-Din, P.E.S.	Ditto	Lyallpur ..	..	Officiating as Deputy Inspector of Schools, Lahore, *vice* Ch. Fateh-ud-Din (Ch. Pran Nath officiating at Lyallpur).
29	Ch. Jhandu Lal, S.E.S. ..	Ditto	Simla	1st July 1928.	
30	L. Rang Bihari Lal, P.E.S. ..	Ditto	Delhi	..	Officiating as Reporter on Books, Punjab, *vice* Rai Bahadur Lala Ram Chandra on leave (Sh. Ghulam Muhay-ud-Din officiating at Delhi).

DIVISIONAL INSPECTOR OF SCHOOLS.

873. Pir Akbar Ali: Will the Honourable Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) how many and who out of the Divisional Inspectors of Schools in the province have been transferred from the inspection line to other lines during the last two years;

(b) what are the names of the persons by whom they were permanently succeeded in the inspection line?

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal: (a) None.
(b) The question does not arise.

FEROZEPORE CITY GOVERNMENT HIGH SCHOOL.

874. Pir Akbar Ali: Will the Honourable Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) the number of students community-wise on the roll of the Ferozepore City Government High School;

(b) the numbers with grades of the teachers community-wise in the said school; and

(c) the names of the headmasters who have held charge of the school for the last twenty years?

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal: Statement giving the requisite information is laid on the table.

STATEMENT REGARDING GOVERNMENT HIGH SCHOOL, FEROZEPORE CITY.

(a) Number of students community-wise on roll in the Ferozepore City Government High School.	Hindus.	Muslims.	Sikhs.	Others.	Total.
High School ..	65	163	88	6	322
J. V. Units ..	25	45	52	..	122
Total ..	90	208	140	6	444

(b) The numbers with grades of the teachers community-wise.	Hindus.	Muslims.	Sikhs.	Others.
200—10—250	1	..	..	..
140—10—190	..	1	..	..
210—5—135	3	..	1	..
80—4—100	3	2	2	..
55—3—70	3	2	1	..
35—3—50	..	2	1	..
Total ..	10	7	5	..

(c) The names of the Head-masters who have held charge of the school for the last 20 years.

1. L. Jaisa Ram.
2. L. Sohan Lal.
3. Bhagat Lachhman Singh.
4. Mir Abdul Wahid.
5. Sh. Zahur-ud-Din.
6. L. Bhagwan Das.
7. L. Hargobind Lal.
8. L. Shiv Ram.
9. L. Bishan Das (at present).

VERNACULAR ASSISTANT DISTRICT INSPECTORS OF SCHOOLS.

875. Chaudhri Ram Singh: (*i*) Will the Honourable Minister for Education kindly state—

(*a*) the number of Vernacular Assistant District Inspectors of Schools in the Punjab;

(*b*) the number of such of the Vernacular Assistant District Inspectors of Schools who rendered military service during the great war;

(*c*) the number of senior vernacular teachers, who rendered military service during the great war;

(*d*) the number of senior vernacular teachers who have been appointed Assistant District Inspectors of Schools in consideration of their military service?

(*ii*) If no such appointments are made, will the Honourable Minister kindly state the reasons for the same?

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal: (*i*) (*a*) Four.

(*i*) (*b*) None.

(*i*) (*c*) The information is not available.

(*i*) (*d*) None.

(*ii*) No such appointments have been made as no such persons with requisite qualifications to perform the duties of Assistant District Inspectors have been forthcoming.

EXTRA ASSISTANT COMMISSIONERS AND TAHSILDARS.

876. Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram: Will the Chief Secretary to Government kindly state—

(*a*) the total number of—

(*i*) Extra Assistant Commissioners, and

(*ii*) Tahsildars in the province, and the number among them who belong to Rohtak, Hissar, Karnal and Gurgaon districts;

(*b*) whether any, and if so, how many members of statutory agricultural tribes from the Hissar district have ever been appointed Extra Assistant Commissioners or Tahsildars by direct recruitment?

Mr. J. G. Beazley: (*a*) (*i*) 287, of whom 7 belong to Rohtak, 2 to Hissar and 3 to Karnal.

(*ii*) 111, of whom 5 belong to Rohtak, 1 to Hissar, 2 to Karnal and 3 to Gurgaon.

(*b*) It is regretted that no information is readily available. To answer this part of the question would involve an examination of the records for the last 80 or 100 years, a labour which the public importance of the matter does not appear to be such as to justify.

BOMB EXPLOSION AT LAHORE AND RELIEF TO SUFFERERS.

877. Chaudhri Afzal Haq: Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) the names of those persons who have been killed or wounded by the bomb explosion on the last Duserah festival;

(*b*) what relief, if any, has been given to the family of the deceased and the wounded?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow: (*a*) A list of the persons killed and injured is placed on the table.

(*b*) No relief has been given. One application for relief has been received by the Deputy Commissioner, Lahore, who is enquiring into the condition of the family on whose behalf the application was made.

Names of persons killed by the Bomb explosion on the last Dusehra festival.

1. *Mussammat* Hariyan, widow of Nikka Singh, Arora, Kucha Wanwala, Lahore, died on the evening of 27th October 1928, shortly after she reached Hospital.

2. *Mussammat* Anguri, *alias* Batto, daughter of Balkishan, Thakur of Chauk Chakla, Lahore. Died on the evening of 23rd October 1928.

3. Ralla, son of Wazira, Jhiwar of Saidmitha, Lahore, family home at Targa, Police Station Narowal, District Sialkot. Died on the evening of 23rd October 1928.

4. *Mussammat* Bhagwati, widow of Balkishan, Rajput of Chauk Chakla, Lahore. Died on 24h October 1928.

5. Balmokand, son of Ram Chand, Kapur of Kucha Saidu Missar, Lahore. Died on 24th October 1928.

6. Abdul Karim, son of Abdul Haq, *alias* Jhande Khan of Thatti Malahan, Lahore. Died on 24th October 1928. Family home in Kucha Jaman, Teli Gate, Batala, District Gurdaspur.

7. Mahi Lal, son of Chhotoo, sweeper of Bail Ahata, near Burt Institute, Lahore, family home at Baroda, Police Station Baroda, District Rohtak. Died on 26th October 1928.

8. Arjan Singh, son of Atar Singh, a student of Forman Christian College, family home in Okara, District Montgomery. Died on 24th October 1928.

9. Muhammad Sadiq, son of Mehraj-ud-Din, caste Darzi (tailor) of Kucha Jawala Parshad, near Water Works, Lahore. Died on 24th October 1928.

10. Rikhi Ram, son of Kashi Ram, Brahman, Postman No. 71, a resident of Dhosara, Police Station Una, District Hoshiarpur. Died on 5th November 1928.

List of persons injured by the Bomb explosion on the last Dusehra festival.

1. Diwan Singh, son of Jawala Singh, Rajput, *chaprasi* K. R. Chop & Co., Brandreth Road, Lahore, resident of Chabin, Police Station Palampur, Kangra.

[Hon'ble Mr. Stow.]

2. Aziz-ul-Rahman, son of Abdul Rahman, Shaikh of Thati Malahan, Taksali Gate, Lahore. A boy.

3. Indersen, son of Amar Nath, Brahman, apprentice Municipal Committee Office, Lahore, a resident of Qadian, Police Station Sadr Batala, District Gurdaspur.

4. Dina Nath, son of Ram Lal, Tailor, Hazara Hotel, Railway Road, Lahore. Family home in Bazar Sheikhan, Jullundur City.

5. Barkat Ali, son of Hussain Bakhsh, Lohar, Mohalla Patrangan, Kucha Loharan, Bhati Gate, Lahore.

6. Harbans Singh, son of Pal Singh, Tarkhan, Kucha Chirimaran, Lohari Gate, Lahore, family home in Mehnian Kaharan, Police Station Kathu Nangal, District Amritsar.

7. Durga Dass, son of Janki Dass, Khatri, Kucha Chhapparwali Gali, Gumti Bazar, Lahore.

8. Bakhshi Krishan Lal, son of Dr. Fateh Chand, student, Forman Christian College, Lahore, family home in Mohalla Chaudhri Ganga Ram, Rawalpindi.

9. Abdul Majid, son of Abdul Karim, Shaikh of Thatti Mallahan, Lahore. A boy.

10. Behari Lal, son of Jawala Mal, Arora, Ram Gali, Lahore.

11. Raj Kumar, son of Mahabir, Rajput, line-man, telegraph office, Lahore, family home in Lakwa Pakar, Police Station Melghat, District Gorakhpur.

12. Santokh Singh, son of Chatar Singh, Khatri, Gawalmandi, Ganga Ram buildings, Lahore, family home in Mohalla Khurd Abad, Police Station Kachpurwa, Allahabad.

13. Narain Das, son of Sita Ram, Arora, Faiz Bagh, Misri Shah, Lahore.

14. *Mussammat* Darshan Kaur, widow of Mohindar Singh, Timber Merchant, Ravi Road, of the firm of Gopal Singh and Sons, Kucha Wanwattan Lahore.

15. Saida Bano, daughter of Abdul Rahman, Shaikh of Thatti Malahan, Lahore. A girl.

16. Malloo, son of Datta Din, Tamboli (Pan-frosh) Kinnari Bazar, Lahore, family home in Dharoopur, Police Station Lal Gunj, District Partap Garh.

17. Mela Ram, son of Mathara Dass, Khatri, Nanak Phalla, Lahore. A boy.

18. Muhammad Shafi, son of Abdulla, Barber, Chohatta Mufti Bakar, Lahore.

19. Darshan Singh, son of Pal Singh, Mehra, of Kucha Chiri Maran, Lahore, family home in Mehnian Kaharan, Police Station Kathu Nangal, District Amritsar.

20. Mehr Singh, son of Narindar Singh, Sikh of Sharin Shankar, Police Station Nakodar, District Jullundur, Tailor master, Jaure Mori, Lahore. A boy.

21. Hushnaki, son of Jant Ram, Rajput, K. R. Chop & Co., Brandreth Road, Lahore, family home in Bandson, Police Station Lambagaraon, District Kangra.

22. Bhiklian, son of Budha, sweeper, Bail Ahatta, near Burt Institute, Lahore, family home in Dorana, Police Station Rajaund, District Karnal.

23. Sohan Lal, son of Jaggan Nath, Khatri, Khui Wehra, Lahore (employed in Deputy Commissioner's office).

24. Mehraj Din, son of Umar Din, Tailor, Water Works, Kucha Pandit Jawala Parshad, Lahore, family home in Narwar, Police Station Khalra, District Lahore.

25. Badri Nath, son of Sundar Dass, Khatri, Kucha Mai Dauli, Machhi Hatta Bazar, Lahore.

26. Ram Nath, son of Dawarka Nath, Khatri, Kucha Kummun Shah, Machhi Hatta, Lahore.

27. Harnam Dass, son of Bhagwan Dass, Khatri, Kucha Bhaya Hari Singh, Shisha Moti Bazar, Lahore.

28. Basheshar Nath, son of Amar Nath, Khatri, Kucha Radha Kishan, Said Mitha, Lahore.

29. Tara Chand, son of Bhag Ram, Arora, of Kucha Acharjian, Lahore.

30. Telu Ram, son of Ganga Bishan, Khatri, Bazar Sutar Mandi, Lahore, family home in Kucha Kaserian, Kapurthala.

31. Rewti, son of Devi Chamar (cobbler), Ahata Mistri Karim Bakhsh, Lahore, family home in Anup Shahr, Police Station Anup Shahr, District Buland Shahr.

32. Jankish Chandar, son of Lala Jawahar Lal, Clerk, Secretariat Office, of Kucha Chhappar Wali Gali, Gumti Bazar, Lahore.

33. Pyare Lal, son of Diwan Chand, Khatri, of Kucha Chah Tillian, Vachhowali, Lahore.

34. Raghunath, *alias* Raugi, son of Jai Mal, Tarkhan, Kucha Khatrian Gawalmandi, Lahore, family home in village Soni, Police Station Mahalpur, District Hoshiarpur.

35. Muhammad Sharif, son of Miran Bakhsh, Rajput, Kucha Namadmalan, inside Akbari Gate, Lahore.

36. Mehraj Din, son of Nabi Bakhsh, Kambo, Kucha Namadmalan, Lahore.

37. Narindar Pal, son of Jhangi Lal, Brahman, student of the Oriental College, Lahore, family home in Fazalka, District Ferozepore.

38. Muhammad Tufail, son of Muhammad Din, Kamboh, Kucha Namadmalan, Lahore.

[Hon'ble Mr. Stow.]

39. Shahab Din, son of Chuhar, Gujar, servant of Nawab Muhammad Ali Khan, Qazalbash, family home in Tera, Tahsil Shakargarh, District Gurdaspur.

40. Ghulam Hussain, Sub-Inspector of Police, Traffic Duty Officer, Lahore.

41. Khurshaid Ali, son of Feroz Din, Qureshi, Haveli Mian Khan, Rang Mahal, Lahore.

42. Irshad Ali, son of Khurshaid Ali (No. 41 above) a boy of 3½ years.

43. Chuha Ram, son of Devi Dayal, Brahman, family home in Mahrta, Police Station Ram Nagar, District Udhampur, Jammu State, now Chaprasi of Darogha Diwan Chand, Mohalla Mahant Charan Dass, Lahore.

44. Ishfaq Ali, son of Khurshaid Ali (No. 41), a boy of about 2½ years.

45. Gurlal Singh, son of Moti Ram, Lohar, of Kucha Patpattian, Old Kotwali, Lahore, family home in Hadiabad, Police Station Phagwara, Kapurthala.

46. Ghulam Dastgir, son of Khuda Bakhsh, Kashmiri, Ahata Chiragh Din, outside Akbari Gate, Lahore, (Clerk of C. R. E. Office, Lahore Cantonment).

47. Mahna, son of Mehraj-ud-Din, Darzi, Kucha Pandit Jawala Parshad, near Water Works, Lahore.

48. Bashashar Nath, son of Sita Ram, Khatri, Sohni Street, Gawalmandi, Lahore, family home in village Fattehabad, Police Station Vairowal, District Amritsar.

49. Roshan Lal, son of Bhagwan Dass, Khatri, Kucha Bhaya Hari Singh, Wachhowali, Lahore.

50. Jaggo, son of Shankar, Dhobi, Risala Bazar, Anarkali, Lahore.

51. Lahori, son of Behari, Dhobi, Risala Bazar, Anarkali, Lahore.

52. Hera Lal, son of Behari, Dhobi, Risala Bazar, Anarkali, Lahore.

53. Baboo Lal, son of Mata Din, Dhobi, Risala Bazar, Anarkali, Lahore.

54. Ghuffna, son of Devia, Chamar, Ahata Deputy, outside Akbari Gate, Lahore, family home in Anup Shahar, Police Station Anup Shahar, District Buland Shahar.

55. Shabbir Hussain, son of Abbas Ali, School Master, Bazar Hakiman, Lahore, family home in Sathiala, Police Station Shah Gharib, District Gurdaspur.

56. Muhammad Amin, son of Muhammad Latif, Jat, Kucha Phulerian, inside Delhi Gate, Lahore.

57. Wadhawa Singh, Lambardar, son of Natha Singh, Jat, of Dilawarian, Police Station Muridke, District Sheikhupura.

58. Sant Ram, son of Jawinda Mal, Arora, Shopkeeper, of village Nangal Dunna Singh, Police Station Wandoh, District Gujranwala.

RELIEF TO DESCENDANTS OF ABDUL KARIM, DECEASED.

878. Chaudhri Afzal Haq: Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that a certain person named Abdul Karim died by bomb explosion at the Dusserah festival on the 23rd October, 1928;

(*b*) if it is a fact that he left one girl of six years and a son of eleven years;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that the Government is considering the desirability of giving them any help for their education?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow: (*a*) The answer is in the affirmative.

(*b*) It has been ascertained that he left two children, a boy, aged 14 and a girl, aged 12.

(*c*) No representation has been received regarding them; and no such proposal is under consideration. It has been ascertained that they are being maintained by an uncle.

CORRUPTION IN THANAS OF LUDHIANA.

879. Chaudhri Afzal Haq: Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) the names of those Sub-Inspectors of Police, Ludhiana, who are under suspension;

(*b*) the reason why they have been suspended;

(*c*) whether the Deputy Commissioner, Ludhiana, has received complaints against these officers;

(*d*) whether it is a fact that there is still a great complaint of corruption in some *thanas* of Ludhiana district?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow: (*a*) One Sub-Inspector of Police is under suspension in the Ludhiana District. Government is not prepared to disclose his name.

(*b*) and (*c*) He was suspended on account of complaints of corruption received by the Deputy Commissioner.

(*d*) No.

TEMPORARY ENGINEERS.

880. Makhdumzada Sayad Muhammad Raza Shah, Gilani: Will the Honourable the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) how many Temporary Engineers have been appointed in the Public Works Department (Buildings and Roads Branch), in 1927 and 1928 according to communities;

(*b*) what are the reasons for ignoring the claims of Muhammadans in the matter of above-mentioned appointments?

The Honourable Sardar Jogendra Singh: (*a*) 10 Temporary Assistant Engineers were appointed in 1927, of whom 5 were Hindus, 2 Muslims, 2 Sikhs, and one Anglo-Indian. In 1928, five were appointed, of whom three were Hindus and two Sikhs.

(*b*) The Committee appointed by Government to select the candidates for appointment had the benefit of the services of Sir Abdul Qadir, Bar.-at-Law, as a member and duly considered the claims of Muhammadans. Of the five Muhammadans considered for final selection one was rejected by the Committee, one did not appear before it, and the third in the meantime secured an appointment in the Irrigation Branch.

EXTRA ASSISTANT DIRECTORS OF AGRICULTURE.

881. Makhdumzada Sayad Muhammad Raza Shah, Gilani: Will the Honourable the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the number of Extra Assistant Directors of Agriculture in higher provincial scale appointed by the present Minister for Agriculture during his present tenure of office according to communities?

The Honourable Sardar Jogendra Singh: Extra Assistant Directors of Agriculture belong to the Provincial Service. No higher Provincial Service has yet been formed.

A statement showing the number of Extra Assistant Directors of Agriculture according to communities appointed by the present Minister for Agriculture during his present tenure of office, *viz.*, since 20th January 1926, is laid on the table.

STATEMENT.

		Appointed substantively on Probation.	*Appointed temporarily or for short periods in leave vacancies.*
1.	Muslims	3	1
2.	Sikhs	1	1
3.	Hindus	..	1
	Total ..	4	3

COMMUNAL REPRESENTATION IN PROVINCIAL EDUCATIONAL SERVICE.

882. Makhdumzada Sayad Muhammad Raza Shah, Gilani: Will the Honourable the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(*a*) how many Muslims, Hindus and other non-Muslims have been taken in the P. E. S. and Subordinate Educational Service since January 1927 up to now;

(*b*) how many Muslims, Hindus and Sikhs were holding the posts of Inspectors of Schools of Divisions, Deputy Inspectors of Divisions and Assistant District Inspectors in 1925 and how many Muslims, Hindus and Sikhs were holding the above-mentioned posts, respectively, in November 1928?

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal : (*a*) The honourable member is referred to the consolidated Annual Statement showing the proportionate representation of the various communities serving in the different departments of the Punjab Government, a copy of which has already been placed on the table, and to the answer to Council Question *1682 so far as the Punjab Educational Service is concerned.

(*b*) A statement showing the requisite information is laid on the table.

Designation of posts.	Number of Hindus holding permanent appointments in November, 1928.	Number of Muslims holding permanent posts in November, 1928.	Number of Sikhs holding permanent posts in November, 1928.	Number of Hindus holding permanent posts in November, 1928.	Number of Muslims holding permanent posts in November, 1928.	Number of Sikhs holding permanent posts in November, 1928.
Divisional Inspectors ..	1	1	1	1	1	1
Deputy Inspectors ..	1	3	..	1	3	1
Assistant District Inspectors of schools.	25	49	19	26	51	20

FAILURE OF COTTON AND *CHARRI* CROPS.

883. Makhdumzada Sayad Muhammad Raza Shah, Gilani : Will the Honourable the Revenue Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government is aware that all crops, specially crops of cotton and *charri*, was destroyed either by flood or by disease in the Multan district ;

(*b*) if so, whether Government intend to allow any remission of revenue on these two crops in the Multan district ?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : Attention of the honourable member is drawn to the reply to Council Question No. 886 [at page 376 *infra*] which is reproduced below :—

(*a*) The charri crop in Multan District last *kharif* was average : the cotton crop somewhat below average.

(*b*) Practically all the land revenue in the Multan district is fluctuating, and therefore automatically adjusted to the character of the harvest. The percentage of *Kharaba* given on cotton in the areas assessed by the Revenue staff was 38 (Shujabad, Kabirwala and Multan).

A second inspection was carried out on non-perennial *desi* cotton on the Sutlej Valley System.

BACKWARD PEOPLE OF MUZAFFARGARH.

884. Makhdumzada Sayad Muhammad Raza Shah, Gilani : Will the Honourable Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state what steps, if any, has the Government taken so far for the uplift of the illiterate and backward people of Muzaffargarh district ?

*Page 200 *ante*.

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : The attention of the honourable member is drawn to Punjab Government Resolution No. 5862—R., dated the 5th December 1928, which was published in Part I of the *Punjab Government Gazette*, dated the 7th December 1928.

The Rural Community Council of the district is now holding regular meetings and considering measures for still further improving the conditions of village life in the Muzaffargarh district.

ABIANA AND ACREAGE RATE IN LODHRAN, ETC.

885. Makhdumzada Sayad Muhammad Raza Shah, Gilani : Will the Honourable Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the zamindars of tahsils Lodhran, Shujabad and Mailsi have memorialised to the Government protesting against the increase of *abiana* and acreage rate ;

(*b*) if so, what steps have the Government taken to redress their grievances ?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The matter is under the consideration of Government.

FAILURE OF COTTON AND *CHARRI* CROPS IN MULTAN.

886. Makhdumzada Sayad Muhammad Raza Shah, Gilani : Will the Honourable Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government is aware that cotton and *charri* crops have seriously been damaged by *tela* and other diseases in the Multan district ;

(*b*) if so, whether the Government intend to take any steps for remitting the land revenue and *abiana* ?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : (*a*) The *charri* crop in Multan district last *kharif* was average : the cotton crop somewhat below average.

(*b*) Practically all the land revenue in the Mult an District is fluctuating and, therefore, automatically adjusted to the character of the harvest. The percentage of *kharaba* given on cotton in the area assessed by the Revenue staff was 38 (Shujabad, Kabirwala and Multan).

A second inspection was carried out on non-perennial *desi* cotton on the Sutlej Valley system.

LOCAL BODIES AND PROVIDENT FUND.

887. Sardar Mohindar Singh : Will the Honourable Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to lay a statement on the table showing—

(*a*) names of district boards and municipal committees that have instituted provident fund ;

(*b*) the date on which this fund was started ;

(*c*) the total amount of interest that has accrued ;

(*d*) the amount of interest that has been given to the employees ;

(*e*) the amount of surplus interest ;

(*f*) in what manner has this surplus interest been used ?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : The collection of statistics asked for would involve an expenditure of time and labour incommensurate with the value of the results.

2. It is presumed that the object of the honourable member is to bring to notice the fact that when a local body invests the capital of its provident fund balances in central co-operative banks or other investments bringing in a higher rate of interest, the individual accounts of subscribers are credited only with the amount of interest allowed by the Savings Bank Rules of the Postal Department, and the surplus is credited to the local body concerned. This practice is in accordance with the orders passed by Government in the interests of local bodies who are responsible for the payment to subscribers of their provident fund moneys and follows the practice observed in the case of Government provident funds where subscribers do not receive the actual interest earned. This principle appears to be sound as the benefit to the local body is intended to cover the cost of management and the risk of depreciation of investments.

LYALLPUR DISTRICT BOARD AND AGRICULTURISTS.

888. Rai Sahib Lala Ganga Ram : (*a*) Will the Honourable Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state whether the district board of Lyallpur passed a resolution to the effect that all posts under the board be given to agriculturists ?

(*b*) If so, will the Honourable Minister please lay a copy of the resolution on the table for information ?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) A copy of resolution No. 12, passed by the district board of Lyallpur on the 26th January 1928 is laid on the table.

Copy of District Board resolution No. 12, dated 26th January 1928.

Read the following proposal received from Giani Kartar Singh, Member, District Board :—

Resolution carried unanimously.

"that in future all vacancies in District Board Service be filled up by the Zamindars of this District and in case no suitable candidate is forthcoming the vacancy be filled up by a non-zamindar or outsider with the special permission of the Board."

PAY OF TEACHERS OF LYALLPUR DISTRICT BOARD.

889. Rai Sahib Lala Ganga Ram : (*a*) Will the Honourable Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the pay for the year 1926 due to certain teachers of the district board, Lyallpur, has not been paid as yet ?

[R. S. Lala Ganga Ram.]

(*b*) If so, will the Government please state the reason for the long delay?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon: A report has been called for and the information required by the honourable member will be communicated to him in due course.

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890. *Cancelled.*

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891. *Cancelled.*

STRICTURES BY THE HIGH COURT AGAINST THE DISTRICT MAGISTRATE, SARGODHA.

892. Lala Bodh Raj: With reference to the reply to question No. 1264,[1] asked on 4th May, 1928, will the Chief Secretary please lay on the table—

(*i*) the replies to the enquiries made by Government;

(*ii*) the copy of the report submitted to the Government of India;

(*iii*) action taken by the Government of India on the said report?

Mr. J. G. Beazley: In the opinion of Government it is not in the public interest to lay copies of the correspondence on the table. The orders passed in the case by the Government of India were announced by the Under-Secretary of State for India in his reply to a question in Parliament on the 12th November 1928. A copy of that reply is laid on the table:—

Answer to Mr. Pethick-Lawrence's question No. 10, dated the 12th November 1928.

The Government of India have passed orders that the Magistrate should be informed of the disapproval and displeasure of Government in respect of his conduct in certain particulars, that he should be absolved of charges reflecting on his personal character and his sense of discipline, and that he should not again hold an appointment involving the exercise of magisterial powers unless and until the local Government are satisfied that he will not give further occasion for complaint.

HEALTH CHART OF THE MARTIAL LAW PRISONERS.

893. Chaudhri Afzal Haq: Will the Honourable Finance Member be pleased to lay on the table the health chart—

(*a*) of all the martial law prisoners for the year 1928;

(*b*) of all special tribunal convicts for 1928 whether serving their terms inside or outside the province?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow: Government is not in possession of health chart for these prisoners for the year 1928, and is, therefore, not in a position to lay the required information on the table. I may add, however, for the information of the honourable member that in accordance with the

[1] Vol. XI, page 820.

request of this Government, other local Governments at once send the Punjab Government reports when any one of these prisoners is seriously ill; and such reports are from time to time being received.

POLITICAL PRISONERS.

894. Chaudhri Afzal Haq: Will the Honourable Finance Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) the names of those political prisoners who belong to other provinces, but are serving their terms in the Punjab jails;

(*b*) their health chart for the year 1928;

(*c*) the date of their release?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow: If the honourable member will kindly define what he means by "political prisoners," the question of supplying the information he asks for will be considered.

INHABITANTS CALLED "*QADIMI* AND *MAURUSI*."

895. Lala Bodh Raj: Will the Honourable Member for Revenue please state—

(*a*) if any lists were prepared during the year 1928 of such inhabitants of the district of Montgomery as are called "*qadimi* and *maurusi*," or whether they are under preparation, in order to select from amongst them the persons eligible for grant of lands.

(*b*) in case such lists have been prepared, will the Honourable Member please lay on the table a statement showing the number of such persons communitywise?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: If the honourable member will specify with more precision what he means by *qadimi* and *maurusi*, Government will be a in a better position to deal with his question.

BEEF MARKET AND SLAUGHTER HOUSE IN FAZILKA.

896. Lala Bodh Raj: Will the Honourable Finance Member please state—

(*a*) whether the people of Fazilka have made a representation to the Government in the matter of the beef market and slaughter house in the town;

(*b*) if so, what action has been taken by the Government thereon;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that the Hindus of the place observed *hartal* in order to show their resentment against the action of the local authorities in the matter? If so, for how many days was the *hartal* observed?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) It is under the consideration of Government.

(*c*) 21 days.

HINDU DISPENSERS IN THE CIVIL DISPENSARY, LAHORE.

897. Chaudhri Afzal Haq : (*a*) With reference to the answer to parts (*b*) and (*c*) of starred question No. 3507,[1] asked on 22nd October, 1928, will the Honourable Minister for Local Self-Government kindly state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that one of the two Hindu dispensers in the Civil Dispensary, Lahore, who was due to retire, has been given extension of service for another year ?

(*b*) if so, will the Honourable Minister kindly state the public grounds for granting this extension ?

(*c*) if the extension granted is not based on public grounds, will the Honourable Minister please say what justification is there for granting the extension ?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan Noon : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) and (*c*) The ordinary rule is that in the case of ministerial servants, extensions should be granted up to the age of 60 years if the official concerned continues to be efficient. In the case in question the Civil Surgeon was definitely of the opinion that the dispenser's retention in service was also desirable for the efficient working of the dispensary.

EXTENSION OF RAILWAY LINE TO ZAFARWAL.

898. Chaudhri Afzal Haq : Will the Honourable Revenue Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether a railway survey was recently carried out to Zafarwal in the Sialkot district ;

(*b*) if so, whether he will kindly enquire and state whether it is the intention of the Railway authorities to extend a railway line to Zafarwal, an if so, when ?

(*c*) if the answer to the latter part of the question be in the negative, whether he will enquire and state the reasons therefor ?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) It is not the intention of the Railway authorities to extend the railway line to Zafarwal.

(*c*) The reasons will be found in the reply to Council Question No. 544[2] asked on 20th February 1928.

LORRY FARES BETWEEN NAROWAL AND ZAFARWAL AND SIALKOT.

899. Chaudhri Afzal Haq : Will the Honourable Revenue Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that in the road certificates issued for the lorries plying for hire within the boundaries of the Sialkot district, the rates of fares for passengers are fixed at 3 pies per mile for *pucca* and 4½ pies per mile for *kucha* roads ;

(*b*) whether it has been brought to his notice that the drivers of lorries plying between Zafarwal and Narowal and Zafarwal and Sialkot, a distance of 17 and 23 miles (*kucha* road), respectively, charge one rupee as hire from every passenger instead of about 7 and 9 annas, respectively ?

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[1] Vol. IX-B, page 1671.
[2] Vol. XI, page 25.

(c) If the answers to the above are in the affirmative, will the Honourable Revenue Member kindly state reasons as to why no action is taken against those drivers who do not abide by the rules and orders?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : (a) Yes.

(b) No complaint to this effect has so far been brought to the notice of Government or of the local officers.

(c) Does not arise.

ANNOUNCEMENT FROM THE CHAIR.

I have to announce to the Council that the Punjab Land Revenue (Amendment) Bill passed by this Council on the 11th May 1928, received the assent of His Excellency the Governor-General on the 12th February 1929 (*Loud applause*).

Sayad Muhammad Husain [(Montgomery (Muhammadan), Rural)]: Sir, I want to take this opportunity for thanking His Excellency the Governor-General, His Excellency the Governor of the Punjab and the Honourable Sir Fazl-i-Husain for the great consideration they have shown, for the great pains they have taken and for the great sacrifice they have made in safeguarding the interests of the zamindars. I would not be wrong in saying that this Punjab Land Revenue (Amendment) Act is the Magna Charta of the Punjab zamindars. They now know where they stand. The advent of this Act has permanently put an end to all agitation which may have taken place amongst the zamindars. (Chaudhri Afzal Haq : Question). I shall explain how. The greatest agitation or any Bolshevik propaganda which might have fermented the minds of the zamindar public was through the revenue of the province. The zamindars now know the terms of their land revenue; they know the amount of the share which Government is going to take in future; they know the maximum share that Government will take. I repeat again that the zamindar public of the province are now satisfied to a degree to which they have never been before. I thank His Excellency the Viceroy and His Excellency the Governor of the Punjab.

(At this stage Chaudhri Afzal Haq asked permission to speak).

Mr. President : I cannot allow a debate upon an announcement made from the Chair.

Chaudhri Afzal Haq : Sir, I do not agree with the remarks of the honourable member who has just spoken. If he has been allowed to speak, other members who disagree with him should also be allowed to speak.

Mr. President : The honourable member has already spoken.

Chaudhri Afzal Haq : No. I submit, Sir, that I may be allowed to say a few words.

Mr. President : I think the honourable member has already made a very expressive speech.

Chaudhri Afzal Haq : I ask permission to speak.

Mr. President : If the honourable member does not repeat what he has already said he is welcome to say a few words.

Chaudhri Afzal Haq [Hoshiarpur-*cum*-Ludhiana, (Muhammadan), Rural (Urdu)]: Sir, I as a representative of a section of the zamindars, want to make it clear that the speech made by the honourable member for Montgomery does not represent the views of the zamindars in general.....

Mr. President: The honourable member has already said that the speech made by the member for Montgomery does not represent the feelings of some of the other members of this House. Therefore, he is repeating what he has already said.

Chaudhri Afzal Haq (Urdu): Sir, I was not talking of members and of their views. I wanted to tell the House that in the opinion of the zamindars in general this Act is not the Magna Charta of the zamindars. When the Bill was being considered by the Council, I said, in clear words, that the Bill was not going to remove all the grievances of the zamindars....

Mr. President: Order, order. I am afraid I shall have to ask the honourable member to discontinue his speech, as he is repeating the same thing.

Chaudhri Afzal Haq (Urdu): If by my opposition, it is taken that I shall inflict a long speech on the House, I can be prevented from making a speech as I desire to do.

Mr. President: I cannot allow the honourable member to make a speech, as there is no motion before the House. I heard the cries of Hear, Hear, and took this to be an index of approbation of the announcement made from the Chair. The honourable member for Montgomery made a short speech and now the member for Ludhiana wants to make one. I am afraid this cannot be allowed. The honourable member has already said that he does not endorse the views expressed by the honourable member for Montgomery. I think that is enough. I cannot allow a debate.

CONSTITUTION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEES FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 1929-30.

Mr. President: I have to inform the Council that under Standing Order 74-A of the Punjab Legislative Council Standing Orders, Standing Committees of the Council have to be constituted after the commencement of each financial year. The number of members of various Standing Committees to be elected by the non-official members are as follows:—

(1)	Finance	9
(2)	Canals	8
(3)	Jails	5
(4)	Industries	5
(5)	Co-operative Societies	5
(6)	Excise	5
(7)	Local Self-Government	6
(8)	Public Health	6
(9)	Agriculture	5
(10)	Education	8
(11)	Land Revenue	7
(12)	Police	4

Elections for the non-official element of these committees will be held in the Council Chamber, Lahore, on Wednesday, the 6th March 1929. The

non-official members of the Punjab Legislative Council are hereby called upon to send in nominations of candidates for each of these committees so as to reach the Secretary not later than 2 P.M. on Saturday, the 2nd March 1929. Nominations must be made in writing and be signed by not less than two members, and the member nominated must signify his willingness to serve if elected. Nomination forms can be had from the Council office on any working day during office hours.

Special attention is invited to Standing Order 74-E. A member cannot be elected to serve on both the Finance and the Public Account Committees.

PRESENTATION OF THE BUDGET.

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow (Finance Member): It is not for me to describe the various steps by which the edifice of Punjab finance attained its present characteristics of stability and soundness. The labours of my illustrious predecessors, Sir John Maynard and Sir Geoffrey deMontmorency, are too well known to need recapitulation. Suffice it to say that the foundations of the financial edifice have been well and truly laid in the rock of sound credit and carefully guarded resources, while the superstructure of provincial development has been built up with due regard to the strains of wind and weather of which we in the Punjab have only too much experience.

The present financial system of the Punjab is no fair weather structure. It has already been tested by the comparative failure of cotton crops and the continuance of low cotton prices. But in the present year the wind of adversity has blown stronger and more bitter. A blighted wheat harvest has been followed by a cotton crop much below our expectations. Revenue has fallen and the economies, which it has been possible to effect, are not sufficient to prevent recourse to borrowing. But the strain has been withstood, and in face of all disappointments the policy of development has been steadily continued. If it has been necessary to retard the pace of this development, it is possible to draw some consolation even from this slowing down of the advance. There is little doubt that a pause devoted to the consolidation of ground already won will prove in the end anything but harmful either to departmental activity or to the welfare of the Province at large.

Let me, however, impress on this House that the results and estimates which I am about to describe, would not have been possible but for the care and forethought exercised in the years that are past, that even now the financial path of the coming year is fraught with risks which we would fain have avoided, and that if the provincial credit, from which we are at present deriving so much benefit, is to be maintained, there must be no abandonment of those cardinal principles—foresight and economy. With gratitude to the labourers of past years, let us take stock of the present situation and examine the possibilities of the future.

Let us turn first to the ordinary revenue account. A comparison of the final accounts for 1927-28 with the revised estimate for that year affords another refutation of the charge that the Finance Department consistently under-estimates income. Whereas the revised estimate of receipts showed

[Hon'ble Mr. Stow.]

11,03 lakhs, the actual receipts when brought to book only amounted to 10,90 lakhs. A partial failure of the cotton crop in the autumn of 1927 caused the revenue and irrigation receipts to fall by 18 lakhs, while the low prices of timber produced a deficiency of 7 lakhs under the head Forests. A loss of 3 lakhs under Stamps was more apparent than real, being principally due to the transfer to the head "Miscellaneous" of the motor tax paid in the form of Stamps. This drop in revenue was counterbalanced, though not fully, by savings in the working expenses of canals, by contributions from local bodies towards construction of a Provincial building, and by a welcome addition of 6½ lakhs under the head "Miscellaneous" made up principally of increases under Unclaimed Deposits and licenses for motor vehicles plying for hire.

The revised estimate for expenditure in 1927-28 stood at 10,83 lakhs. The actual expenditure was 10,68 lakhs or 15 lakhs less than was expected. Under certain heads, notably Civil Works, the expenditure exceeded the revised estimates. On the other hand, expenditure under other heads fell below them to the extent of about 18 lakhs. Certain local bodies failed to claim the grants which the Education Department and the Department of Public Health were ready to give them.

The receipt side of the ordinary revenue account for the current year (1928-29) reveals a somewhat depressing state of affairs. The budget estimate of 11,22 lakhs has now been reduced in the revised estimate to 10,65 lakhs. In other words, the provincial receipts are at the present moment 57 lakhs less than was expected at this time last year.

Unpleasant though this picture may be, a moment's reflection shows us that it is not surprising. The wheat harvest was not without promise, but unseasonably hot winds in February, combined with dust-storms, produced an effect which received too little attention at the time. The crop, as it stood ready for harvest, appeared to be quite satisfactory, but when reaped and placed on the threshing-floor, it was found that the wheat had been shrivelled in the ear. In view of this calamity Government decided to grant remissions throughout the Province. These remissions amounted to no less than 40 lakhs of rupees. Climatic conditions for the *kharif* crop were also unfavourable. Up to the end of August in the greater part of the Province no rain of any importance was received. The monsoon was delayed and the hot weather prolonged and severe. When rain fell, as it did in the end of August, it came in a deluge, resulting in disastrous floods. This downfall was followed by dry weather, until more rain fell towards the end of November. The harvest was below the average, and cotton, for which a normal yield had been anticipated, in the end disappointed expectations. It has again been necessary to give very large remissions of land revenue and *abiana*. The total remissions under Land Revenue and Irrigation throughout the year account for a reduction of 68 lakhs in the budget estimate of receipts. A slight alleviation of these unpromising figures is afforded by the head Stamps which showed an increase of 2 lakhs, by Excise which is 3 lakhs to the good, while Unclaimed Deposits are better by 3 lakhs.

On the expenditure side of the ordinary revenue account, the total shows little alteration from the total of the budget estimates, but this has

only been achieved by the omission from the total disbursements of 15 lakhs which the framers of last year's budget intended should be transferred to the Revenue Reserve Fund.

Let us now examine the ordinary revenue account as estimated in the budget for 1929-30. Receipts on the ordinary revenue account are estimated to amount to 11,50 lakhs. This figure shows an expansion of 28 lakhs over the budget estimate for similar receipts last year and an increase of 85 lakhs over the revised estimate for the current year. On the expenditure side the estimated disbursements amount to 11,19 lakhs, which is 11 lakhs below the revised estimate for 1928-29. We are thus shown to be spending 31 lakhs less than our income. But we know that it will be necessary to embark in the course of the year on expensive schemes to combat water-logging for which supplementary demands will have to be presented. It is hoped that these demands will fall well within the balance of 31 lakhs, but in view of the necessity for replenishing our balances after the loss of revenue this year, this margin of 31 lakhs is by no means excessive. Expenditure has of necessity been cut down to the lowest level consistent with a continued policy of development. It has been found impossible to proceed with the full programme of buildings and roads, and it is contemplated that 48 lakhs less will be expended under this head in 1929-30 than is shown in the revised estimate for 1928-29. It is also contemplated to reduce transfers to the Revenue Reserve Fund to 5 lakhs only instead of the 15 lakhs budgetted for 1928-29. On the other hand, the beneficent departments are to spend 19 more lakhs than in the revised estimate for the current year, most of which increase is for Education (Transferred).

In the straitened circumstances which I have described and in view of the paramount necessity for rigid economy, it is not surprising to find that Government in dealing with new schemes involving fresh expenditure should have been forced to adhere more closely than ever to the principle of cutting the coat according to the cloth. As the shears approached that piece of the fabric in which a particular department was interested the inevitable protest was heard that this was the unkindest cut of all. Nevertheless, the fact that in a year so adverse as the present, it has been possible to provide 61 lakhs for new expenditure, must, I think, be taken as proof that there is no idea of curtailing the progress of the Province in those directions most conducive to its welfare. Nearly one-half of the new expenditure will be incurred on the beneficent departments, of which Education (Transferred) will receive 12 lakhs; Agriculture, including Co-operative Credit and veterinary activities, 5 lakhs; Industries 1 lakh; Roads and Buildings 9 lakhs. It has been impossible this year to launch new schemes of development, and much of the new expenditure is only new in the technical sense. But the avenues of advance laid down in the programmes of the beneficent departments have been maintained and enlarged.

It is interesting to compare the expenditure proposed in this year's budget for the beneficent department, that is to say, under the heads Education, Medical, Public Health, Agriculture and Industries, with the expenditure which was incurred in 1926-27, the year in which the present Council was elected.

[Hon'ble Mr. Stow.]

Turning first to Education (Transferred) it will be seen that there has been a marked increase in the expenditure since the year 1926-27. In that year disbursements amounted to 1,87 lakhs while in the budget of this year they are estimated to amount to 1,67 lakhs, an increase of 21 per cent. The greatest stride in this direction was taken in the year 1928-29 when the expenditure exceeded that of 1926-27 by 17 per cent. Throughout the past 3 years progress has been continuous. Vernacular education has been steadily expanded. Teachers have been trained, schools for girls have been opened and Intermediate Colleges established in various parts of the Province to provide further facilities for higher education.

Under the head 'Medical' though the figures are smaller, the progress has been no less striking. The expenditure of 1926-27 has been increased by one-third and is now estimated to stand at 54 lakhs. More than 160 new hospitals and dispensaries have been opened during 1927 and 1928 in various parts of the Province.

Disbursements towards the Public Health programme have advanced by 19 per cent. in the last 3 years. Schemes for water supply at important centres such as Sargodha, Rawalpindi, Multan, Muktsar, Abohar and Pathankot have been brought into operation, while in other places throughout the Province the water supply has been improved and augmented. Drainage schemes have been inaugurated at Eminabad, Sargodha, Sheikhupura, Jhang, Ferozepore, Moga, Jagadhri and Sialkot, while in addition to these schemes for urban improvement the sites for the great fairs at Choa Saidan Shah, Rohtas and Thanesar have been provided with water supply and sanitary arrangements.

The activities of the Agricultural Department have also increased, the expenditure provided in this year's budget being 34 per cent. larger than in 1926-27. In pursuance of the Department's programme 7 Deputy Director Circles with seven 500-acre farms for experimental and demonstration purposes have been established. In addition to this, 9 district farms of 100 acres each with 3 other district farms of less than 100 acres have been provided.

The organisation of co-operative societies has also been improved, and the number of working societies has risen from 14,577 in 1926 to 18,558 in the present year. Mortgage banks have been started, and the services of a Financial Adviser familiar with banking problems have been secured. Increased attention has been devoted to the breeding and care of cattle, and in the last 3 years 61 new veterinary dispensaries have been opened in various parties of the Province.

The expenditure on Industries, which was small in 1926-27, has been increased by more than one-half. Industrial schools have been organised on a proper basis, and a wholetime Inspector of Industrial Schools has been appointed. The policy of expansion throughout the Province has been steadily pursued, and the ease with which those trained in the industrial institutions superintended by the Department of Industries are able to find employment is an encouragement to further development in this direction. Among the more striking manifestations of the activities on which the Department of Industries has embarked, may be mentioned the up-to-date

weaving factory at Shahdara and the steps which are being taken to assist financially in the establishment of a company for the production of sugar in a factory to be equipped with the latest appliances.

It should be remembered that the expenditure, which I have just detailed, excludes the numerous buildings, colleges, schools, hospitals, etc., which have been erected in accordance with the policy of the beneficent departments. During the last 3 years the heads 41—Civil Works and 60—Civil Works include expenditure on Intermediate Colleges at Ludhiana, Dharmsala and Jhang and on Government High Schools at Talagang, Jagraon, Fazilka, Phalia, Tanda, Khushab, Kahuta, Nowshera, Bhakkar, Jhelum and Alipore, while important schemes, such as the Medical School, Amritsar, the Maternity Hospital, Lahore and civil hospitals at Arifwala and Burewala in the Montgomery district have made notable progress.

As I have already mentioned, it has been necessary to curtail expenditure on the programme of buildings and roads so that the excellent record in respect of communications completed and improved during the past 3 years is in danger of being temporarily arrested. Under the heads 41 and 60—Civil Works in Part II of the Memoranda which is in the hands of honourable members, full particulars are given of new communications provided in the past year or two. It is sufficient to mention here the completion of the Lahore-Sargodha road, the advance in the arterial roads from Delhi to Montgomery, from Lahore to Moga and from Lahore to Multan. In the Nili Bar, progress, rapid though somewhat embarrassing from the financial point of view, has been made with the roads radiating from Arifwala and Burewala. It is confidently expected that the early completion of these most necessary communications will be amply repaid by the better prices to be obtained for the colony lands to which they give access.

We may now pass to consideration of the Capital Account. In the budget estimate for 1928-29 expenditure on the Capital Account was estimated at 1,81 lakhs, of which more than half was to be expended on irrigation, and most of the remainder on the hydro-electric scheme. This expenditure could not be met from the Extraordinary Receipts, which were estimated to amount to 1,52 lakhs. This difference of 29 lakhs, together with 21 lakhs required for the Provincial Loan Account, had to be met by borrowing or by temporary advances from the revenue account. It was estimated that it would suffice to take a loan of 40 lakhs from the Government of India. But, as will be seen from the revised estimate for 1928-29, disbursements on the Capital Account instead of amounting to 1,81 lakhs are now at the end of the current year more likely to reach 2,12 lakhs, while at the same time instead of the 21 lakhs which it was estimated as necessary to find for the Provincial Loan Account, more than twice that sum has to be provided, *viz.*, 48 lakhs. It was impossible to foresee the expenditure on *taccavi* entailed by a succession of inferior harvests. Meanwhile the Extraordinary Receipts, which were estimated to amount to 1,52 lakhs have now fallen to 86 lakhs so that to meet the extra capital expenditure incurred by the Irrigation Branch and the extra expenditure on *taccavi* we have had to increase our borrowing to one 1,40 lakhs, to be devoted to capital expenditure on Irrigation Works and the hydro-electric scheme.

[Hon'ble Mr. Stow.]

For 1929-30 it is proposed to make the following arrangements. Capital expenditure is estimated at 1,54 lakhs, and 12 lakhs are required to meet the deficit of that amount in the Provincial Loans Account. Extraordinary receipts are estimated to bring in 1,05 lakhs. But in addition to this deficit of 61 lakhs, it must be borne in mind that we have to repay 78 lakhs which has been temporarily met from other accounts, that is to say, from the ordinary revenue receipts, or from the Revenue Reserves so that once more it is proposed to borrow one crore and forty lakhs from the Government of India.

In justification of these loans I should explain that the system by which capital expenditure is met from Extraordinary Receipts, described by Sir John Maynard as "the glory and support of Punjab finance," is unfortunately not sufficiently strong to enable us to support without borrowing the strain of a year such as we have just experienced. It is almost impossible to forecast what the extraordinary receipts will be or when the receipts will materialise. We know the amount due, at any rate so far as past auctions are concerned, we know the date on which the instalments are due, and it is on this knowledge that the estimates are framed. What we do not know is the date on which the vendees will actually fulfil their contract. Meanwhile expenditure has to be met and met immediately. There is no alternative but to borrow and to repay in future years.

As I have said, capital expenditure is estimated to amount to 1,54 lakhs. Following the practice of past years I shall describe to the Council how we stand as regards our main capital undertakings, the Sutlej Valley Irrigation Project and the Uhl River hydro-electric scheme. Taking first the Sutlej Valley Irrigation Project, the project estimate for direct charges only is approximately 23,00 lakhs, of which this Council is concerned with some 9,76 lakhs and Indian States with the remainder. Against that portion, in which the Council is immediately interested, the estimated expenditure up to the end of 1928-29 is approximately 7,90 lakhs, while the budget estimate for the expenditure to be financed from provincial revenues in 1929-30 is 59½ lakhs. In the Punjab all works of any magnitude were completed prior to the current year, and expenditure during 1928-29 has been incurred mainly on the construction of rest-houses, quarters for the staff, distributaries and water-courses. In the coming year expenditure will be devoted to the same objects. In the Punjab portion of the project the scheme will eventually provide about 3,000 miles of distributaries and minors and over 15,000 miles of water-courses. In accordance with the agreement under which the Sutlej Valley Project took shape, the Punjab is also a contributor to the cost of the Panjnad Headworks on which satisfactory progress has been made during the year. It is hoped that these headworks will be completed in 1929-30.

As regards the Uhl River Project, against the sanctioned estimate of Rs. 4,20 lakhs, the estimated expenditure up to the end of 1928-29 is 99·5 lakhs. The budget estimate for 1929-30 is 46 lakhs. These figures do not include expenditure on the Lyallpur and Amritsar electrification schemes. In the current year, the haulageways and tramways establishing communications between the Power Station at Jogendranagar and the Headworks at Brot in the Uhl Valley have been completed and are in working order.

Residential and other buildings are also complete, and nearly the whole of the construction plant has been received and erected. The main actual construction work now in progress is the driving of the tunnel. An adit 1,200 feet long has been completed, and from its junction with the main tunnel line headings are being driven north and south, so that with the headings at the entrance and the exit, boring can proceed on four faces simultaneously. Progress in connection with the transmission system has been confined to the completion of surveys and the acquisition of land for substations, etc. Though here expenditure has been small, much work has been accomplished in connection with the design of the system and the completion of specifications for the steel towers and conductors. In the budget year, the chief works in hand will be the driving of the tunnel and the construction of the headworks. Expenditure will also be incurred on the purchase of a portion of the penstock pipes, on materials for the transmission system and on the provision of quarters for transmission lines staff.

It has now been possible in the light of progress made on works situated in the Mandi State and the figures of cost thereof to examine the adequacy of that portion of the project estimate which covers these works and which amounts to (about) 1,60 lakhs. Revised estimates submitted by the Chief Engineer for nearly all of the sub-heads, which make up this total, have been examined by Government. From the figures available at present it would appear that we must apprehend an excess on this portion of the project. It is therefore proposed in the near future to place the situation before the Standing Finance Committee in further detail.

A few words with regard to the insurance funds. The figures of the Famine Relief Fund call for some explanation. For this statutory fund new rules have been issued in accordance with which the local Government can cease making provision for contributions when the balance has reached 20 lakhs. This limit has now been reached, and it is not proposed to make any further increase to this fund in excess of 20 lakhs.

The Revenue Reserve Fund at the close of 1927-28 amounted to 25 lakhs, and it was contemplated when the last year's budget was framed to add another 15 lakhs, and to bring the balance up to 40 lakhs. But owing to the failure of revenues it has not been possible to make any addition to the Fund during the current year. In 1929-30 it is hoped to add another 5 lakhs to the Fund. It was of course possible to take this reserve and recredit it to the revenue account. If this had been done, it would have been necessary to make provision in the following year for a substantial transfer to the Fund with the result that the transfer and retransfer would in effect cancel each other. After due consideration it was considered better to avoid this complication, and to leave the Fund intact, merely reducing the contribution to the Fund for 1929-30 to a smaller figure.

As has been explained in former years, the Local Government is not accumulating any balances under the head Sinking Fund, as the reduction of debt is being systematically carried out by the purchase of Provincial bonds.

It remains to consider the account as a whole and the balance under all heads. At the close of the current year the revenue account will have a balance of 63 lakhs, and the insurance funds of 46 lakhs. But the capital

[Hon'ble Mr. Stow.]

account will have absorbed all the extraordinary receipts together with 78 lakhs from the other accounts, so that in spite of the substantial loan for capital expenditure we are actually left with a balance on all accounts of only 80 lakhs, 21 lakhs of which belong to the Famine Relief Fund. The budget year thus opens with a balance of 80 lakhs only, by far the smallest balance in any year since 1923-24. In the coming budget year with a reasonable expectation of expanding income for the revenue account supplemented by arrangements for another capital loan to which I have already alluded, we hope to close with a balance of 1,45 lakhs under all heads. The accounts will then be restored to that position in regard to balances which existed in 1927-28. But it will be noticed that our borrowing programme has been so arranged that all our capital expenditure will have been met from loans or extraordinary receipts. It will not therefore be necessary to indent on the revenue account.

From many points of view not even the most confirmed optimist could regard our present position as entirely satisfactory. It is true that the extensive borrowings and exiguous balances disclosed by the accounts are due principally to disappointments in harvests which for many months justified high expectations. The pressure of adversity reveals in its true light the real nature of Punjab finance. The reserves built up in the past were designed not only as the foundation for a superstructure of development but were intended to tide the Province over those climatic vicissitudes so familiar to an agricultural population. The intentions of the designers have been fulfilled in this year, but it must be admitted that the margin of safety is distressingly narrow. Nor must we forget that the risks which the future holds for us are great indeed, and call for the most cautious vigilance if disaster is to be avoided. I would draw attention to the series of disappointments in the actual receipts under the ordinary revenue account. From these receipts, and from these receipts only, must be met the constantly increasing burden of recurring expenditure. Yet the figure for revenue receipts in the current year is less than it was in 1924-25, while disbursements have increased by 15 per cent. The province and this Council have just reason to be proud of the development in the beneficent departments which successive Ministers have initiated and established, but with every step forward the annual bill for a staff paid on an incremental scale must show an increase. In Education and Industries, in Agriculture and Public Health we have undertaken a policy of development. We have taken upon ourselves the task of expanding and improving secondary and vernacular education. We have bound ourselves to give training to an increasing number of teachers, to provide vernacular middle schools for girls and to apply on a widening basis the principle of compulsion. Demonstration farms and improved veterinary treatment imply an annual growth of recurring expenditure. Tahsil hospitals are not provincialized nor is the medical treatment of women improved without adding to the yearly commitments of the Province. And if roads are to be built and improved, as they must be, in the interests of true provincial development, we must not lose sight of the growing bill for their annual upkeep. The pace at which the increase of annual recurring expenditure proceeds is indeed a matter for the most serious reflection. But there is another pitfall ahead. We must bear in mind the

results brought out by the detailed investigation into district board finances which has now been completed. It is practically certain that a number of district boards will not be able in the future to support the burden of their share in providing primary education, including as it does charges for compulsory education and the incremental cost of establishment, to say nothing of the fact that these important branches of teaching must, it would seem, inevitably expand. So far as can be seen, district boards will be compelled to demand and the Council to grant, in a greater or less degree, subventions from the provincial exchequer in order to maintain the present rate of progress in educational matters, even if no new development comes under contemplation. When and to what extent provincial funds will be called upon in aid of local bodies, it is at present impossible to foretell. The situation will probably clear itself in the course of the next year. (4)

To meet commitments on the expenditure side of the revenue account the ordinary receipts have their very definite limitations. Receipts from abiana and land revenue, which are by far the most important items, depending, as they do, on the vicissitudes of the season are apt to disappoint the most careful forecast. If it is urged that the system of revenue and abiana collections is elastic, it must be remembered that contraction is apt to take place at the most inconvenient moments, while in the face of seasons which, as in the present year, bring with them a crop of remissions, the chain of supply may snap altogether. (5)

These are the principal dangers in the path of progress and development which it is my duty to signal. It is not easy to reconcile advance with financial stability unless the pace of increase in expenditure bears some reasonable relation to actual or expected expansion of revenue. This is the problem for which I am not prepared at this moment to suggest a solution. It would appear to lie, on the one hand, in economy or even retrenchment and, on the other, in the discovery of new sources of revenue. One thing is certain, and that is that we must not contemplate meeting a deficit in the ordinary revenue account by recourse to borrowing. Such an operation would bear a fatal resemblance to the excavation of bricks from the foundations of a building in order to add an upper storey. Nor do I lay stress on any expectations which may be formed of prosperous harvests. But we may all hope that the return of conditions more favourable to the great industry of the Punjab may not be long delayed and that the resulting prosperity will enable us to continue on paths already marked out towards improvement in the well-being of the people of this Province and development of its magnificent resources. (6) (7)

I present the Budget for the year 1929-30.

The Council then adjourned till 2 P.M. on Tuesday, the 26th February, 1929.

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PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

3RD SESSION OF THE 3RD PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Tuesday, the 26th February, 1929.

THE Council met at the Council Chamber at two of the clock. Mr. President in the Chair.

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

HINDU LECTURERS IN GOVERNMENT INTERMEDIATE COLLEGES.

***1741. Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram:** With reference to my unstarred question No. 858[1] asked on the 3rd December, 1928 and his answer thereto, will the Honourable Minister for Education please state the page of the consolidated statement referred to by him on which the number of Hindu lecturers employed in Government Intermediate Colleges and the fact of these lecturers belonging or not belonging to statutory agricultural tribes are shown, and if the said statement does not contain the required information, will he be pleased to supply the information now?

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal: The Consolidated Statement does not contain the information in the form desired by the honourable member. If the honourable member will kindly state whether by lecturers he means only officers in the P. E. S. or he wishes also teachers in the S. E. S. in these Intermediate Colleges included, the information desired will be duly classified. The term lecturer is employed by the Department to signify only officers in the P. E. S., but probably the honourable member did not wish to restrict his inquiry to these as information relating to them is in part available in the Civil List.

DISTRICT INSPECTOR OF SCHOOLS, AMBALA.

***1742. Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram:** With reference to his answer to my unstarred question 851[2] asked on the 3rd December 1928, will the Honourable Minister for Education please name the District Inspector of Schools in the Ambala Division, who was a member of a statutory agricultural tribe?

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal: None of the District Inspectors of Schools was a member of notified agricultural tribes at the time of answering Council Question No. 851. The answer as given then was based on a misunderstanding of the position of Chaudhri Jhandoo Lal, who is an agriculturist and recorded as such, but is found on inquiry not to belong to the class of statutory agriculturists.

[1] Page 289 *ante*.

[2] Page 288 *ante*.

INTERMEDIATE COLLEGE IN HOSHIARPUR, ETC.

***1743. Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram:** Will the Honourable the Minister for Education please state—

(*a*) whether it is not a fact that when he assumed office he found the proposals of Intermediate Colleges for Hoshiarpur, Shahpur and Sialkot districts already sanctioned;

(*b*) whether Intermediate Colleges have been opened in each of the districts referred to in (*a*);

(*c*) whether any proposal for an Intermediate College has been initiated and sanctioned since he was appointed?

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal: (*a*) Yes, except in so far as the proposal regarding the Government Intermediate College, Shahpur, was finally sanctioned only in 1928.

(*b*) Yes, except at Shahpur where it is proposed to open the college during the next financial year.

(*c*) Yes, at Montgomery and Hissar. But owing to financial stringency the proposals are in abeyance for the present.

JAT HIGH SCHOOL, ROHTAK.

***1744. Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram:** Will the Honourable the Minister for Education please state—

(*a*) whether it is not a fact that a proposal for a building grant of Rs. 50,000 for the Jat High School at Rohtak had been sanctioned in the autumn of 1926;

(*b*) whether an application from the Jat High School of Rohtak for the acquisition of some land had been received by Government in 1926;

(*c*) whether (*i*) the grant referred to in (*a*) has been paid and (*ii*) the land referred to in (*b*) has been acquired so far?

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal: (*a*) It is not a fact that a building grant of Rs. 50,000 for the Jat High School at Rohtak was sanctioned in the autumn of 1926, but in reply to their application for a building grant the management of the school was asked to revise their proposals, and submit them in due course. No such proposals, however, have yet been received.

(*b*) Yes, and it was in 1927 that the question of a building grant was taken up in connection with this application for the acquisition of land for the school, and the school authorities were informed that Government cannot give a building grant exceeding Rs. 50,000 including Government's contribution towards the acquisition of land, subject to the usual conditions of approval of detailed plans and estimates by the Department. No such plans and estimates have yet been received.

(*c*) (*i*) The detailed plans and estimates referred to in answer to (*b*) above have not yet been received, and therefore final orders in regard to the building grant have not been passed.

(*ii*) Acquisition proceedings are in progress.

PROVINCIALIZATION OF HIGH SCHOOLS.

*1745. **Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram:** Will the Honourable Minister for Education please state the number per district of High Schools provincialised in 1927 and 1928?

The Honourable Mr. Mahnohar Lal:

1927.

Hissar	1
Kangra	1
Hoshiarpur	1
Sheikhupura	1
Amritsar	1
Sialkot	1
Multan	1

1928.

Ambala	1
Simla	1
Gujranwala	1
Attock	1
Sheikhupura	1

but the process of provincialisation has not been completed.

MUNICIPAL HIGH SCHOOL, GOHANA.

*1746. **Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram:** Will the Honourable Minister for Education please state—

(a) the annual cost of maintenance of the Municipal High School, Gohana, district Rohtak, and the annual income of the Gohana municipal committee;

(b) the annual cost of maintenance of the Municipal High School at Beri, district Rohtak, and the annual income of the Beri municipal committee.

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal: The information is being collected and will be communicated to the honourable member when ready.

LIBRARIES IN RURAL AREAS.

*1747. **Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram:** Will the Honourable Minister for Education please state the number of libraries attached to schools in rural areas in each of the two years, 1927 and 1928?

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal:

1927-28	1,642
1928-29	1,791

HINDU AGRICULTURISTS IN THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

*1748. **Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram:** Will the Honourable Minister for Education please state—

(a) whether it is not a fact that Hindu agriculturists have little or no representation in the Education Department branch of the Secretariat;

[R. S. Ch. Chhotu Ram.]

(*b*) what steps he proposes to take in order to secure proper representation of Hindu agriculturists in his branch of the Secretariat ?

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal : (*a*) It is not understood what the honourable member means by the term "the Education Department Branch of the Secretariat." In the Secretariat no such branch exists. But if it is intended by the term that part of the office of the Director of Public Instruction that deals exclusively or mainly with matters which come before the Director of Public Instruction in his capacity as Under-Secretary to the Government, the total number so employed would not, because of their small numbers, bear the application of any principle of statistical classification. The honourable member may be also informed that no classification of Hindus between agriculturists and non-agriculturists is maintained in the office of the Director of Public Instruction, but where a clerk or assistant belongs to a notified agricultural tribe, that fact is a matter of record.

(*b*) In view of answer to (*a*) above, this does not arise. But the honourable member is assured that claims of agriculturist candidates for appointment when a vacancy arises, are duly considered by the Director of Public Instruction.

PRIMARY SCHOOLS IN ROHTAK DISTRICT.

*1749. **Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education please state—

(*a*) the number of primary schools in the Rohtak district housed in village *chaupals* ;

(*b*) the steps which he proposes to take to provide buildings for the schools referred to in (*a*) ?

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal : (*a*) Information is being collected and will be supplied to the honourable member when it is available.

(*b*) As *chaupals* provide reasonably satisfactory accommodation, it is undesirable to press the district board to spend money on putting up school buildings to replace them.

SAMPLA-JHAJJAR ROAD.

*1750. **Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram :** Will the Honourable Minister for Agriculture please state—

(*a*) whether the district board of Rohtak passed a resolution in favour of metalling the Sampla-Jhajjar road ;

(*b*) whether the district board of Rohtak applied for a grant in respect of the metalling of the Sampla-Jhajjar road ;

(*c*) the date on which the application for grant referred to in (*b*) was received by the Communications Board ;

(*d*) the decision which the Communications Board has come to with regard to the application referred to in (*b*) ;

(*e*) the reasons for delay if no decision has been arrived at ?

The Honourable Sardar Jogendra Singh: (*a*) & (*b*) Yes.

(*c*) November 1927.

(*d*) The application was not entertained as the district has 8 miles of metalled road to every 100 square miles and 33 miles to every lakh of population. The average of other districts is 4½ and 17 miles, respectively.

(*e*) Does not arise.

BHAKRA DAM SCHEME.

***1751. Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram:** Will the Honourable Member for Revenue please state—

(*a*) the stage reached by the Bhakra Dam Scheme;

(*b*) the steps which the Punjab Government intends to take to expedite the Bhakra Dam Scheme?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: (*a*) Reference may be made to the reply given to Question No. 1727[1].

(*b*) When the Government of India inform the Punjab Government that no restriction will be placed on the utilization of the Sutlej waters for the Bhakra Dam Scheme, in favour of Bombay, then this Government will proceed to prepare and submit to the Government of India a revised project, to utilise the greater volume of water which will be available with a higher dam, as recommended by the Expert Committee in their report of January 1928.

Chaudhri Baldev Singh: Has the Punjab Government anticipated the objection of the Bombay Government or has the Bombay Government actually raised an objection against the scheme being started?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: Neither, Sir.

Chaudhri Baldev Singh: Then, who has raised the objection to the scheme?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: We have been in communication with the Government of India on a number of projects and in consequence of that correspondence it has been felt absolutely necessary to write to the Government of India in order to find out whether they will have any objection.

DEFINITION OF "ZAMINDAR."

***1752. Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram:** Will the Chief Secretary please state the definition of a 'zamindar', which has been recently adopted by the High Court in respect of the recruitment of Sub-Judges?

Mr. J. G. Beazley: The definition adopted by the High Court is as follows:—

> "Zamindar" includes all hereditary proprietors or tenure holders of agricultural land mainly dependent thereon and residing in rural areas, as well as actual cultivators of such land. It also includes the sons of persons specifically included in the definition.
>
> NOTE.—A member of a notified agricultural tribe is not to be regarded as a Zamindar for this purpose unless he also falls under the definition given above.

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[1]Pages 348-49 *ante*.

RECRUITMENT OF SUB-JUDGES.

*1753. **Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram:** Will the Chief Secretary please state—

(a) the total number of candidates who sat for the competitive examination held recently for the recruitment of Sub-Judges;

(b) the number of Hindus, Muslims and Sikhs and the number under each of these three groups of candidates belonging to notified agricultural tribes?

Mr. J. G. Beazley: (a) 205, of whom 139 were Hindus, 39 Muslims and 26 Sikhs.

(b) Of the 187 candidates with regard to whom particulars are available, 43 were members of notified agricultural tribes, *viz.*, 4 Hindus, 11 Sikhs and 28 Muslims.

SUB-JUDGES' COMPETITIVE EXAMINATION.

*1754. **Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram:** Will the Chief Secretary please state—

(a) the number and names of candidates who passed their LL.B. examination in the second division and were allowed to sit for the Sub-Judges' competitive examination as 'zamindars.'

(b) how many of the zamindar candidates referred to in (a) were members of notified agricultural tribes?

Mr. J. G. Beazley: (a) The number of such candidates was 49. Government does not consider that it would serve any public purpose to give their names.

(b) 26.

ZAMINDAR CANDIDATES FOR SUB-JUDGES.

*1755. **Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram:** Will the Chief Secretary please state—

(a) the number of second division LL.B.'s from the Ambala division who sat for the Sub-Judges, competitive examination as zamindars;

(b) the names, if possible, of the candidates referred to in (a);

(c) how many, if any, among the candidates referred to in (a) were members of notified agricultural tribes?

Mr. J. G. Beazley: (a) Two.

(b) Government does not consider that any public interest would be served by giving the names.

(c) None.

BHAULAT DISTRIBUTARY.

*1756. **Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram:** Will the Honourable Member for Revenue please state—

(*a*) the total area commanded by the Asan and Ismalia branches of the Bhaulat distributary in the Rohtak district;

(*b*) the permissible percentage of the area supplied to be irrigated by the tails referred to in (*a*);

(*c*) the actual area irrigated at the tails referred to in (*a*) and if the area actually irrigated falls short of the permissible area the reasons for the shortage and the steps which Government proposes to take to remove the shortage?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: (*a*) The total area commanded by the Asan and the Ismalia branches is, respectively, 8,537 and 47,715 acres.

(*b*) The annual permissible area proposed to be irrigated at the tails of the above branches is 1,102 and 1,571 acres.

(*c*) Actual area irrigated at the tail of Asan branch is 885 acres, *i.e.*, 80·30 per cent. of the permissible, and at the tail of Ismalia branch is 830 acres, *i.e.*, 52·83 per cent. of the permissible.

The whole of Asan branch is doing 75·81 per cent. of its permissible, and the Ismalia branch 49·75 per cent. This shows that both the tails are receiving proper attention. It may also be pointed out that the actual irrigation in the whole of Rohtak division is only 74·88 per cent. of the permissible.

This shortage is due to uneven land, preference for barani crops and badly maintained water-courses.

BHAULAT DISTRIBUTARY.

*1757. **Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram:** Will the Honourable Member for Revenue please state—

(*a*) whether the Bhaulat distributary (Rohtak district) ran at any time in the beginning of January;

(*b*) whether any water reached the two tails of the distributary referred to in (*a*), and if so, the amount of area watered in the course of the *wari* in the beginning of January?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: (*a*) Yes, from 2nd January 1929 to 8th January, 1929.

(*b*) There is only one tail and water reached the tail for seven days. Irrigation is not recorded by "*waris*", so the amount of area irrigated during the "*wari*" cannot be given.

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*1758. **Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram:** Will the Honourable Member for Revenue please state—

(*a*) whether formerly the area watered in the course of each *wari* was noted in the *shudkar* on the Western Jumna Canal;

(*b*) whether the practice referred to in (*a*) has ceased; whether the Government has any, and if so, what objection to the re-introduction of the practice?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: The information is not available at headquarters and has necessitated enquiry being made from the local officers and the result is awaited. The information when received will be communicated to the honourable member."

GRANTS TO *EX*-SOLDIERS.

*1759. **Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram:** Will the Honourable Member for Revenue please state—

(*a*) whether there has been considerable agitation among ex-soldiers on the subject of grants of colony lands;

(*b*) whether Government has any objection to the setting apart of a considerable area and selling it at the average price fetched at recent auctions to ex-soldiers, the price being realised by easy instalments;

(*c*) if Government has any objections to the course indicated in (*a*) what are those objections?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: (*a*) Except for the recent demonstrations in Lahore, of which the honourable member no doubt read in the Press, Government has no other information of any widespread agitation on the subject.

(*b*) and (*c*) The suggestion of the honourable member is not quite definite. What are "easy" instalments, should they bear interest? When more persons than one desire it, what is to be done? The average mentioned in the question may be too high for some plots and too low for others. The Financial Commissioner, Development, will be glad to discuss the matter with the honourable member if he so desires.

COMBATANTS FROM THE PUNJAB.

*1760. **Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram:** Will the Chief Secretary please state—

(*a*) the total number of men from the Punjab who served in the combatant ranks during the Great War;

(*b*) the number of men referred to in (*a*) who were (*i*) killed or (*ii*) disabled during the Great War?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow: (*a*) 854,000 approximately, excluding Indian States.

(*b*) Killed 11,208 approximately, excluding Indian States. The number disabled is not known, but the total number of minor casualties, including Indian States, is estimated at 20,586.

GRANT OF LANDS.

*1761. **Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram:** Will the Honourable Member for Revenue please state—

(*a*) the number of rectangles in the Nili Bar granted to the sons or heirs of the men from the Punjab who were killed during the Great War;

(*b*) the number of rectangles granted to men for loyal services rendered during the non-co-operation days or during the Akali agitation ;

(*c*) the amount of land set apart for landed gentry grants ;

(*d*) the amount of land set apart for sale to capitalists ;

(*e*) the amount of land set apart for peasant grantees ;

(*f*) the amount of land already granted and proposed to be granted in large farms for specific purposes ?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : The answer is not yet ready, but, with the permission of the Chair, it will be communicated to the honourable member in a day or two.

ADMISSION TO VETERINARY AND AGRICULTURAL COLLEGES.

***1762. Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram :** Will the Honourable Minister for Agriculture please state—

(*a*) the number of students admitted to the Veterinary College and the Lyallpur Agricultural College in each of the years 1926, 1927 and 1928, and the number of statutory agriculturists among them ;

(*b*) the safeguards which it is proposed to provide for the admission of statutory agriculturists in sufficiently large numbers to the Veterinary College at Lahore and the Agricultural College, Lyallpur, to ensure the recruitment of zamindars to the extent laid down in the resolution of 1919 ?

The Honourable Sardar Jogendra Singh : The answer is not yet ready and will be communicated to the honourable member as soon as ready.

PROVINCIAL AND SUPERIOR GRADES IN THE AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT.

***1763. Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram :** Will the Honourable Minister for Agriculture please state the total number of posts created in the provincial and superior grades in the Agricultural Department since he assumed office and the proportion which this number bears to the total number of men recruited in the Agricultural Assistant grade in 1926, 1927 and 1928 ?

The Honourable Sardar Jogendra Singh : The total number of posts created in the Provincial and Superior grades including temporary and specialist posts in the Agricultural Department since 20th January, 1926 (the date on which I assumed office) is 26 of which five have not yet been filled for want of suitable candidates. The proportion which this number (26) bears to the total number of Agricultural Assistants recruited during 1926, 1927 and 1928 is 1 to 4.

DEPUTY AND ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENTS OF JAILS.

*1764. **Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram:** Will the Honourable Member for Finance please state—

(a) whether the Jails Enquiry Committee recommended that in the interests and integrity and efficiency Deputy Superintendents and Assistant Superintendents should be recruited from outside the jail department;

(b) how many Deputy Superintendents and Assistant Superintendents have so far been recruited and how many of them are from outside the Jail Department?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow: (a) The Punjab Jails Enquiry Committee recommended the appointment of well-educated men of high character and good family to these grades. They did not state or imply that competent and honest members of the existing jailor cadre should be excluded from these grades.

(b) Deputy Superintendents, 15; Assistant Superintendents, 17. Nine officers of the Tahsildar Class were appointed as Deputy Superintendents, seven of them were reverted, six at their own request and the seventh under Government orders because he was not considered fit for service in the Jail Department. Of the remaining two, one has since died. Five graduates were selected for direct appointments as Deputy Superintendents, and posted for training. Seven officers of the Revenue establishment were appointed as Assistant Superintendents but they have all reverted at their own request.

ASSISTANT SUB-INSPECTORS OF POLICE.

*1765. **Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram:** Will the Honourable Member for Finance please state—

(a) whether the Police Enquiry Committee recommended that the majority of Assistant Sub-Inspectors of Police should be recruited direct;

(b) how many Assistant Sub-Inspectors have so far been recruited and how many of them are men recruited by direct appointments;

(c) how many of the Assistant Sub-Inspectors recruited so far come from the districts of Rohtak, Hissar, Karnal and Gurgaon, and how many of them are members of notified agricultural tribes?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow: (a) No. Orders have, however, been issued that 50 per cent. of vacancies in the rank of Assistant Sub-Inspector of Police should henceforward be reserved for direct appointments.

(b) 201 Assistant Sub-Inspectors of Police have been recruited out of 710, mostly by promotion from the ranks of those Head Constables who were already on the list for consideration for promotion to higher grade under the old scheme, but direct appointments have also begun, and 19 appointments of the latter class have now been made.

(c) 9 Assistant Sub-Inspectors, promoted from the rank of Head Constables, come from the districts of Rohtak, Hissar, Karnal and Gurgaon, 5 of whom are members of notified agricultural tribes.

ENGINEERING SCHOOL, RASUL.

*1766. **Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram:** Will the Honourable Minister for Agriculture please lay on the table a statement showing the names of students studying in the Engineering School at Rasul who belong to statutory agricultural tribes, and the tribe and the district to which each of these statutory agriculturists belongs?

The Honourable Sardar Jogendra Singh: A statement showing the names of students studying in the Government School of Engineering, Rasul, who belong to statutory agricultural tribes, is laid on the table.

STATEMENT SHOWING NAMES OF STUDENTS STUDYING IN THE GOVERNMENT SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING, AT RASUL, WHO STUDY IN THE OVERSEER CLASS AND BELONG TO AGRICULTURAL TRIBES, THE TRIBE AND THE DISTRICTS TO WHICH EACH OF THESE BELONGS.

No.	Name.	Tribe.	District.
	STUDENTS OF SECOND YEAR CLASS WHO WERE ADMITTED ON 1ST FEBRUARY 1923.		
1	Amar Singh	Jat	Gujranwala.
2	Muhammad Shafi	Do.	Do.
3	Sultan Ali	Rajput	Do.
4	Harnam Singh	Jat	Lahore.
5	Kirpal Singh	Saini	Gurdaspur.
6	Atma Singh	Kamboh	Jullundur.
7	Aziz Bakhsh	Arain	Do.
8	Bhagat Ram	Saini	Do.
9	Rahmat Ullah	Arain	Do.
10	Rahmat Ali	Do.	Do.
11	Bashir Ahmad	Rajput	Ludhiana.
12	Jagjit Singh	Jat	Do.
13	Karam Singh	Do.	Ferozepore.
14	Ranjit Singh	Do.	Ludhiana.
15	Shamas-ud-din	Rajput	Do.
16	Arjan Singh	Saini	Ambala.
17	Sant Singh	Do.	Do.
18	Baldrawar Singh	Jat	Sargodha.
19	Nidhan Singh	Do.	Do.
20	Hari Das	Arora	Dera Ghazi Khan.
21	Muhammad Bashir	Arain	Lyallpur.
22	Muhammad Latif	Do.	Do.

[Hon'ble Sir Jogendra Singh.]

STATEMENT SHOWING NAMES OF STUDENTS STUDYING IN THE GOVERNMENT SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING, AT RASUL WHO STUDY IN THE OVERSEER CLASS AND BELONG TO AGRICULTURAL TRIBES, THE TRIBE AND THE DISTRICT TO WHICH EACH OF THESE BELONGS—concld.

No.	Name.	Tribe.	District.
	Students of 1st year class who were admitted on the 1st February 1929.		
1	Sajjan Singh	Sandhu	Lahore.
2	Ratan Singh	Jat	Amritsar.
3	Ikram Ul Haq	Rajput	Gurdaspur.
4	Muhammad Zeb Ullah	Do.	Do.
5	Sultan Ali	Gujar	Do.
6	Allah Ditta	Arain	Do.
7	Mansur Ahmed	Jat	Sheikhupura.
8	Dalip Singh Grewal	Do.	Ludhiana.
9	Chanan Singh	Do.	Do.
10	Chanan Singh, II	Do.	Do.
11	Niranjan Singh	Do.	Do.
12	Shahab-ud-din	Rajput	Do.
13	Sundar Singh	Kamboh	Jullundur.
14	Kishan Chand	Saini	Do.
15	Amar Chand	Do.	Hoshiarpur.
16	Shankar Dass	Brahman	Do.
17	Guru Datt	Mohyal	Jhelum.
18	Gurcharan Singh	Jat	Ludhiana.
19	Hashmat Ullah	Do.	Ambala.
20	Satya Dev	Kamboh	Do.
21	Kehr Singh	Jat	Lyallpur.
22	Muhammad Badr-ud-Din	Arain	Do.
23	Muhammad Yusaf	Jat	Do.
24	Amar Nath	Dogra Brahman	Dera Ghazi Khan.
25	Sardar Singh	Jat	Sargodha.
26	Harbans Singh	Do.	Sialkot.

WAR SCHOLARSHIPS.

*1767. **Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram:** Will the Honourable Minister for Education please state the amount of money actually spent on war scholarships in 1926, 1927 and 1928 and the proportion of the money which the Punjab Government has contributed to this amount?

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal: A statement showing the information desired is laid on the table :—

	Total amount spent on war scholarships.	Amount spent from provincial revenues.
	Rs.	Rs.
1925-26	3,68,047	3,00,860
1926-27	3,48,514	2,58,634
1927-28	3,13,017	2,28,099

MEMBERS OF THE TEXT BOOK COMMITTEE.

*1768. **Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram:** Will the Honourable Minister for Education please state the names of the members of the Text Book Committee and the towns to which they belong?

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal: The information is not on record.

Shaikh Faiz Muhammad: Does the Honourable Minister mean to say that the Text Book Committee is a bogus committee?

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal: I have not made any such statement.

Shaikh Faiz Muhammad: Does the Honourable Minister mean to say that the names of the members are not known to the Department?

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal: Nor have I made such a statement. If the honourable member merely desires to have the names of the members of the Text Book Committee they will be duly supplied.

PUNJAB UNIVERSITY SENATE.

*1769. **Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram:** Will the Honourable Minister for Education please state the names of the nominated members of the Senate of the Punjab University who come from the districts of Rohtak, Gurgaon, Karnal, Hissar, Kangra, Mianwali and Campbellpur?

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal: The information is not on record.

REPRESENTATION OF CERTAIN COMMUNITIES IN THE HIGHER GRADES OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

*1770. **Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram:** Will the Honourable Minister for Education please state the relative strength of Jats (Hindu), Rajputs (Hindu), Brahmans and Agarwals in the Ambala division and the number of men from each of these classes serving in the Education Department in that division in grades higher than the Rs. 55—3—70 grade?

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal : Information available concerning teachers in Government service extends to religion only and not to caste. The labour involved in compiling the information asked for will be very large, and it is doubtful whether it will serve any purpose corresponding to the amount of labour involved.

MIDDLE SCHOOLS AND THE TEACHING OF ENGLISH.

***1771. Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education please state the number of middle schools in the districts of Rohtak, Hissar, Gurgaon and Karnal in which English is taught as an optional subject, the total number of teachers who teach English in these schools and the number of those among them who belong to the statutory agricultural tribes ?

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal : Information is being collected and will be supplied to the honourable member when ready.

DISTRICT BOARD, MUZAFFARGARH.

***1772. Lala Bodh Raj :** (*a*) Will the Honourable Minister for Local Self-Government please state if it is fact that a petition was submitted to the Government complaining against the working of the District Board, Muzaffargarh, within a year or so, as well as against the conduct of its vice-chairman ?

(*b*) Was an enquiry ordered into the allegations appearing in the said complaint ?

(*c*) What has been the result of the said enquiry ?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : (*a*) An unsigned petition was received.

(*b*) No regular enquiry was held as the petition was not signed by any person.

(*c*) Does not arise.

Shaikh Faiz Muhammad : Does the Honourable Minister take cognizance of unsigned petitions ?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : It is difficult to say what cognizance means ?

Shaikh Faiz Muhammad : Does the Honourable Minister on receipt of an unsigned petition proceed to take action on the presumption as if it were a signed one.

The Honourable Malik Feroz Khan, Noon : It depends on what is said in it and what one thinks of it.

GOVERNMENT HIGH SCHOOL, BHAKKAR.

***1773. Lala Bodh Raj :** (*a*) Will the Honourable Minister for Education please state whether he is aware of the fact that in Government High School, Bhakkar, the sons of teachers drawing Rs. 100 or more, the sons of a Municipal Commissioner, the sons of a Tahsildar are charged the

tuition fees at concession rates, while there are boys who are the sons of poor parents and they are charged full rates ?

(*b*) if so, what are the reasons for such an irregularity ?

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal : The matter is being enquired into and a reply will be given as soon as the information is complete.

MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE, KASUR.

*1774. **Lala Bodh Raj :** Will the Honourable Minister for Local Self-Government please state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the Municipal Committee, Kasur, got some of their staff medically examined by the local Assistant Surgeon ;

(*b*) if it is a fact that those who were declared fit on the result of medical examination were dismissed from service while those who were declared unfit were detained in the service ?

(*c*) if so, what are the reasons for such procedure ?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : (*a*) Yes : two clerks.

(*b*) Both clerks were reported by the Assistant Surgeon as fit for clerical duties but not for active work.

Both clerks were retained for some time longer, but after a time the services of both were dispensed with as one had very weak sight, and the other was deaf and 75 years of age.

(*c*) Does not arise.

SARDAR RATTAN SINGH, TAHSILDAR, NANKANA SAHIB.

*1775. **Lala Bodh Raj :** (*i*) Will the Honourable Member for Revenue please state—

(*a*) if it is a fact that Sardar Rattan Singh, Tahsildar, Nankana Sahib, has been posted in his home district ;

(*b*) if it is a fact that he was transferred from Nankana Sahib on this ground ;

(*c*) if so, why he has been again posted there ?

(*ii*) Has the attention of the Honourable Member been drawn to several complaints against him by the inhabitants of the place ?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : (*i*) (*a*) Yes, but not in his home tahsil.

(*b*) No.

(*c*) Does not arise.

(*ii*) No, not till the honourable member's question came in.

Lala Bodh Raj : What were the reasons of his transfer from Nankana Sahib before he was reposted there ?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : I am sure the Honourable Member must realise that there must have been good reasons for it.

Lala Bodh Raj : May I ask, sir, what action has been taken by the Honourable Member or by the Government on the complaints made against him by the inhabitants of the place ?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: They must have been duly considered.

Lala Bodh Raj: But what was the action taken?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: Such action as was called for in a case like that.

Lala Bodh Raj: I want to know what that action was?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: If no punishment was given then the action taken was something other than a punishment.

Lala Bodh Raj: Is the Honourable Member, however, sure of it?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: Absolutely certain.

MIRZA GHULAM GHAUS, SUB-INSPECTOR OF POLICE, KHANEWAL.

***1776. Lala Bodh Raj:** (*a*) Will the Honourable Member for Finance please state whether it is a fact that the Government has promised financial help to Mirza Ghulam Gaus, Sub-Inspector of Police, Khanewal, for the defence of a criminal case pending against him in Jhang district?

(*b*) if so, what are the reasons for spending money from the public revenue?

The Honourable Mr A. M. Stow: (*a*) Legal assistance has been provided at Government expense to the sub-inspector mentioned.

(*b*) The magistrate who made the preliminary enquiries in the case did not consider that the sub-inspector was to blame. There were thus *prima facie* grounds for believing him to be innocent and it was, therefore, decided that he should be given legal assistance at public expense.

SMALL TOWN COMMITTEE, PATOKI.

***1777. Dr. Gopi Chand, Bhargava:** Will the Honourable Minister for Local Self-Government please state whether the Government have received any memorial, dated the 16th November 1928, from the Citizens Association of Patoki, district Lahore, regarding corruption in the Small Town Committee of Patoki? If so, what action does the Government propose to take to remove the complaints mentioned therein?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon: Yes. The petition was sent to the Commissioner for disposal. It is understood that the allegations made in the petition are still being enquired into by district officers. Two members of the town committee have however already been removed from membership of the committee and another member against whom the petition in question was directed, has resigned on grounds of ill-health. The Revenue Assistant of Kasur has recently been appointed a member of the committee and the Deputy Commissioner has been asked by the Commissioner to exercise more control from without by means of frequent inspections. It is hoped that these measures will improve matters.

FINANCE SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE KASUR MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE.

*1778. **Dr. Gopi Chand, Bhargava:** (*a*) Will the Honourable Minister for Local Self-Government please state whether it is a fact that the Finance Sub-Committee of the Kasur Municipal Committee has been holding its meetings without quorum and that objection was raised against it by the Deputy Commissioner of Lahore?

(*b*) If so, have the resolutions adopted by the Finance Sub-Committee been declared void by the General Committee? If not, why?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon: (*a*) No.

(*b*) Does not arise.

CITIZENS ASSOCIATION, PATOKI.

*1779. **Dr. Gopi Chand, Bhargava:** Will the Honourable Minister for Local Self-Government please state if his attention has been invited to an open letter issued by the Citizens Association, Patoki, district Lahore, which has also been published in the public weekly in the months of September, October and November 1927?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon: Yes.

LAHORE CANTONMENT BOARD BYE-LAWS.

*1780. **Lala Bodh Raj:** (*a*) Will the Honourable Finance Member please state whether it is a fact that the bye-laws of Lahore Cantonment Board have been amended so as to debar the Vice-President from becoming the Chairman of the sub-committee by virtue of his office?

(*b*) If so, what are the reasons for such amendment?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The amendment was considered to be necessary in order to secure the harmonious working of all Committees.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

MOTOR VEHICLES PLYING FOR HIRE IN THE SIALKOT DISTRICT.

900. **Chaudhri Afzal Haq:** (*a*) Will the Honourable Revenue Member be pleased to state whether the licensees of motor vehicles plying for hire within the Sialkot district, especially between Zafarwal and Narowal and Zafarwal and Sialkot comply with the conditions of their licences regarding the carriage of spare tools with the vehicle and the prohibition for carrying any luggage except light bedding on the roof thereof?

(*b*) Has any driver of these vehicles ever been challaned for not fulfilling the above conditions? If so, how many and their names?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain:—(*a*) Generally the licensees comply with the conditions referred to.

(*b*) Yes. The number of cases in which persons were challaned in the Sialkot District for breach of the conditions referred to was—

1927	4
1928	49

[Hon'ble Sir Fazl-i-Husain.]

A list showing the names of the persons challaned is laid on the table.

1. Natha Singh.
2. Hans Raj and Muhammad Sharif.
3. Ahmad Din and Fazl Ahmad.
4. Gopal Singh.
5. Lakhmi Chand.
6. Sadar Din.
7. Hakim Din, son of Nur Din.
8. Inayat Ullah.
9. Sultan.
10. Allah Bakha, son of Elahi Bux.
11. Dial Singh, son of Sochet Singh.
12. Allah Bakha, son of Bagh Din.
13. Dina Nath.
14. Habib Ullah.
15. Hakim Din, son of Nur Din.
16. Bashambar Dass.
17. Dial Singh, son of Sochet Singh.
18. Allah Bakha, son of Bagh Din.
19. Lakhpat Rai.
20. Nawab Khan.
21. Puran Chand.
22. Barkat Ali and Mohr Singh.
23. Hans Raj.
24. Ganpat Rai and Dewan Chand.
25. Kirpa Ram.
26. Niaz Ali.
27. Feroze Din.
28. Hussain Shah.
29. Jan.
30. Rahmat Ullah.
31. Laik Hussain.
32. Rahm Elahi.
33. Abdul Majid.
34. Ahmad Din.
35. Ghulam Qadir.
36. Allah Ditta.
37. Amir Singh.
38. Imam Din.
39. Mr. Smith.
40. Narain Singh.
41. Gian Chand.
42. Muhammad Abdullah.
43. Dewan Chand and Nazir Ahmad.
44. Ghulam Nabi.
45. Barkat Ali.
46. Ghulam Rasul.
47. Said Akbar.

48. Kasam Beg.
49. Muhammad Din.
50. Muhammad Ali.
51. Sohan Singh.
52. Moti Ram.
53. Mangoo Ram.

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER.

901. Chaudhri Afzal Haq: Will the Honourable Revenue Member be pleased to state whether it is a fact—

(*a*) that in every district the Superintendent of the office of the Deputy Commissioner is in charge of the establishment?

(*b*) that in the office of the Deputy Commissioner, Sialkot, an E. A. C. has been put in charge of the establishment?

(*c*) if answers to the above are in the affirmative, why the charge of the establishment has been withdrawn from the Superintendent of the office of the Deputy Commissioner, Sialkot, and for how long this arrangement is to exist?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: (*a*) The Deputy Commissioner, and not the Superintendent, is in charge of the district establishment.

(*b*) Cases relating to the establishment are submitted to the Deputy Commissioner, Sialkot, through or by the Treasury Officer.

(*c*) Does not arise.

CANDIDATES FOR THE POST OF HEAD CONSTABLES.

902. Chaudhri Duli Chand: Will the Honourable Member for Finance kindly state the names of candidates accepted as direct Head Constables of Police in the Karnal district up to date since the year 1921, classifying them as agriculturists and non-agriculturists?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow: A statement is laid on the table—

The following are directly appointed Head Constables in the Karnal District, since 1921, classified as Agriculturists and Non-Agriculturists :—

1. Nusrat Ullah Khan.	Agriculturists.
2. Puran Singh.	
3. Sharif-ul-Hassan.	
4. Khaslat Hussain.	
5. Zinatullah Khan.	
6. Mahbub Nasir Khan.	Non-agriculturists.
7. Hargobind Singh.	
8. Salig Ram.	
9. Sana Ullah.	
10. Manzur Hassan.	
11. Kartar Singh.	
12. Bal Kishan.	

ENGINEER, SIMLA MUNICIPALITY.

903. Lala Jyoti Parshad : Will the Honourable Minister for Local Self-Government please state whether the answer to question No. 1512[1] (Starred) asked by me on 29th November 1928 is ready? If so, will a copy of it be kindly laid on the table?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : The attached answer, a copy of which was duly forwarded to the Council office, was given to question No. 1512 (Starred).

(Answer to Question No. 1512.)

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : (*a*) Yes, but the appointment was on six months' probation.

(*b*).— } Yes.
(*c*).— }

(*d*) Mirza Nawab Hussain is not a member of the Punjab Service of Engineers and there is no question of preferential treatment, as it is for the Municipal Committee to decide the rate of pay to be paid to its Engineer

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NOTIFICATION REGARDING ZAMINDARS BY INSPECTOR OF SCHOOLS, AMBALA.

904. Lala Jyoti Parshad : Will the Honourable Minister for Education be pleased to give the answer to question No. 1630[2] (Starred) asked on 3rd December 1928, if it is ready?

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal : A copy of the answer to Council Question No. 1630 (Starred) already communicated to the Honourable Member through the Secretary, Punjab Legislative Council, is laid on the table.

(Answer to Council Question No. 1630).

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal : (*a*) No.; but there appears to have been a local misunderstanding of the rule on the subject. The matter is receiving attention.

(*b*) and (*c*) Do not arise.

HONORARY MAGISTRATES.

905. Makhdumzada Sayad Muhammad Raza Shah, Gilani : Will the Honourable Finance Member be pleased to state whether there is any age-limit for the retirement of honorary magistrates?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow : Government reserves discretion in the matter, but ordinarily no re-appointment is made if the person in question will be 65 before his term expires.

PROVISION FOR ORPHANS AND WIDOWS OF DECEASED GOVERNMENT SERVANTS.

906. Makhdumzada Sayad Muhammad Raza Shah, Gilani : (*a*) Will the Honourable Finance Member be pleased to state whether the

[1] Page 91 *ante*.
[2] Page 242 *ante*.

Government have provided any means for the maintenance of orphans and widows left by Government servants who die before earning pension?

(*b*) If not, will the Government be pleased to state whether it intends to make such a provision?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow: (*a*) In addition to the assistance available to Government servants in the shape of the General Provident Fund, provision is made for families of Government servants in the cases falling under Chapter XXXVIII of the Civil Service Regulations. In other cases of an exceptional nature gratuities are paid from the Compassionate Fund.

(*b*) A decision whether further action can be taken in this direction must depend on the Pension Rules which are to be issued by the Central Government.

LUGGAGE ALLOWANCE FOR GOVERNMENT SERVANTS ON TRANSFER.

907. Makhdomzada Sayad Muhammad Raza Shah, Gilani: (*a*) Will the Honourable Finance Member please state whether it is a fact that Government servants of the 2nd grade for purposes of travelling allowance are allowed only 30 maunds luggage on transfer;

(*b*) whether the Government have received any complaints that this does not suffice to cover the luggage actually carried by Government servants;

(*c*) if so, what steps Government intend to take to redress their grievances?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow: (*a*) Government servants are divided into XII grades for purposes of travelling allowance. They are permitted to draw the actual cost of transporting personal effects up to the following maxima:—

Grade of servant.	IF TRAVELLING—	
	(*a*) *alone.*	(*b*) *with family.*
I and II	40 maunds.	60 maunds.
III to VII	20 maunds.	30 maunds.
VIII to XII	12 maunds.	15 maunds.

(*b*) No complaints have reached Government.

(*c*) Does not arise.

TEMPERANCE PROPAGANDA.

908. Mr. E. Maya Das: Will the Honourable Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Punjab Government is considering the question of allotting some money for temperance propaganda? If so, how much?

The Honourable Sardar Jogendra Singh: Yes. The Honourable Member is referred to paragraphs 6 and 7 of the Government review on the annual Excise Report for the year 1927-28 which was published in the *Punjab Gazette* dated the 8th February, 1929.

It is impossible as yet to state the exact amount that will be devoted to the purpose.

BIKANER CANAL.

909. Mr. E. Maya Das: Will the Honourable Revenue Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) the date on which the Bikaner Canal (which has its headworks in the Ferozepore district) was opened;

(*b*) whether it is a lined canal;

(*c*) whether discharges have been regularly taken since it was opened;

(*d*) if the answer to (*c*) be in the affirmative, how these discharges compare with those of unlined canals of similar dimensions?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: (*a*) The Bikaner Canal was formally opened on 26th October 1927.

(*b*) Except the first five miles the whole of the Main Line is lined.

(*c*) Discharges have been observed regularly since irrigation in Bikaner began to extend.

(*d*) The discharges observed are relatively greater than it would be possible to run in an unlined channel of similar dimensions.

EROSION NEAR VILLAGE HARIKE.

910. Mr. E. Maya Das: Will the Honourable Revenue Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that much land erosion has taken place near village Harike, which village is situated near the confluence of the rivers Sutlej and Beas;

(*b*) if so, up to what distance on either side has this erosion taken place;

(*c*) approximately what area has thus been eroded;

(*d*) what action has the Government taken to educate the people to prevent such erosion and to reclaim the area thus eroded?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: The question has necessitated a reference to the local officers and on receipt of a report the answer will be communicated to the Honourable Member.

ADMISSION TO NIGHT SCHOOLS.

911. Mr. E. Maya Das: Will the Honourable Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(*a*) what steps are taken to ascertain whether a person is not already literate, when he applies for admission to a night school;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that in many instances, persons who were already literate sought admission to night schools;

(*c*) what action does Government propose to take to prevent such admission?

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal: The whole question of adult schools is under consideration and along with other matters the Government will consider the desirability or otherwise of admitting literates to adult classes.

ENCROACHMENTS ON VILLAGE ROADS.

912. Mr. E. Maya Das: (*i*) Will the Honourable the Revenue Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that in many cases village roads are encroached upon;

(*b*) if the answer be in the affirmative, what action the Government proposes to take in the matter?

(*ii*) Will the Government be pleased to state if it is the duty of any official to report such encroachments? If so, what is his designation?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: (*i*) (*a*) and (*b*). The attention of the honourable member is invited to the replies given to Council Questions Nos. 208[1] and 2654[2] on 5th March 1924 and 4th March 1926, respectively.

(*ii*) It is the duty of village headman, under Land Revenue Rule 20 (*vi*), to report such encroachments.

MOTOR VEHICLE STANDS.

913. Mr. E. Maya Das: Will the Honourable Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that motor vehicle stands, authorised or unauthorised exist outside the municipal areas, that is, within district board limits;

(*b*) if so, who is responsible for the supervision of such stands, and under what authority?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon: (*a*) Government have no precise information on the subject, but are aware that certain district boards have established places for motor vehicles to stand while waiting for passengers.

(*b*) When a district board established such a stand on land in its possession full supervision and control rests with the district board.

MEDICAL COLLEGE FOR WOMEN.

914. Mr. E. Maya Das: Will the Honourable Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that there is no medical college for women in the Punjab;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that women who wish to study medicine have to go outside the province;

(*c*) if so, what action the Government proposes to take in the matter?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon: (*a*) There is no separate college for women in the Punjab at which higher medical education could be imparted, but this Government give a grant-in-aid to the Lady Hardinge Medical College, Delhi. Women students from the Punjab are admitted to that College.

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[1]Vol. VI, page 310.
[2]Vol. IX, Part A page 338.

[Hon'ble Malik Firoz Khan, Noon.]

(b) Yes, so far as university education is concerned.

(c) It has been decided to allow women students to join the King Edward Medical College, Lahore, on certain conditions, which are under consideration.

VETERINARY DISPENSARIES.

315. Mr. E. Maya Das: Will the Honourable Minister for Agriculture be pleased to lay a statement on the table showing rural veterinary dispensaries by districts?

The Honourable Sardar Jogendra Singh: A statement is laid on the table.

Statement showing the number of rural veterinary dispensaries by districts in the Punjab, during the year 1927-28.

District.	Number of Veterinary dispensaries.
Hissar	8
Rohtak	10
Gurgaon	12
Karnal	7
Ambala	6
Simla	3
Kangra	8
Hoshiarpur	9
Jullundur	9
Ludhiana	7
Ferozepore	7
Lahore	10
Amritsar	10
Gurdaspur	10
Sialkot	9
Gujranwala	3
Sheikhupura	10
Gujrat	8
Shahpur	11
Jhelum	6
Rawalpindi	7
Attock	8
Mianwali	8
Montgomery	8
Lyallpur	14
Jhang	9
Multan	7
Muzaffargarh	7
Dera Ghazi Khan	6
Total	241

PHYSICAL CULTURE OF GIRLS.

916. Mr. E. Maya Das : Will the Honourable Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(*a*) what steps have been taken to promote the physical culture of girls in schools ;

(*b*) if any steps have been taken to arrange for physical culture instructresses ?

(*c*) if the reply to (*b*) be in the negative, what action does the Government propose taking in the matter ?

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal : (*a*) A note by the Deputy Directress of Public Instruction has been placed on the table ;

(*b*) and (*c*) A proposal for the creation of a post in the matter of the games and physical training of girls was prepared this year, but action has been postponed for financial reasons.

NOTE ON PHYSICAL EXERCISE IN GIRLS SCHOOLS.

I.—Secondary Schools.—In all secondary schools games are encouraged as far as the ground available allows. With regard to the Government Girls High Schools, with the exception of Ludhiana and Ambala, most have good grounds. Lyallpur Girls High School has perhaps the best property and the Lady Maclagan School, Lahore, the next best. Jullundur High School and the Victoria High School, Lahore, have not much space but they make the most of what there is.

In those schools where there is sufficient ground to make it practicable a games period is arranged when all the girls day-scholars and boarders, play organised games, where this is not possible owing to lack of space the time-table is so arranged that the classes can play in different periods. Most of the schools have sufficient space to be able to play badminton. Those who have more ground available also play netball. The primary classes play such games as dodge ball, other games with a netball and with bean bags and skipping. There has also been some high jumping.

We gratefully acknowledge the help of the Y. W. C. A. in arranging inter-school games, badminton, netball and tennis. Schools and colleges have now competed in this Inter-school tournament for six years. Some enter for all the three games, the majority for netball and badminton, and some for badminton only. The general standard of play now shows a marked improvement as compared with when the tournament was first started. Not only has the standard of play improved but also the team spirit and appreciation of good play on both sides is much more generous than a few years ago.

For two years now the Y. W. C. A. has also arranged Inter-school sports in Lahore for which High, Middle and Primary Schools have entered. This year 16 schools entered teams for dodge-ball, tunnel ball, bean-bag races, skipping races and high and long jumping.

Drill is encouraged in those schools where there is a member of the staff with sufficient knowledge of the subject to give suitable exercises. There is, however, an urgent need for trained physical instructresses who can :—

(1) train other teachers ;

(2) help and advise the teachers who are organising the games in the different schools ;

[Hon'ble Mr. Manohar Lal.]

(3) help in organizing Inter-school games through the province;

(4) and possibly even give some remedial exercises, where these are specially needed.

II.—Aided High Schools.—Some of these have adequate playing grounds and are particularly good at games, *e.g.*, Dev Samaj School, Ferozepore and the Sikh Kanya Maha Vidyala, Ferozepore.

III.—Primary Schools.—The kind of games varies according to the locality and equipment, from the American Mission Schools where elaborate apparatus has been imported from America such as see-saws, swings, grant strides, rings, chute, balancing rings, etc., to the simple village schools where indigenous games are enjoyed.

IV.—What has been done.—(*a*) We have travelled very far in the last ten years, from the time we were asked to provide "physical exercises" which could be done sitting down. The children are so keen that where games are arranged it is sometimes difficult to get them to go home.

(*b*) Eurythmics are being tried in some schools and the children seem to have an innate sense of rythm.

(*c*) The text-book committee provided a book in the vernacular on games and physical exercises (Jismani Warzish ka nisab) worked out by a lady in conjunction with teachers and classes.

Conclusion.—The girls have a real aptitude for sports and though so much has been and is being done, we feel the need of the expert to advise and especially to train teachers.

ANTI-RABIC TREATMENT.

917. Mr. E. Maya Das: Will the Honourable Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) since when anti-rabic treatment has been commenced in Lahore;

(*b*) whether the proposal to provide this facility in other towns is under consideration;

(*c*) what is the cost of a single injection?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon: (*a*) April 1923.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) The cost of a single injection cannot be accurately calculated as it is obvious that it must vary considerably according to the number of patients treated at one centre, and the number of centres supplied with vaccine from the Central Research Institute. The cost of vaccine only used for a complete course of injections given to a patient is Rs. 1-12-0.

INSPECTION OF RURAL DISPENSARIES.

918. Mr. E. Maya Das: Will the Honourable Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that civil surgeons are required to inspect rural dispensaries every quarter like other dispensaries in their charge?

(*b*) whether it is a fact that the question of increasing this period to half-a-year or longer is under the consideration of the Government?

(c) if so, by when may a decision be expected?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon: (a) Yes.

(b) and (c) The matter has been taken up and a decision will be made as soon as possible.

CLOSING OF LIQUOR SHOPS.

919. Mr. E. Maya Das: Will the Honourable Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that Government proposes closing some liquor shops compulsorily?

(b) if so, in what districts?

The Honourable Sardar Jogendra Singh: (a) Government has decided to abolish licenses in Form L.-10 as a tentative measure with effect from 1st April 1929. They were formerly issued for the sale of "Foreign Liquor" manufactured in India and inferior imported liquor.

(b) Throughout the Punjab.

QUARTERS FOR POLICE EMPLOYEES AT GHAL.

920. Mr. E. Maya Das: Will the Honourable Member for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that no quarters have been supplied by Government for the police employees at Ghal Police Station, district Ferozepore?

(b) if so, what action does the Government propose taking in the matter?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow: (a) The usual barrack accommodation is provided, but married quarters have been provided so far for the Sub-Inspector only.

(b) Married accommodation at rural police stations is being provided in order of urgency, as financial considerations permit.

HOUSE-RENT TO SUB-ASSISTANT SURGEON ON CHOLERA DUTY.

921. Mr. E. Maya Das: Will the Honourable Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that house rent is allowed to district board Sub-Assistant Surgeons engaged on ordinary hospital and dispensary duties, but no house rent is allowed to the same Sub-Assistant Surgeon when on cholera duty?

(b) if the answer to (a) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to explain why this distinction is made?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon: (a) House-rent allowance in lieu of the provision of free quarters is admissible in the case of Sub-Assistant Surgeons required to live at or in close proximity to the dispensaries in their charge.

(b) Sub-Assistant Surgeons on cholera duty do not fulfil the condition specified above.

FAMINE CONDITIONS IN GURGAON DISTRICT.

922. Rao Bahadur Captain Rao Balbir Singh: Will the Honourable Member for Revenue please state—

(*a*) whether Government is aware of the famine conditions in Gurgaon district;

(*b*) if so, what steps has the Government already taken or proposes to take in the matter of relief?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: (*a*) Government does not consider that famine conditions exist in Gurgaon; but undoubtedly the agricultural conditions of parts of that district give rise to anxiety.

(*b*) Preliminary special report is being prepared and the question of starting "test works" is under consideration.

TACCAVI LOANS IN GURGAON DISTRICT.

923. Rao Bahadur Captain Rao Balbir Singh: Will the Honourable Member for Revenue kindly lay on the table a statement of Taccavi loans distributed per tahsil in the Gurgaon district; and also state—

(*a*) whether Government is prepared to advance more loans;

(*b*) if not, why not?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: A statement is laid on the table.

(*a*) If necessity arises, Government will advance more loans.

(*b*) Does not arise.

Statement showing the distribution of Taccavi up-to-date in the current financial year, 1928-29, per tahsil in the Gurgaon district.

Tahsil.	Land Improvement Loans Act, XIX of 1883.	Agriculturists Loans Act, XII of 1884.
	Rs.	Rs.
Gurgaon	26,000	35,000
Rewari	36,000	48,000
Palwal	22,000	97,000
Nuh	14,000	1,15,000
Firozpur-Jhirka	21,000	75,000
Ballabgarh	25,000	2,05,000
Total ..	1,44,000	5,75,000

SCARCITY OF FODDER IN THE GURGAON DISTRICT.

924. Rao Bahadur Captain Rao Balbir Singh: Will the Honourable Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government is aware of the scarcity of fodder in the Gurgaon district;

(*b*) if so, what steps the Government has already taken or proposes to take in this behalf;

(*c*) whether the Government intends to allow any concession in Railway rates for supply of fodder at Railway stations in Gurgaon district;

(*d*) if not, why not?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Taccavi is being distributed and facilities for the import of fodder are being arranged.

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) Does not arise.

REMISSION AND SUSPENSION OF REVENUE.

925. Rao Bahadur Captain Rao Balbir Singh: Will the Honourable Member for Revenue kindly lay on the table statements of remission and suspension of revenue this year in each tahsil of Gurgaon district?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: A statement is laid on the table—

STATEMENT SHOWING SUSPENSIONS AND REMISSIONS OF FIXED LAND REVENUE GRANTED IN EACH TAHSIL OF THE GURGAON DISTRICT FOR RABI 1928 AND KHARIF 1928.

Tahsil.	Rabi 1928.		Kharif 1928.	
	Suspensions.	Remissions.	Suspensions.	Remissions.
	Rs.		Rs.	
Gurgaon	7,180	..	80,743	..
	90		*1,047*	
Rewari	26,244	..	62,352	..
	2,134		*3,840*	
Palwal	213	..	89,128	..
	8		*320*	
Nuh	2,590	948	92,224	..
	2		*125*	
Ferozepore	169	..	64,907	..
			96	
Ballabgarh	4,610	..	92,813	..
	23		*3,176*	
Total (District) ..	41,015	948	4,81,162	..
	2,257		*28,604*	

NOTE.—Figures in *italics* show the amounts of assigned revenue.

SOHNA-REWARI ROAD.

926. Rao Bahadur Captain Rao Balbir Singh: Will the Honourable Minister for Agriculture please state—

(1) the reasons for leaving unfinished the Sohna-Rewari road;

(2) the reasons for the delay in bringing the work to an end;

(3) when the Government proposes to start the work?

The Honourable Sardar Jogendra Singh: (1, 2 & 3) An estimate amounting to Rs. 2,48,184 was prepared for metalling the unmetalled portion of the Sohna-Rewari road during the years 1929-30 and 1930-31. Owing to financial stringency, however, it has not been possible to include this work in the budget estimate for 1929-30. It will be taken in hand when funds are forthcoming.

METALLED ROAD IN REWARI TAHSIL.

927. Rao Bahadur Captain Rao Balbir Singh: Will the Honourable Minister for Agriculture please state—

(1) the length of metalled road in Rewari tahsil outside the town;

(2) whether the Government proposes to extend the mileage in the near future;

(3) if not, why not?

The Honourable Sardar Jogendra Singh: (1) The length of the metalled portion of the Sohna-Rewari road in Rewari tahsil, but outside the town, is 2·23 miles.

(2) The attention of the honourable member is invited to the answer given to Council Question No. 926 above.

(3) Does not arise.

M. B. HIGH SCHOOL, ABOHAR.

928. Pir Akbar Ali: Will the Honourable Minister for Education please state—

(*a*) whether a representation for the provincialisation of the M. B. High School, Abohar, signed by more than two hundred persons was made to him on the occasion of his visit to that town;

(*b*) if it is a fact that owing to certain new schemes having been started the municipal committee, Abohar, is unable to provide funds for the efficient running of the said school;

(*c*) is it a fact that Abohar *Ilaqa* is backward in education;

(*d*) if the answer to the above be in the affirmative, will the Honourable Minister please state if any steps have so far been taken by the Government to take direct charge of the said school?

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Government has no definite information in this regard.

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) The name of the school has been noted for consideration in this connection.

SUSPENSION OF LAND REVENUE.

929. Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram : Will the Honourable Revenue Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether land revenue in the Gurgaon district has been suspended on account of the partial failure of *kharif* crop, and if so, what is the amount of (*i*) land revenue, and (*ii*) local rates so suspended ;

(*b*) whether in any of the cases in which the whole of land revenue has been suspended, any part of the local rates and cesses have been recovered ? If so, on what grounds has the differentiation been made ?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : (*a*) Yes.

(*i*) Rs. 4,67,558.

(*ii*) Nil.

(*b*) In all cases in which the whole of land revenue is suspended, the whole amount of local rates has been recovered. The reason being that the district board, Gurgaon, is in financial difficulties and without the local rates it would be impossible to maintain necessary services.

RESOLUTIONS.

RESOLUTION *re* EXTENSIONS TO 8-R., LOWER BARI DOAB CANAL.

Mian Ahmad Yar Khan Daultana [Multan East (Muhammadan), Rural]: Sir, I beg to move—

"That this Council recommends to the Government that immediate steps be taken for carrying out the extensions to the 8-R. in the Lower Bari Doab Canal."

Sir, I fully realize that in these days extensions are not very popular. The chief reason for this is the bad harvests that we had during the last few years. But the extension under discussion deserves special consideration and there are certain reasons which have prompted me to bring this resolution before this house. This extension to the 8-R. concerns an area which lies between the southern irrigation boundary of the Lower Bari Doab Canal and the river Ravi. This area was irrigated by a very successful inundation canal called Langley Wah before the Lower Bari Doab Canal came into existence. This was, as a matter of fact, one of the very few delightful cases in the wilderness of the Ganji Bar, and when the Lower Bari Doab Canal was taken in hand those people whose lands were irrigated before by the inundation canal from the river Ravi were given a promise that their lands would be brought into the irrigation boundary of the new canal. A Revenue Officer and an Executive Engineer who went to that *Ilaqa* gave assurance

[Mian Ahmad Yar Khan, Daultana.]

to all the zamindars and they in return gave statements that they will not claim any compensation to which they were entitled under the Northern India Canal and Drainage Act. It so happened that when the Lower Bari Doab Canal began to flow this area happened to be left out and was shown outside the irrigation boundary of the Lower Bari Doab Canal. It was in 1922 that some zamindars from this part brought this to my notice and I put a question No. 1397 on 21st March 1922, and the matter was taken in hand. The local officers as far as I know prepared a big extension scheme and called it the 8-R and 9-R. extensions. In these extensions, a lot of canal waste land was included and also certain other areas which used to receive *sailab* irrigation before the new canal was started. It was in 1928 that the local officers started the work as regards this scheme. There was some difficulty on account of the fear of water-logging because some of the *sailab* area was also included. But eventually the scheme was passed and perhaps it was in 1924 or 1925 that the Council gave a grant for that extension and it was handed over to the Executive Engineer, Khanewal. In the last meeting of the Canal Committee it was considered and this scheme along with others the Committee decided to abandon and even the extension of this was included in their decision. I do not know about the other extensions but as far as I know they were to provide irrigation to certain areas which to my knowledge did not receive any irrigation or whose irrigation was cut down on account of certain Government canal. But this extension deserves better consideration than the other extensions. Now the condition of the people whose land this extension is proposed to irrigate is pitiable. About 10 years ago these were the very people who could be called the zamindars in that part of the world. When the local officers were registering the names of the people for local grants, the names of these people were not included as they were considered to be very flourishing zamindars. But the names of their tenants and others were included. The result is that to-day, though these people possess large areas of land they have no irrigation facilities. They have now become very poor, while their tenants who used to plough their lands formerly have got local grants and are now hundred times better off than their masters whose lands they used to plough ten years ago. I know that always the happiness of the minority will be sacrificed for the happiness of the majority. But I think it is not fair to deprive these people who used to get irrigation facilities as a matter of right from the Ravi and give irrigation facilities to those people who got their lands as a sort of grant. The area under extension is so little that I fully hope that it will not in any way involve a serious reduction in the remaining supply. The reduction would be less than one per cent.

I have gone through this matter very carefully and I represent the Khanewal tahsil which is under the Bari Doab Canal. If I found that it would be detrimental to the interests of any other part of the canal I would not have brought forward this motion. I know that some people there do not like this extension; but they are not a large number. For my part I have tried to do my duty even at the cost of some personal convenience. I hope that the Council and the Government will consider the demands of these people sympathetically and accept my resolution.

Mr. President: The resolution moved is—

"This Council recommends to the Government that immediate steps be taken for carrying out the extensions to the S-R., in the Lower Bari Doab Canal."

Risaldar Bahadur Nur Khan [Rawalpindi (Muhammadan), Rural] (Urdu): Sir, I request the House and the Government to desist from carrying out the said extensions. Sir, on the Lower Bari Doab military men are granted one or two squares of land per head as a reward for their military services. For their livelihood and subsistence they wholly and solely depend upon that much land. In the past on account of the unsteady water supply many a time crops have failed. Sir, if the said extensions are effected it would mean still greater scarcity of water and hence more crop failures. Sir, it is also stated that by these extensions no loss will accrue to anyone but instead the area will get more populous and its prosperity will increase. Sir, I fail to understand this argument as it is impossible to allow more extensions without injuriously affecting the existing water-supply of the zamindars. After a careful consideration I am of opinion that no further extensions should be made. The extensions if made would amount to killing the alive and reviving the dead. Sir, I would proceed no further but emphasise the fact that by the acceptance of the proposal before the House a great harm will result; and to avoid it I humbly request the House to throw out this resolution.

Shaikh Faiz Muhammad [Dera Ghazi Khan (Muhammadan), Rural] (Urdu): Sir, I had no intention to take part in this debate, but would like to make a few remarks after hearing the speech delivered by my honourable friend Nur Khan. He has said that if the resolution is carried out and the extensions are made, it would amount to killing the alive and reviving the dead. But, Sir, at the time of making this remark he quite overlooked the fact that some other people had been deprived of their water and thus made to die. The present resolution aims simply at reviving the dead in these circumstances.

Again Sir, the point urged by my friend Risaldar Nur Khan that by the proposed extension the old population will suffer a great loss, is quite a sound one and I agree with him. But what we have to see is whether the loss involved in extension would be greater than the gain. If the gain is greater than the loss then I would suggest that the canal in question be extended as proposed in the resolution.

Mr. J. G. B. Smith [Chief Engineer, Irrigation): Sir, the facts connected with this particular extension are very simple. It has been stated by the honourable mover that the scheme came before this House and a grant was made for its execution. I submit, Sir, that the scheme was not the one which the mover has in his mind. That was a more extensive one than the scheme under discussion here. He also referred to the fact that this scheme came before the last Canal Standing Committee at Simla. But the scheme that the honourable member now advocates never came before the Committee. It was the original scheme and that formed only one of various other schemes for the extension of the Lower Bari Doab and elsewhere. The conclusion reached in that Standing Committee was as follows:—

"Non-official members were of opinion that extensions should not be taken up unless there is a strong case for them and unless supplies are definitely available for these purposes."

[Mr. Smith.]

Now, Sir, however much Government may feel inclined to continue the Bari Doab Canal extensions they are bound to consider the present conditions. As we all know, the water that is required for existing irrigation and for all new extensions have got to come from a certain amount of minimum water which exists in the winter season for the Rabi crop. It is quite true that if the present scheme advocated by the honourable member is taken up by the Government, the amount of water required for it will be small. As the honourable member said, it will be less than one per cent. of the water that is supplied to the existing areas. The supply to the existing areas will not be affected by more than one per cent. But I should like to point out that this is only one particular extension. Apart from this, the House knows that the recent times have been very disquieting ones to the zamindars. Lean years of course must come as well as more prosperous ones. Nevertheless the fact remains that the zamindars are very distinctly perturbed at the mention of the word extension no matter where it is, whether it be on Lower Bari Doab Canal, the Upper Bari Doab Canal or the Lower Chenab Canal, or anywhere else and as referred to by my friend, Risaldar Nur Khan, they are distinctly perturbed. Conditions on the Lower Bari Doab are not anything like perfect. It is still in a transition stage and although later on it would be possible to give one or perhaps more than one extension without the people feeling it, just at present they would feel if the water was taken away from any part of the established irrigation to be given to a new area or to more than one new extension.

Mr. Din Muhammad [East and West Central Towns (Muhammadan), Urban]: Sir, I was anxiously waiting for the reply of the Chief Engineer thinking that he might be able to throw some light on the points which were raised by the honourable mover or those which were raised by the honourable member for Rawalpindi, who opposed the motion. But we have been discussing mere generalizations so far. We have not yet been informed as to whether it was a fact that these persons for whom this extension is applied for were ever promised canal water when the Langley Wah was abandoned in favour of the canal. Nor have we been informed as to whether the loss that would accrue to those zamindars who would be affected by the extension, would be so serious as to discourage us altogether from extending this patronage to those persons for whom the honourable mover has made this request. The only thing urged by the Chief Engineer is that extension should not be undertaken unless all the zamindars to be affected agree and that we should not add to their disquietude in any manner. But if the discontentment of those that ask for it is removed and if there is a large number of such people whose crops would be saved simply by a few others being deprived of a little of the water they now enjoy, will this not be a step in the right direction? If by causing a reduction only to the extent of 1 per cent. in the case of a few zamindars, the crops of a vast majority of them flourish, we should not grudge this small favour to them. This is, no doubt, a technical matter altogether, on which I as a layman have not much to say. Nor have I any knowledge of the condition of the land to which this resolution relates. But we expect that those responsible officials who definitely know about this case would throw some light upon the

matter and I believe it would not be impossible for the Honourable Member for Revenue to do so, so that we might be able to decide whether it would really mean a very great hardship for some zamindars as pointed out by the honourable member from Rawalpindi if this resolution was accepted.

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain (Revenue Member): Sir the honourable member who has spoken last has raised a very interesting question of some constitutional importance and very considerable administrative importance. Is the Legislative Council going to assume the right and the power to decide whether individual extensions all over the Punjab are to be given or are to be refused or whether it is the function of the Executive Government to decide whether a particular extension should be allowed or should not be allowed? If I may, I should say that the decision with reference to individual executive acts must rest with the Executive Government and it would be indeed a mistake on the part of the legislature to try to arrogate to itself the actual administration in detail of any particular department and more so in the case of the Irrigation Department than any other. Would it be right for the Council that in every case of extension, it may be of 8-R. or it may be of 20-L., those concerned should be hovering about the premises of the Council chamber ready to pounce upon individual members and making their lives burdensome to them at some expense to themselves and a great deal of inconvenience to others? It would be a great pity to my mind to permit things to reach that stage. Therefore the question whether those who desire extension of irrigation in this area should have it or should not have it is a proper one to be left to Government. Without doubting for a moment that the Council is mindful of the dignity of the Government, Government can be trusted to be anxious to honour the pledge if one was given to people on whose behalf the honourable mover speaks. But this Council expressed a wish during the last Budget debate that the Executive Government should grant no extension of any sort, if granting of that extension means reduction of existing irrigation in the Punjab. Well, no extension, Sir, can be run without a corresponding reduction somewhere, unless additional water is available, additional to what is already in the river and can be induced to run into canals. In this case we are not in a position to have additional water. Therefore the Chief Engineer and the Punjab Government find that it is impossible to grant this request if they want to comply with the wishes of the Council. If indeed the Council feels that in giving this arbitrary sweeping instruction that no extension should be given at all, they had gone too far, and that the correct view is that if there are particularly strong claims which should be satisfied in the judgment of the Government, in those cases extensions might be allowed provided that they do not take away any very great quantity of water from existing irrigators, I have no doubt, Sir, I and my colleagues will be prepared to consider the case of such extensions. But I hope you will excuse me, Sir, if I once more point out that it will not be probably in the best interests of the province if the case of each little extension came up in the Council to be dealt with on its merits in the sense that they have got so many thousands of acres of land, so many cusecs are needed, and whether it should or should not be allowed. There is always a majority in the Council. Would you like that only the extensions in which members of the majority party are interested should be granted and not the other ones, because if it is to be left to the

[Hon'ble Sir Fazl-i-Husain.]

vote of the Council directly, that would inevitably be the result, or would you like, as I have pointed out before that each extension be canvassed? This would be a very serious temptation in the way of frail and weak human nature and I would not do it if I were asked my advice on the point. That is a constitutional question. He did not intend, he did not really mean that we should go to that extent.....

Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan: The honourable member from Gujranwala made an enquiry whether the Government promised a compensation?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: No, nothing of that sort. This much is clear that if the Council had not given this instruction, I do not say that they would have got water but they would have been very near getting water. Therefore, if this Council is prepared indeed to relax, if not to alter, its former view, then I have no doubt Government will have no objection to consider the question of these people who have certain amount of claim and no doubt who have some grievance. I am, Sir, therefore prepared to take the decision of the non-official members of the Legislative Council on the point whether they are prepared to relax their former view giving such elasticity to Government in the matter of giving small extensions in cases where they are particularly needed and in the case of those people who have certain claims. I might make it quite clear, Sir, when I say I want to have the instructions, it does not mean that Irrigation is yet a transferred department but it has always been my effort to meet the wishes of the Council so far as it lies in my power to do so and I would like to do so in this instance as well.

Diwan Bahadur Raja Narendra Nath (Punjab Landholders General): Sir, I like to say a few words. I do not think that the Council is prepared to subscribe to the broad proposition that it has no power to express any opinion on administrative questions. It is undoubtedly true that there are many matters which ought to be left to the discretion of the executive and interference in matters of detail is uncalled for, at the same time I think that the Council would be perfectly within its province if it were to express its opinion on general policies of administration. The question of extension of distributaries is one on which there has been difference of opinion between one class of land owners and another class of land owners. Those at head of the distributary always are opposed to the extension while those at the tail wan extension.....

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: Surely not.

Diwan Bahadur Raja Narendra Nath: I mean to say that those at the tail desire the extension. The Irrigation Department is entrusted with large discretionary powers with regard to distribution of water and that power has been exercised so far in very old system of canals. On the Upper Bari Doab Canal which was opened in the sixties extensions were taking place up to the beginning of this century. The Lower Bari Doab Canal is a very recent system of canal irrigation and I do not think that every drop of water that there is in the Lower Bari Doab is fully utilized. Perhaps there is a further room for extension. Whether extension should be allowed in this

particular case or not is a different matter altogether, but I do not think that a general policy of interdicting of extensions should be laid down or should be strictly adhered to. I would suggest a *via media* to the honourable mover and it is this, that perhaps the Punjab Council has not the time to go thoroughly into the question and to examine all the pros and cons and that he should be satisfied if the matter is referred to the Canal Committee which consists of fewer members and which has more time to go into the details of the question. If the matter is referred to the Canal Committee, I would ask my friend to withdraw the resolution because it is certainly inconvenient for members coming as they do from different parts of the province to go into the whole question and hear both sides, for and against. Perhaps the smaller personnel of the Canal Committee would be in a better position to examine the question.

3 P.M.

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain (Revenue Member): It would be no use referring the matter to the Canal Committee unless the rule that extensions may be granted is conceded, because after all the Canal Committee can only advise Government if Government can and is prepared to agree to extensions. Otherwise what is the use? Therefore it must be decided by this Council whether it is prepared to relax the general rule or not.

Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram [South-East Rohtak (Non-Muhammadan), Rural]: Sir, from the speech that has been made by the Honourable Member for Revenue it appears that the Council at some time placed a serious ban on extensions generally. I do not recollect the exact terms in which that ban was placed. But even if the Council sought to place a ban on extensions in general it should be interpreted in a reasonable manner. If the Council expresses its opinion on any question, that opinion ordinarily should be followed. It does not, generally speaking, place an absolute ban on any course of action that may appear reasonable to Government. In this particular case I find that the claim for extension is clearly strong. There was actually a sort of canal in existence under the name of Langley Wah. That means that irrigation from this canal came to an end on account of the advent of the Lower Bari Doab Canal. It also appears from the statement that was made by the honourable mover of this resolution that at the time the Lower Bari Doab Canal was constructed, zamindars who benefited from the existence of the Langley Wah were asked to give up their rights of irrigation from that particular means of irrigation and that some sort of assurance was given to those zamindars that when the Lower Bari Doab Canal came into existence and was in working order they would be given an adequate supply of water from the new canal. Whether that assurance amounted to a positive and definite undertaking and promise to supply water to the zamindars or not I am not in a position to say.

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: It did not.

Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram: But there seems to have been some sort of assurance given that these zamindars would, on coming into existence of this new means of irrigation, be given water to irrigate the lands which were being deprived of water supply on account of the Langley

[R. S. Ch. Chhotu Ram.]

Wah being wiped out. If this is true—and it has not been positively denied, then I think the zamindars who benefited from the existence of the Langley Wah have a very strong claim for a fresh supply of water by means of the extension suggested.

Another circumstance which appeals to me is this, that this small bit of extension means no more than a reduction of less than 1 per cent. in the water supply on the upper reaches of the canal, and there is no doubt about this—as the Chief Engineer has admitted—that if this extension is made the right of water supply of zamindars on the upper reaches of the canal will not be affected even to the extent of one per cent. These two circumstances that the zamindars on whose behalf a claim is now made for extension on Lower Bari Doab Canal, had a means of irrigation available to them before the Lower Bari Doab Canal came into existence and that the extension would not amount to any serious loss to zamindars whose lands are situated along the upper reaches of the canal, make a sort of appeal to me and I think in these circumstances the resolution should be accepted.

With regard to the other objection that was raised by the Honourable Revenue Member that a legislative body should not seek to interfere in the details of administration, I think the objection is generally speaking, sound and nobody would take exception to that. But after all while it is not proper for a legislative body to interfere in the details of administration it is the function and duty of a legislative body to make such recommendations in respect of even details of administration as appear to it to be reasonable. After all this resolution means no more than a recommendation, and a recommendation in respect of a department which is not a transferred department, and a recommendation may or may not be accepted by Government on the reserved side. On the whole I think there is a fairly good case for extension and the resolution seems to do no more than make a recommendation which, if found to be practicable and reasonable, should be acceptable to the Irrigation Department.

Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan [(Muhammadan) Landholders]: Sir, I want to say one word in connection with the remark made by the Honourable Revenue Member about compensation. My information so far as it goes is that when Langley Wah was closed a promise was made to the people who got water from that canal that they would be provided with facilities for watering their land which had been deprived of water on account of the closing of the Langley Wah.

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: There is no such record.

Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan: If they were not paid any monetary compensation it is inconceivable that they should not make a claim against Government under the Minor Canals Act or the Drainage Act, unless they were given some sort of promise that they would be compensated for the loss. It is apparent that no monetary compensation was given to them. It is obvious that they must have been given some sort of promise, if not by the Head of the Department, by some of the local officers there that they would receive water in lieu of what they were getting from the Langley Wah. It is possible that, now that claim is time-

barred and they cannot sue Government, but I do not think that Government should take advantage.....

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: Why time-barred?

Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan: It is about 18 years ago.....

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: Why did they keep quiet so long?

Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan: Probably promises were given by the various Executive Engineers and Sub-Divisional Officers and now when they find that it is impossible for them to get any irrigation facilities they have brought forward this claim. I do not think it is fair on the part of Government to take advantage of this position. I submit that equity and fair play demands that these people should be given water, particularly when it has been stated by the Chief Engineer and several members that the loss to the other people is insignificant as compared with the advantages that will accrue from an extension of this minor.

Sayad Muhammad Husain [Montgomery (Muhammadan) Rural] Urdu: Sir, the question before the House is whether extenstions in the S-B., Lower Bari Doab, be or be not made. I have no objection to the extensions, but my support will be conditional. I represent the same constituency which is represented by the honourable mover of the resolution. Therefore we both are in the same boat. Sir, I have every sympathy with his proposal and I agree with him; but at the same time, we are in duty bound to the people whom we represent; and the very trust reposed in us makes it compulsory for us to see that no loss occurs to them and in no way their rights are infringed. We are guardians of their rights and therefore, we must do everything in our power to uphold them. The other day my friend Ahmad Yar Khan and myself happened to meet at the Government House. There were present also some gentlemen who belonged to our respective constituencies. When asked as to what was their opinion on the matter in hand they laid stress on the same fact that if no decrease in the Moghas was contemplated and the extensions could be carried without any shortage in the water supply, they were quite in favour of the resolution moved. Let the Government give an undertaking to that effect and we will have no objection. Under present circumstances when the existing outlets are being reduced and the land revenue is going to be enhanced how can the poor zamindars agree to a third calamity? Therefore the colonists of the Lower Bari Doab and the people of the Province in general and we, their representatives, object to such a course being taken in absence of such an undertaking.

Mr. President: Is the honourable member proposing any amendment?

Sayad Muhammad Husain: If the Government are prepared to accept any amendment, I should of course like to table one now, Sir. But my fear is that it is time-barred now.

Mr. President: Order, Order. There is no amendment before the House.

Mian Ahmad Yar Khan, Daultana [Multan East (Muhammadan), Rural] Urdu: Sir, in my resolution or in my speech I have nowhere asked

[M. Ahmad Yar Khan, Daultana.]

the Government to make the system of extensions a general rule. I know, the Canal Committee passed resolutions against extensions, but 8-R. is the only extension proposed for the areas whose previous sources of irrigation have been stopped. It is only to lessen the difficulties of zamindars of those areas that I have moved this resolution; otherwise I am personally against all extensions and I don't want them. The second question to be dealt with is whether the Government did or did not give any undertaking regarding their rights of irrigation from the Canal. This point, Sir, is too clear to raise any controversy. Mian Siraj-ud-Din, the Revenue Assistant and Mr. Chambers, the then Executive Engineer, got a writing from the zamindars on a stamped paper to the effect that they were not to accept any compensation for the rights of irrigation they were abandoning in favour of the Government. Sir, under the Northern-India Canal and Drainage Act they were entitled to a compensation which they never demanded as it appears. But, Sir, how can it be believed that the zamindars were so eager and desirous to abondon their rights that they gave it in writing to the Government even spending the money for a stamp paper from their own pockets. They must have done so for some consideration and the Government must have given them some undertaking. It can also be advanced, Sir, that the zamindars are simple folk and so it is not very strange if they had agreed to the Government's proposals without any consideration whatever. Even if it is so, I may urge that it is not fair on the part of Government to take undue advantage of their simplicity. Sir, I fear that the chief difficulty which stands in the way of my resolution is that there are no Crown lands on the said Canal. The areas to be irrigated and fertilised by the proposed extensions belong to the people and why should the Government agree to a proposal which is in no way of any advantage to them. But whatever the difficulties, I felt it my duty to place the grievances of the zamindars before the House and the Government and I think that I have discharged my duty. Now it is for the Government to accept my resolution or to drop it. The Chief Engineer has stated that in carrying out the extension only one p er cent. of decrease will occur in existing connections—and I think, Sir, that this little shortage of water will in no way cause any material reduction in the water supply to any zamindar and be a source of loss to him.

As regards the objection launched by the honourable member from Montgomery, I may assure him that in case the extensions prove harmful I shall also suffer loss with him at Khanewal. Now, with these remarks I place the resolution before the House for favourable consideration and acceptance.

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain (Revenue Member) (Urdu): Sir, I think I had better reply to the debate in Urdu so that all the members may fully understand what I have to say with regard to the motion under discussion. Sir, I was really pleased to hear the honourable members who spoke after me because their speeches have shown that the House does not want me to take a very strict view of their wish, expressed some time ago that no extensions be allowed. Some of the honourable members have said that as a general rule there should be no extensions, but in cases where they are necessary, they should not be refused. I quite concur with them because an extension can be justified only when the benefit involved is much greater than the loss involved.

As regards the proposal under discussion the Government are of opinion that the claims of the zamindars of Langley Wah deserve every sympathy at their hands because they feel that for the last twenty years or so these poor people have had to face a very hard lot. Mian Ahmad Yar Khan, Daultana, who is representing Khanewal also, deserves every praise for putting forward this resolution. Regardless of the dangers to the possibilities of his being returned in the next elections he has come forward to help a comparatively small number of zamindars. The same is the case with Sayad Muhammad Hussain who has supported the motion under similar circumstances. I consulted the Chief Engineer with regard to the practicability of this proposal. I was afraid that it would involve reconstruction of Moghas. But the Chief Engineer has assured me that there is no such danger and that only the distributaries of the triple project will have to run for a very little shorter period than they do present. Under these circumstances, if it is a fact that the majority of the speakers have voiced the feelings of the House, Government will try to do what it can to help these people.

But the House must remember that this scheme is absolutely different from S-R. The Chief Engineer is of opinion that the area to be irrigated by the proposed scheme will be less than half the area under S-R. scheme and, therefore, less than half the amount of water will be required. Under these circumstances, if the extension is demanded for only that part which was previously irrigated by the Langley Wah Canal, the Government will try to meet the wishes of the people.

Mian Ahmad Yar Khan, Daultana: After the speech of the Honourable the Revenue Member which he has just made, I beg leave to withdraw my resolution.

The resolution was by leave withdrawn.

RESOLUTION *RE* EXTENSION OF THE TERM OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Sardar Ujjal Singh (Sikh Urban): Sir, I beg to move—

> "That this Council recommends to the Government to take steps to extend the life of the present Legislative Council till such time as the new constitution comes into force so as to enable the next elections to be held under the new constitution."

Sir, an amendment has been tabled to this resolution by my honourable friend, Pandit Nanak Chand, which seeks to qualify it by substituting the words 'for a period of one year' in place of 'till such time as the new constitution comes into force.' I may say, at the outset, that I have no objection to the idea contained in the amendment. Even in the resolution, as I have given notice of, I do not mean that the life of the Council should be extended to an indefinite period. What I mean to seek by this resolution is this, that in exercise of the power given to His Excellency the Governor under the Government of India Act to extend the life of the Council by one year, the next elections instead of being held in 1929 be held in 1930. Sir, allow me to assure this House through you that this resolution has not been moved with any personal considerations or selfish ends but with a genuine desire which I believe is shared by this House and outside it to see full responsible government established in this country by the end of 1930. The resolution seeks to extend the life of the Council by one year so that the British Parlia-

[S. Ujjal Singh.]

ment after a full consideration of the report of the Commission and after taking into consideration the feeling and the force of public opinion in this country may be able to pass an Act for setting up the new constitution. Sir, it may be contended that the interval between now and the end of 1930 is too short to allow such legislation to undergo the various processes of reports, of Government despatches, of evidence before the Joint Parliamentary Committee, the subsequent drafting of the Bill, its passage in both the Houses of Parliament, the framing of rules and the rest of the paraphernalia. I admit that these operations do take some time. But, Sir, a period of 2 years in the melting pot is too long for a nation which is groaning under the weight of irresponsibility and yearning for a freer and a happier life. Sir, the last elections were held in 1920. The reforms were considered inadequate and unsatisfactory by a large section of the politically-minded Indians, and even those who remained loyal to the reforms expressed their wish times without number to reach the goal at an earlier date. The first reformed Assembly consisting of men who cannot by any stretch of imagination be dubbed as extremists passed a resolution asking the Government to grant responsible government to India at an earlier date than the period of 10 years fixed by statute for the next advance. Now, Sir, if the new constitution is not even set up by the end of 1930, that is, by the end of the statutory period fixed by Parliament, there will be a strong resentment in the country and the feeling will go abroad that the British Government is trying to prolong the period of agony. It might be retorted, Sir, that the Congress spokesmen are against the extension of the life of the Council and that all this talk about resentment is mere bosh. I am sure Government is not so devoid of commonsense or foresight as not to see through the game. Can anybody seriously think that the Congress which has only recently given an ultimatum to the Government to grant Dominion status by the end of this year or it will agitate for independence, will be pacified if the existing constitution remains for another three years? Sir, on the other hand, the Congress party in the Councils has all along been making attempts to put an end to this constitution immediately. I confess, Sir, that I cannot fully comprehend the underlying motive of the Congress leaders in opposing the extension of the life of the Councils for one year. It may be said that electors should not be deprived of the right of exercising their power of reviewing the work of their representatives in the Council, and of asserting their will by fresh elections. I admit electors are the true masters in all democratic governments and their highly cherished right of voting should not be interfered with unnecessarily.

But, Sir, the resolution does not imply that it only seeks that their representatives instead of going to the docks to get their verdicts from their masters by the end of 1929 should get their verdict by the end of 1930. Now, can it be contended that four years is too long a period for such a purpose? In all other countries, the life of the Council or Parliament is either 4 years or 5 years or in some cases even more. The life of the assembly in the Republic of Austria is 4 years, in Polish Republic 5 years, the French Republic 9 years, in the Dominion of Canada 5 years, in Denmark 4 years and you know about the British Parliament. Even the Nehru Report seeks to fix the life of the Council and Assembly to 5 years, and to 7 years in the case of the Council of State. It

is said in some quarters that fresh elections now will give an opportunity to the electors to give their verdict on the Nehru Report as opposed to the Report of the Commission. I don't know what the Commission is going to report on this matter. I hope the Commission has ample opportunity of not only hearing witnesses or reading evidence presented to them but also a very great opportunity of judging the voluminous public feeling on this all important question. The Commission I hope will not fail to realize that in spite of conflicting communal or class interest the heart of India is pulsating with new life, and there is impatience all round to see full responsible government established within the empire as early as possible. Sir, as I have said, I do not know what the Commission is going to report, but I have read and digested the Nehru Report. I confess and everybody will agree with me that the Nehru Report is a very valuable document in many respects and deserves a very careful and serious consideration of all those who care for the welfare of the country. But, Sir, I cannot help expressing this feeling that so far as my community is concerned and so far as the solution of the communal problem is concerned, it has been a dismal failure.

Mr. President: Is the honourable member discussing the Nehru Report, or making a speech on the resolution before the House?

Sardar Ujjal Singh: Sir, I am only referring to the argument that fresh elections now will give an opportunity to the electors to express their opinion on the Nehru Report and give their verdict on it. Sir, the Nehru Report as, I have stated, has not been able to solve communal problems. Rather, its proposals are based on communal grounds and in doing so, it has sought to establish invidious distinctions between various communities. Sir, I confess that no report can fail to take notice of the spirit of communalism prevailing in this country, but no report is complete which cannot or does not solve this communal problem boldly, justly and equitably. Sir, I am for burying communalism alive and I am sure it will die of suffocation. It is a hydra-headed dragon.....

Mr. President: I will request the Honourable Member to speak to the question and not to wander away from it.

Sardar Ujjal Singh: Sir, I was only developing this point.....

Mr. President: Order, order. Please proceed with your speech and speak to the question.

Sardar Ujjal Singh: Sir, I was just saying that the argument that the fresh elections will give an opportunity to the electors to give their verdict on the Nehru Report as opposed to the Commission, is no argument, and, in the case of some communities, this verdict has already been given, as in the case of my community. The Sikh Community has condemned the Nehru Report in no uncertain terms. So, there is no argument by which anybody in this House or outside it can say that fresh elections are a necessity and that the life of the Council should not be extended for another year; while, as a matter of fact, if the life of the Council is extended for one year more, we might be hastening the work of the Commission which is making an enquiry. But if on the other hand, the elections are held this year, the Commission will sleep over the enquiry and it will take another three years for the new constitution to be set up. On these grounds I commend my resolution to the House for acceptance.

Mr. President: The resolution moved is—

"This Council recommends to the Government to take steps to extend the life of the present Legislative Council till such time as the new constitution comes into force so as to enable the next elections to be held under the new constitution."

Pandit Nanak Chand [Hoshiarpur (Non-Muhammadan) Rural]: Sir, I am in a somewhat difficult position. I sympathise with the resolution of Sardar Ujjal Singh which is just now moved and Sardar Ujjal Singh is in sympathy with the amendment which I intended to move, but the object which the honourable the mover.....

Mr. President: Order, order. Does the honourable member wish to move the amendment standing in his name?

Pandit Nanak Chand: I do not wish to move my amendment. Well, Sir, I was just saying that the object which the honourable the mover of the resolution has in view and which.....

Mr. President: Order, order. Had the honourable mover of the resolution agreed to the Honourable Pandit Nanak Chand's amendment and moved the extension of one year only? If so, will he please rewrite his resolution in the light of the amendment and hand it over to the Chair, inasmuch as the resolution as it stands is inconsistent with the amendment. As the amendment is not going to be moved, will the honourable the mover of the Resolution, if he agrees to one year's period of extension, hand over to me in writing the alteration he desires to make.

Sardar Ujjal Singh: Sir, I was not aware that it was necessary, but I made it clear that "such time" meant one year and I took it in that light. I do not know whether it is necessary to qualify it and to redraft it. I have made it clear in my speech.

Pandit Nanak Chand: I was saying, Sir, that the object of Sardar Ujjal Singh's original resolution and the object of the amendment which I intended to move were the same, namely that the reforms be introduced in this country as soon as possible, and there should not be any delay on the part of the British Parliament to make the new Act. In this matter, the Indian National Congress and this House are unanimous namely that with the least possible delay the new reforms should be introduced. Now, Sir, I submit that this was really the intention of the framers of the Government of India Act. In section 72 of the Government of India Act, you will find, Sir, that the Governor has been given the power to extend the life of the Council for a period of one year. This means that the British Parliament really knew that in 10 years' time there will be a new Act incorporating the wishes of the political India and of the British Parliament. Therefore, with this object they have specified the period of one year in the Government of India Act. Sir, I submit, to delay the extension of reforms by more than one year would nullify the provision of the Government of India Act. There is a danger in allowing fresh elections to be held this year. A good number of new members will be returned to the Council—always it has been the case—and Government might say that all those members who have been returned to the Council at the expense of so much time,

money and trouble should not be put to the worry of facing another election so soon after they are returned to the Council and that it would be only fair to them to allow them to continue for the full period of three years. Those who are in favour of keeping India as it is under the present constitution will say, "There have only recently been so much commotion in the country; the members have spent so much of money and time; and they should have their money's worth and some return for all their troubles should be made. Therefore let the new Council continue for three years as usual." This argument will have some show of reason and justification for it. The then sitting Councillors also would see that it is to their interest that their seats are not put to the risk of another election. Considering all these matters I submit that the present council must be allowed to continue for some more period, and that period, I submit, has been fixed by the Government of India Act to be one year. If it happens to be more than one year the Government may take steps to get an Act passed in Parliament to allow an extension for a few months more.

There is one other point with regard to fresh elections. So far as my recollection goes whenever new Reforms are introduced in the country some sort of trouble or the other besets the country, especially the Punjab. The Reforms of 1909 were preceded by troubles in 1906 and 1907, and the Reforms in 1920 were preceded by troubles in 1919, such as the establishment of martial law, the crawling of the people on their bellies and so on. Just at this time when the propaganda regarding independence and Dominion Status, and such matters like the no-tax campaign agitation are going on, if we allow hundreds of candidates to go to the country and talk to them about communalism, independence and Dominion Status simultaneously, I am afraid there will be a repetition of the horrors of 1919. Therefore, from this point of view also, it is essential that the Government and the people should consider whether it would not be wise to extend the life of the present Council. Those who are in favour of holding fresh elections say that the present councils are not representative of the people and an opportunity should be given to the people to give their verdict on the issue of the boycott of the Simon Commission. But so far as the Punjab Council is concerned this argument does not apply. This Council has in no uncertain terms given its verdict on the question of co-operation with the Simon Commission. Even if the official members were left out of consideration, the voting in the Council showed an overwhelming majority in favour of co-operation with the Simon Commission. Here in this Council, the different parties whether Hindus or Muhammadans or Sikhs, put forward their best men to serve on the committee to confer with the Statutory Commission. No one will challenge this statement of mine that all the communities represented in the Council put forward their very best in their co-operation with the Commission so that the issues involved might be properly discussed, understood and decided by the people concerned. Now it would be a most unfair thing to tell these gentlemen who have done a good deal of work, who have taken a lot of trouble in hearing evidence, and going through the records and sounding public opinion, that they are no longer to be permitted to sit on the Committees and that fresh Committees will be appointed after fresh elections. All this labour will be wasted. This was the idea which Earl Winterton's speech seems to

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have, created in the mind of the public here. I do not know whether that speech was merely meant as an appeal to the galleries, or whether it was meant to pacify any political party in India. But so far as the Punjab is concerned, the verdict on the question of co-operation with the Simon Commission has been given in no uncertain terms. It is necessary, therefore, the life of the present Council should be extended by one year and the Reforms be introduced with the least possible delay. If it is necessary to extend its life for a month or two still further, it can be done by an Act of Parliament.

Lala Bodh Raj [West Punjab Towns (Non-Muhammadan), Urban]: Sir, the mover of the resolution wants to extend the life of the present Council till such time as the new constitution comes into force so as to enable the next elections to be held under the new constitution. The mover of the resolution recognises this fact that the next elections are to be held under the new consitution that is to be framed by the British Parliament on the basis of the report of the Simon Commission. On the fundamental principle involved in the resolution I and members who think with me differ from the mover of the resolution. The question is that the country should be given an opportunity to give its verdict on the issue, *i.e.*, whether they want a constitution framed by the British Parliament or one framed by their own countrymen. We fought the last election in 1926 on purely communal lines and this issue was not then before the country. The issue then before the country which was surcharged with communal feeling, was, who were the people best fitted to go into the Council and fight for the communal rights. The working of the councils in general and of the Punjab Council in particular has showed us that the best interests of the country will not be served by sacrificing national interests to communal interests. We have not been able to stand united and fight against the present bureaucracy. What we want now is to give an opportunity to the electors to say once for all to the British Parliament and the world at large whether they want the British element to remain here any longer or whether they mean to manage their own affairs themselves. On the other hand, if this resolution is adopted we would be announcing to the world that we are unfit to rule the country. The resolution presumes that the next general elections will be held under the new constitution framed by the British Parliament. My honourable friend Pandit Nanak Chand said that this Council had given its verdict in unequivocal terms regarding the boycott of the Simon Commission and that the best representatives of the various communities in the Council have been serving on the Simon Committee. Well Sir, that is the very ground that I urge before the House against the acceptance of this resolution. Because at the time of the last elections the country did not anticipate that the Commission would be thrust upon us against our will and without the least regard to our feelings in the matter.

Pandit Nanak Chand: The election was fought on that basis.

Lala Bodh Raj: I challenge the statement of my honourable friend. Can my honourable friend show me any election manifesto to that effect?

Pandit Nanak Chand: Will you then withdraw your opposition?

Lala Bodh Raj: Let him or any member of his party show me the manifesto making this question an issue at the last general elections, and he will have a suitable reply to his question. So far as I can remember, this issue was not at all before the country at the time of the last elections. We did not then anticipate that this Commission would be thrust upon us against our will. We Hindus, Muhammadans and Sikhs, were fighting amongst ourselves and the British Government saw in it an opportune moment to send a Commission of this sort to India to determine our destinies. The whole country through its accredited representatives in the Legislative Assembly and elsewhere has pronounced in unmistakable terms that it has no confidence in the Commission. Ignoring their wishes, His Excellency the Viceroy was pleased to appoint the Central Committee to co-operate with the Simon Commission.

Now we have to go to the people of the country who have a say in the matter. My friend stated that they have got the verdict of their constituencies and if this is so, then I would request my honourable friend to go to his constituency and fight the election on this very issue, and then the country would say whether they returned him on this very issue at the last general election or not. I think it is in the interests of the people, of the country as well as of the Government to see to this. This is the moment of trial. Let us both stand this trial and then see if the majority of the members who are returned to the new Council are such as hold the view that we should let the British element remain for a few years more. The Government will then stand cleared of the charge that they are ruling this country by force. But if the majority of the members that are returned to this Council are of a different view on the issue of the boycott of the Simon Commission and on the issue of the Nehru Report then there can be no justification for the British people to remain any longer in this country, saying that they are ruling this country in the interests of the people of this country. Last year, you know that a challenge was thrown by Lord Birkenhead in defence of the constitution of the Simon Commission saying that in this country there are varied interests and varied classes and he could not find any such men nor could the British Parliament find such men in this country as were able to evolve any constitution that would be acceptable to the majority of the people of this country. This was taken as an insult to the intelligensia of the country and the saner heads sat together and they formed a committee known as the Nehru Committee and they evolved a constitution that has been appreciated in almost every quarter.....*Voices.*—Absolutely wrong. Question. I am glad, Sir, that many of the members of this Council are challenging the statement and this is another ground which I wish to urge in opposing this resolution because I am of the view that this issue was not before the country when these members were returned to this Council. Let them go to the country and call upon their electors to give their verdict whether they want the Nehru Committee Report or the Simon Commission Report.

4 P.M.

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: Was that the issue on which the Jullundur bye-election was settled?

Lala Bodh Raj: The Honourable Revenue Member has referred me to the bye-election in Jullundur constituency and I cannot say at this moment what feelings the honourable member who comes from Jullundur has on this subject. But I am sure that he will mostly agree with me so far as these two questions are concerned—the Nehru Report and the boycott of the Simon Commission. Let us wait and see what view he expresses before the House, and I cannot anticipate what he has to say on this subject.

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: I do not see him on your benches.

Lala Bodh Raj: The honourable member has referred to the fact that he is not to be seen on my benches. Although I do not see any necessity to make a reply to such questions yet he should know that only twelve men can sit on these benches and the seat that was vacated by my honourable friend Raizada Hans Raj has been occupied by another friend of mine who holds the same views as those held by this party. The details of the Nehru Committee's Report might be challenged here and there by the members of this council or by the people outside, but the question is whether there is any other better constitution which having been framed by any other set of people of this country is acceptable to different parties in the country under the present circumstances. We have to decide the fundamental question whether it is the right of the people of this country to evolve a constitution for themselves or it is the right of the British Parliament or any other foreign nation to determine our destiny. My submission before you is that it is the people of this country that have to determine their fate for themselves and so, we have to go to the people of the country on this issue .....

Mr. President: How many times is the honourable member going to repeat this argument ?

Lala Bodh Raj: I have to say these words again and again along with the different arguments which I have to advance in opposition to that resolution. The honourable mover of the resolution has stated in support of his arguments that the country has been crying for full responsible self-government. Then the sooner we get it the better. So he does not allow the next elections to be held this year so that the British Parliament may not have three years more to delay full responsible government. I am afraid that the honourable mover of the resolution has assumed certain facts, while he has not stated how he assumes that in the new constitution we shall have full responsible self-government. While he was developing his own arguments he stated he did not know what the report of the Simon Commission would be but he has suggested that the Nehru Committee Report should in its general principles be accepted. The question is whether the Simon Commission are going to give us anything that will advance the interests of our country or whether they are going to frame a report that will advance the interests of the British people here and prolong their lease of life.

With these few words, I would submit that before we give our assent to the adoption of the resolution we should have the fact in our minds that very serious consequences are involved in this resolution.

Sardar Harbakhsh Singh [Hoshiarpur and Kangra (Sikh), Rural] (Urdu): Sir, in howsoever unequivocal terms one may say that this resolution

is not the result of any personal motives, the fact remains that every one wants to avoid the worries attendant upon a new election. If it were said that there is no personal consideration underlying the motion under discussion, nobody will be prepared to accept that statement as true. But I am quite sure that the honourable mover was actuated by no personal motive in putting forward this resolution and that he has come forward with it only in view of the claims of the Sikh community. In the last session of this Council a good many members gave notice of resolutions to this effect but not a single resolution was moved. I felt that all those resolutions were the result of an inspiration from a certain party that wanted its wishes to be voiced by us. I submit Sir, that this question is not confined to this Council only. It is an all-India question. Even in the British Parliament many a question has been put and answered with regard to it. As a matter of fact, the Government will solve this question in a way acceptable to itself. But from the point of view of the Sikh community I must support the resolution.

The honourable mover has tried his best and even led a deputation to England in order to get for the Sikhs their due share in the Government. The Sikhs were once the rulers of this province and now if they are to exist they must get their due share in the Legislature. But the result of all our efforts is only this, that we have been able to get only 18 seats. From the point of view of justice as well as of land revenue we do deserve one-third of the seats.

But if you are not willing to give us our due share then let our community be saved the worries and botheration of a new election. Everybody knows how the Sikhs have been treated by the Nehru Committee. Now the Sikhs have begun to feel that the advice once given to them by somebody was quite sound. The advice was that even if they could not co-operate with the Government they must keep away from the Congress. Therefore, as far as the Sikh point of view is concerned, I am of opinion that the Government should accept this proposal and the new reforms should be introduced as soon as possible.

Mr. Din Muhammad [East and West Central Towns (Muhammadan), Urban]: Sir, my party appears to be indifferent in this matter. But as in my humble opinion certain statements which have been made by the honourable member from Multan should not go unchallenged, I have made up my mind to offer a few observations on this question.

He has stated, Sir, that it is absolutely necessary for us to go to the polls so that the country might be able to give its verdict on the question of the Nehru Report, and the British nation might come to know that the whole country was against the Simon Commission as at present constituted. In my humble judgment it is a very bold assertion to make. We might deceive others but we cannot deceive our own selves. We know full well, Sir, that in this country during the last nine years elections have been run not on a political basis but on purely personal lines. Thousands of influences are at work which affect the result of the elections. And even if a member who happened to be a co-operator is unseated by a boycotter, it would not mean that he has gained his seat simply because he was boycotting the Simon Commission. Moreover, Sir, we know full well that in the Punjab at least

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the number of rural constituencies is very large and, I daresay my honourable friend from Multan realises it perfectly well that in these rural constituencies the cry of "Simon Commission" or "no Simon Commission," "boycott" or "co-operation," would be absolutely of no avail. These rural dignitaries would be returned in spite of the fact that the urbanites would go on decrying the Simon Commission. So if this be the only object in not extending the life of this Council, this object would not be achieved. If by their demonstrations, their agitation in the press, their speeches on the platform these critics have not been able to convince the British nation that the country is against the Simon Commission, surely the securing of one or two seats would not be sufficient to hoodwink them.

The second statement that he made was in connection with the Nehru Report. In my estimation our community or at least a large majority of the Mussalmans is strongly opposed to the provisions which have been made for the Muslim representation in that Report which he considers as a very sacred document. And only the other day a Khalsa Conference was held in Gujranwala and I can say from personal knowledge that that Khalsa Political Conference with one voice strongly opposed the provisions of the Nehru Report so far as the Sikh representation was concerned. There are several other minorities also, and very important too, that have spoken against the Nehru Report and if the idea of the honourable member was that elections might be held only on the basis of the recommendation made by the Nehru Report, then he should rather have supported the resolution, because he knows that it would take some time before an agreement is arrived at on that basis. Those provisions are still being discussed, attempts are being made to safeguard the interest of the minorities but with no effect so far, and if it is the intention of the honourable members of the opposition to have the next elections on the basis of the Nehru Report only and not on any other constitution that would be framed by the British nation, then they should have come forward to support the resolution rather than to oppose it. Honourable members of this House realise that it would take some time for the British nation too to pronounce their verdict on the recommendations made by the Simon Commission. Their elections are being held in the month of June and thereafter a joint Parliamentary Committee is to sit to consider the proposals of the Commission. I do not think it would be possible for the British Parliament to formulate any future constitution at least for a year and a half from now. It appears it was in the minds of the wise authors of the Montagu-Chelmsford Report that such a predicament would arise and Governors would be asked to extend the life of the Provincial Councils. They knew perfectly well that they had provided only three years' life for the Provincial Councils and they had also promised that the revision of the constitution would take place within ten years. It was for this reason that a provision was made that the Provincial Governors would be authorised to extend the life of the Council by one year, so that the British nation might be able to revise the constitution and formulate a new constitution if necessary within that period. Under these circumstances though it really looks very awkward, as remarked by some honourable members opposite to ask for one's own extension of life, the proposition appears to be so just and so reasonable

and so patriotic that one cannot help supporting it. Extend the life for one year or for two years, but do extend it. I am in favour of the amendment put forward by my friend.

Mr. President : He did not move his amendment, nor is any other amendment before the House.

Mr. Din Muhammad : I am sorry. I came a bit late and I thought the honourable member for Hoshiarpur had spoken on his amendment. I was just saying that it would be patriotic to support the extension of the life of the Council by one year at least. The extension for the statutory period is within the power of the provincial Governors. If the elections are held in November 1929 that pressure would be removed from the British nation which would compel them to expedite the publication of the report; if not, it would be hanging on their heads like the sword of Damocles. With a fair knowledge of the mind of the Indian public, the British Parliament, especially in view of the ultimatum given by the Indian National Congress, would be forced to rush through their work and not to delay it more than it is necessary. It is really unfair on our part on the one hand to serve the British Government with an ultimatum that they should make some such gesture which would convince the Indians that they are favourably inclined towards the demand made in the Nehru Report, and on the other, ask them to hold the elections in November 1929 before affording them adequate opportunity to finish the Simon Report. With these few remarks, I support the motion.

Chaudhri Afzal Haq : [Hoshiarpur-*cum*-Ludhiana (Muhammadan), Rural], (Urdu) : Sir, I have carefully listened to what the honourable mover had to say in support of his resolution. His argument is wholly based on the assumption that the country is anxious to get new reforms as soon as possible. But he has not told us when he hopes to get the new reforms and new powers. I submit, Sir, that the honourable mover cannot be absolutely sure that he will get new powers within a year or so. There is a Punjabi saying :—

چندان مندان دے متے ہن چڑھن چڑھن نہین تے نان بہی چڑھن

We are not in a position to say as to when the report of the Simon Commission will be ready. It may take two and even three years. The honourable mover has not specified any definite limit of time. Then how can he say that this matter ought to be decided without any delay ?

Next comes the question of the expenses and worries attendant upon a new election. I submit, Sir, that from the constitutional point of view such considerations do not matter at all. Even in England sometimes elections to the Parliament have to be held even within three months after a previous election. Such things are necessary for the life of a nation. It may be said that an election will have no such effect in the Punjab. But, Sir, the rights of the Indian Nation will be decided by the attitude of the Legislative Assembly and not the provincial Councils. When the Government are not going to attach any importance to the views of the Assembly how can we hope that the verdict of this House will have any weight as far as the Government are concerned ?

[Ch. Afzal Haq.]

In this connection an excuse — a very lame and empty one but still an excuse—is put forward by the Government. It is said that as the last elections were not fought on the issue of the Simon Commission no importance need be attached to the verdict of the Legislative Assembly. But I submit that in connection with the boycott of the Commission a great public leader has died, some of the other respected leaders have received injuries and many of them have been put in prison. Under these circumstances, I do not see why the country should not be given an opportunity to express its opinion on the situation which has developed since the last elections. I am sure that the country will come to our help, whenever the need for its co-operation arises. When I and my honourable friends were elected last time the elections were not fought on the issue of the Statutory Commission. But now the country will decide whether or not the boycott of the Commission was a sound and wise policy.

As regards the Nehru Report, I submit that the honourable mover has dragged it into discussion simply to serve his own purpose. He says that the said report is harmful to the Sikh interests. The Muslim members too have expressed the same opinion with regard to the Muslim claims. But the fun of the thing is that the Sikhs demand one-third of the total number of seats in this Council and on the other hand the Mussalmans and the Hindus, are not prepared to agree to the Sikh demand for thirty per cent. of the seats. No one has said that we want the verdict of the country with regard to the Nehru Report. The point at issue is the boycott of the Simon Commission and not the Nehru Report.

Further our electors sent us here for three years only. At least with regard to the first two Councils they were under no other impression than that the life of the Council would not be extended. I also have some anxiety about my seat in the Council. I do not claim to be so popular among my constituents as to be sure of being returned unopposed. But the question is that the electors sent us here for three years only, and therefore, so long as they do not express their willingness in so many words we cannot be justified in extending the life of the Council. So far, no honourable member has assured us that he has sounded his constituents and whether they are in favour of this extension. You ought to have explained everything to them, and then got their verdict with regard to the matter. In the Mother of Parliaments too when the need for extending or shortening—I am quite sure about shortening at least—its life arises, it is the wishes of the people and not of the members that prevail. The King ascertains the popular view and if the people want a new election he asks the Cabinet to tender its resignation. Therefore, if you wanted to avoid the worries of a new election you ought to have sounded the people. You do not ascertain the popular view and then come here to say that if new elections are held there may be riots in the country so let us extend the life of our membership. I do not find anything in the proposal to recommend its adoption. Therefore, I hope that it will be rejected by the House.

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain (Revenue Member): Sir, I venture to intervene at this stage in the debate to make the position of Government clear with reference to this resolution. There was a very slight

and indirect sort of hint by one of the speakers who has preceded me, one who unfortunately happens to be absent now, that Government has some sort of direct interest in the decision to be arrived at on the resolution before the House inasmuch as he said that at the last session there were resolutions on the agenda which were not moved, because he thought the Government who wanted them to be put in, did not want them to be moved in the Council. I am afraid the honourable member is entirely under some misapprehension. Government had no desire at that time to have the matter brought before the Council for discussion or to obtain from the Council any particular recommendation one way or the other. And to-day also Government has no desire whatsoever to influence the decision of the Council on this question. It has no desire, I have said, and it has decided to go a step further and ask the official members and Members of Government not to vote on this motion either for or against it. As a matter of fact, it must be patent to the honourable members themselves that their wishes will carry a great deal of weight with the authorities in whose hands the decision on this question will rest. But I have no doubt the extent of the regard that the authorities would pay to their wishes is bound to be proportionate to the wishes of their own constituents in the matter. If by any chance their views are opposed to the views of their own constituencies, they cannot expect Government to pay any very great regard to them. Because after all their wishes as long as they represent the views of the constituencies are the ones that are entitled to weight. Generally speaking, I am glad that the members have realised that so far as the Simon Commission's time table is concerned it is impossible for me to say when the new elections under the new constitution will take place. But it does not require any very great knowledge of the future to say that in all probability the new constitution will not be ready for the elections to be run in accordance therewith either in 1930 or perhaps even in the early part of 1931. I am giving these dates not on any information available to Government which is not available to the House, which means that it is a mere guess work. Keeping that in view it would seem that under the existing law if the life of the local Legislatures were to be extended it could only be extended for one year and not more than that. And I think honourable members will be agreed on the point that to increase it just for one year in order to hold the elections under the new constitution is useless. Therefore, if this resolution is to be carried out then an amendment of the Government of India Act is essential. That is one point. The second point is that it is not likely, nor would honourable members desire that the life of the Punjab Legislative Council, because it is representative of the people of the province perhaps to a greater extent than the other legislatures, should be extended, but not that of other local Legislatures. That would be invidious, wouldn't it? Therefore such legislation or such action as the authorities may be called upon to take will have to be uniform throughout India. It will be an all-India problem. Over and above that, we must remember that the ordinary conveniences or otherwise of elections, the possibilities of what sort of programmes will be before the country, are such uncertain factors that it is extremely difficult to arrive at one decision or the other on the basis of these most uncertain factors. But whether you eventually pass or reject the resolution, the wishes of honourable members will be gladly communicated to the Government of India. As a matter of fact, we will have great pleasure in forwarding the

[Hon. Sir Fazl-i Husain.]

debate on this resolution to the Government of India so that the wishes of the honourable members here and their processes of reasoning as to the conclusions they arrive at may become patent to those in whose hands the ultimate decision will eventually lie.

Mr. E. Maya Das [(Non-Official, nominated), (Urdu)] : Sir, some of the members, who have spoken on the resolution, have supported it and others have opposed it. What I want to say with regard to this resolution is this, and I am sure it will please every one present here. Those who are in favour of the resolution may vote for it and remain members of the Council for a longer period and those who are opposed to it, may vote against the resolution and cease to be members of the Council after a few months. *(Laughter).*

Rana Firoz-ud-Din Khan [(South-East Towns, Muhammadan Urban), (Urdu)]: Sir, it is hardly necessary for me to add that the resolution as it is before us, is vague and indefinite. As has been explained by the Honourable Member for Revenue and some other speakers, the honourable mover of the resolution and his supporters have given no indication as to the period for which they desire to have the life of the Council extended. I am constrained to say that the resolution is not happily worded and as such it does not appeal to me. It says that the life of the present Council be extended till such time as the new constitution comes into force. The Statutory Commission has not so far prepared its report on the basis of which Parliament will pass an Act giving us the new constitution. We have not been given any clue as to when the report is to be submitted to Parliament and when the Parliament can be expected to pass that Act. In the circumstances we cannot reasonably recommend to Government to extend the life of this Council for an indefinite period. If we could only know that the revised constitution would come into force after a year or so, I might have given my support to the resolution.

None of the arguments advanced by the mover and supporters of the resolution is convincing enough. In fact, some of them talked of matters extraneous to the subject matter of the resolution. The floor of this House ought not to have been made an arena for discussing the merits or demerits of the Nehru report. If the Sikhs, a certain section of the Hindus and Muhammadans are dissatisfied with it, they can and ought to discuss it at a place outside this chamber. But their dissatisfaction with the report cannot be made, by any stretch of imagination, a ground for the extension of the life of this Council. Some supporters of the resolution spoke of the Simon Commission. As far as I can see there was no occasion to bring in the Simon Commission. It has already come and is about to finish its labours and to go back. I do not see how it was relevant to talk of the Simon Commission in connection with this resolution.

Beyond the fact that no case has been made out for the extension of the life of this Council, there is a serious objection against it. And it is to draw the attention of the House to that objection that I got up to make this speech. As we are all aware, the present executive as well as the legislature are quite irresponsible. They are not answerable to the representatives of the public and they can, with impunity, flout the opinion and the unanimous wishes

of such representatives. There is no wing, section or party in political India which does not want to end this irresponsible element as soon as possible. But if this resolution is passed and given effect to, we will be giving another long lease to the present irresponsible executive and the legislature. We do not know when the new Government of India Act is to be passed. It may be that one year, two years or even five years will be taken by the Parliament in passing that Act. I need not remind the House that particularly in the Punjab, the legislature has no regard for public opinion and the public is rightly dissatisfied with the way in which its own representatives discharge their duties. In the long list of questions, for instance you will find very few questions which do not give vent to the arbitrary methods of the Ministers. The Honourable Member for Revenue rightly said that the extent of the regard that the authorities would pay to the wishes of the members on this subject would be in proportion to the wishes of the constituents in the matter. That is really a sound principle laid down by him. And we know what the wishes of the public are in the matter.

Khan Bahadur Mian Muhammad Hayat Qureshi: They want that elections should not be held at all.

Rana Firoz-ud-Din Khan: Totally wrong. Perhaps the honourable member had in mind that section of the people which takes no interest in public affairs. Those who take the least interest in public matters, are of opinion that the present constitution should not be prolonged a minute longer than necessary. With these remarks, I oppose the resolution.

Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq [Amritsar City, (Muhammadan) Urban]: Sir, in speaking on this resolution many extraneous things have been brought in by the honourable members of this House. My honourable friend from behind has raised the old voice یدرم سلطان بود My honourable friend has told us that the number of 13 members of his community should be extended to 30. They will have 30 and not 13. Thirteen is an unlucky number, but at whose cost, he does not tell us. My honourable friend has conveniently forgotten that the kingdom of the Punjab was handed over to the Sikhs by the Muslims. It is an historical fact. Readers of history know that it was handed over by Ahmad Shah Abdali, but we do not claim better consideration on that score. I am not going to discuss that point. Now, Sir, the question ought to be discussed in a businesslike way. It is not a question of the Simon Commission or any report of theirs. I know there are one or two Hindu friends who are here but are nervous because of the incidents in connection with Lala Lajpat Rai the other day. Those friends will naturally feel nervous because as a rule they always fight elections on party politics. I do not agree with my friend who said that Muhammadans never fight elections on party grounds. I agree with Mr. Din Muhammad. They also fight on personal grounds. But, Sir, this is not the question here. We have to see whether the new constitution can be introduced within 16, 17 or 20 months. Sir, if it means, as the Honourable the Revenue Member says, that it will probably take more than 2 years, then I say we should not deprive the constituency of the right of voting for that period. But, on the other hand, if it is to be done within 18 or 20 months, then, Sir, I think he should be a hero who would face two elections in such a short period. It would be well if the

[Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq.]

trouble and botheration of such elections within a short interval are saved both to the electors and to the persons elected. It is not only a question of money, Sir, for Punjab can afford to spend even five lakhs of rupees for election purposes, it is a question of general principle and nothing more. But as it is there seems to be nothing so permanent as communalism at these elections. One very often hears the cries of Hindus for Hindus and Muslims for Muslims so that the bigger political questions are cast into the shade. But recently, Sir, at the election at Jullundur we had a hopeful example of Hindus and Muslims exercising their choice in favour of the gentleman whom we see sitting here to-day. He is the principal of a college. That gives us the hope that such party questions will recede in importance. The question now in this resolution is, is it worth while to have elections within 18 months. My position is this, that if the elections under the new scheme of reforms are too long in coming, then I would willingly support any suggestion of not extending the life of the Council, but if it were within 16 or 18 months, then I will at once say, please don't have a new election. I am not quite sure in what way the sense of the House will be taken. But I may say that if the new elections were to take place within 16 or 17 or 18 months, I think most of the members would like that this Council should be extended but on the other hand, if it is a question of 2 years then the House has no right to ask the British Parliament to double the life of the present Council. I don't agree with my honourable friend over there that the Parliament has a constitutional right to extend the life of the Council. The argument that the wishes of the constituency in the matter ought to be ascertained is meaningless, for I am not able to see how a constituency can advise its members one way or the other. There is only one system so far as I know and that is a referendum. That is not provided here under our constitution. We know how at public meetings, big public meetings, where big people like Maulana Muhammad Ali, speaks, people raise their hands now one way and then the other, and it is very often difficult to be certain of their views. Thus the decision of the question by the constituencies seems to be meaningless. The only question is that if we are going to have the reforms within the period of 16, or 18 months, we must extend the life of the present Council, but on the other hand, if we are uncertain and we do not know whether it will take two years or three years, in that case, I think it will be safe for us not to extend the life of the Council. With these few words I resume my seat.

5-0 P.M.

Sardar Ujjal Singh (Sikh Urban): Sir, one honourable member gave me undue credit for possessing the confidence of the Government. I confess I never deserved it. At least after the statement of the honourable the Revenue Member I don't think it will be necessary for me to say that this resolution was not an inspired one. The honourable member from Multan who opposed the resolution said that he differed on the fundamental principle underlying the resolution, and declared that he would not have a constitution framed by the British Parliament, and that he would have only a constitution framed by his own countrymen. I do not know what he exactly meant by that. Any constitution framed in this country or outside it will have to be passed by the British Parliament as an Act. There is difference on that fundamental point. But if he thinks that he can have

a constitution without the same undergoing the process of legislation through the British Parliament, he is welcome to do so. I do not agree with him and I do not suppose any one in this House will agree with him.

The second argument he used was that an opportunity should be given to the country to give its verdict on the questions of the boycott of the Simon Commission and the Nehru Report. My honourable friend from Hoshiarpur said that the country wanted to give a verdict not on the Nehru Report, but on the boycott of Simon Commission. Sir, the boycott of the Simon Commission and the Nehru Report are intimately connected with each other. If any party or community is not satisfied with the Nehru Report, then it will have to go to the Commission. It is not possible for any party or any community to formulate and set up a constitution of its own. So far as my community is concerned, it has given its verdict in unequivocal terms to which I have already referred. So far as the Muhammadan community is concerned, my honourable friend from Gujranwala has also stated what their attitude in the matter is.

Another argument put forward by the honourable member from Multan was that I was not justified in assuming that full responsible self-government would be the next stage in our progress and that such a system of Government as will satisfy the people of the country will be established in this country before the end of 1930, or near about that. But I should like to point out that whatever the nature of the new constitution may be it will surely be an advance on the present one. My resolution only helps to establish that constitution earlier than three years. On the other hand if the elections are held this year, it is certain that the new constitution will not be put into force for three more years to come. In addition to that, by this resolution we impress upon the Government and the Simon Commission that they should expedite the work and set up the new constitution at an early date.

My honourable friend from Hoshiarpur said that no time limit was fixed in my resolution. That was omitted deliberately. In my speech I made it clear that the resolution did not seek to extend the life of the Council by more than one year or near about that. It implies that the new constitution should be set up in this country earlier than three years at any rate; on the other hand those who oppose the resolution want that the new constitution may be established after three years. Further, it is quite probable that the time required may not be one year; it may extend to one year and three months or one year and four months. It is impossible to fix a definite period for this reason.

My honourable friend from Hoshiarpur said that the Assembly has given the lead in this matter and that this Council should follow that lead. Sir, I am against this slave mentality; for it is nothing but slave mentality. Honourable member should think independently and act independently and intelligently on this resolution. (*A voice*: In a narrow groove). Sir, I submit that it is a slur on the honourable members of this House. It is a slur on the intelligence and independence of the honourable members of this House. I am sure it will be condemned by them.

I was not able to find any strong argument why the life of the present council should not be extended. The statutory period of ten years expires

[S. Ujjal Singh.]

by the end of 1930. And if we are anxious to put an end to this irresponsible Government, we must ask the Government to expedite the work and get an Act passed in the Parliament before the end of 1930, or near about that, and to see that no further lease of life is given to this constitution for another three years.

Mr. President : The resolution moved is—

'This Council recommends to the Government to take steps to extend the life of the present Legislative Council till such time as the new constitution comes into force so as to enable the next elections to be held under the new constitution.'

The question is that that resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried.

RESOLUTION *RE* IMPROVEMENT OF IRRIGATION TO THE DERA GHAZI KHAN DISTRICT.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram : (Multan Division, Non-Muhammadan, Rural) (Urdu). Sir, I beg to move :

"that this Council recommends to the Government that Rs. 20,00,000 (twenty lakhs) be provided in the revised estimate for improvement of irrigation to the Dera Ghazi Khan District ".

Sir, this resolution has been moved on behalf of the people of Dera Ghazi Khan district, who are very poor and who have not been provided, so far, with satisfactory means of irrigation. In order to give an idea to the Council as to the deplorable means of irrigation in that district I think I shall do best to refer the members to an old Council question and the answer thereto. That question is numbered as 1240 and will be found at page 188 of Volume III of the council debates, 1922. In the statement given in reply to that question, averages for five years with regard to the area commanded, area irrigated and the area matured, are given. I will not read them all here and will content myself with reading the figures about one of these five years. There are in all twelve *nalas* in that district and on one of them the total commanded area in the year under reference was 686,522 acres of land. Out of it the area that was irrigated in that year amounted to 278,607 acres of land and the area matured amounted only to 215,000. From these figures it is abundantly clear what amount of *kharaba* the Government has to allow every year simply because the irrigation facilities are bad. I am aware that the Canal Department has been trying to improve irrigation in this district, but it appears that serious thought has not been given to this problem so far.

Now it can be asked what are the possibilities of improving the means of irrigation and whether it is possible to turn the present inundation canals into perennial ones. It is to answer this question that I will now address the Council. I must first make it clear that a lot of money will be required to work out and materialise any scheme of irrigation for this district and if Government were to make up its mind to spend this money all the difficulties, that now appear to be very great, are sure to vanish. To turn to the possibilities of improvement of irrigation, I may point out that, in brief, pumping is one of the many ways by which irrigation can be made perennial in this district. As the members know we have been irrigating many plots of land situated on high level by employing pumps to lift the water. We have been conducting this experiment with advantage and I do not see any reason why

the same experiment cannot be tried in Dera Ghazi Khan by Government. Besides that there is another scheme called the Manka Hydro-Electric Scheme which has been under the consideration of the Government for a long time past. I understand that if this Scheme is adopted, it is calculated to give a return of 18 to 20 per cent. on the outlay. That is undoubtedly an attractive figure, but even if there be less return or even no return at all, Government should spend the money required to give effect to the scheme. It owes a duty to the people of the Dera Ghazi Khan who are, as I have said before, poor and backward in all respects. Then there is the Sanghar Hill Torrent Scheme which would go a long way to ameliorate the condition of these people if it is adopted. This scheme has also been pending with the Government for a long time. It is now time that these schemes are finally passed and given a practical shape. I need not dilate on the advantages that will accrue to the district if these hill torrents are arrested and the abundant water that flows down the hills into the river is made use of for irrigation purposes. We should not despair because one or two engineers are of opinion that these schemes are not workable. If we were to take them at their word it would mean that the fate of Dera Ghazi Khan is sealed for ever and we should never hope for the betterment of this district. In my opinion, there is nothing that is impossible of achievement in this world. I will not take more time of the Council and I will conclude by saying that something should be done to improve the means of irrigation in the Dera Ghazi Khan District so that the people of this district may become prosperous like their brethren in other parts of the Province.

Sayad Muhammad Husain (Montgomery, Muhammadan, Rural) : Sir, everyone knows that Dera Ghazi Khan is a poor district (*Some Voices*: Urdu please). (*Continued in Urdu*). In deference to the wishes of some of the members of the Council, I shall proceed with my speech in Urdu. As I was saying, Sir, Dera Ghazi Khan is a very poor district and if any testimony is needed in support of the statement, I hope Mr. Wilson who has studied the conditions in that district in person will supply one. On many occasions I have heard him relating the story of a dog whenever he has been asked to describe the condition of the Dera Ghazi Khan district. That is really an apt illustration and gives a true picture of the miserable plight of the people. I am not unmindful of the fact that it is very difficult to control the inundation canals and I realise that it is still more difficult to bring under control the vagaries of the rivers, and of the Indus, of all the rivers. I have a personal experience of the inundation canals and I know that, whatever amount of money one may spend on them, one cannot be sure when such canals will begin to flow and when they will cease to run after they have begun to flow. Often I have waited and waited for weeks together to see the water flowing in these and often I have been disappointed to see the water flowing only after the cropping time was over. However, something should be done for this unfortunate district. On his last visit to this district His Excellency the Governor discussed the possibilities of improvement of irrigation with the engineers. It was, I understand, represented to him that the problem presented great difficulties. All the same, I think that it is not impossible to cope with it. Even if there be no promise of return from any scheme for the improvement of irrigation in this district, I think Government should not hesitate to undertake it on that score. I would go further and suggest

[Sayed Muhammad Husain.]
that Government should not mind the loss, if it suffers any, on account of such a scheme. I hope and I am sure that Government will give its best attention to this problem. If Government can give us an assurance that every effort will be made to improve irrigation for this district, I would advise the honourable mover to withdraw his resolution.

Khan Bahadur Nawab Muhammad Jamal Khan [Baloch Tumandars, Landholders (Urdu)]: Sir, we on these benches are very grateful to the honourable mover for moving a resolution intended to improve the means of irrigation in the Dera Ghazi Khan district. Sir, the miserable condition of the people of the district is too well-known to require mention. Government knows it as well as those who hail from other parts of the Province. It will be no exaggeration to say that these people have become so destitute that most of them have to go without food for many days together. I admit that to a certain extent the natural conditions are responsible for the misery of these people. This district has hills on one side and a river on the other side and between the two natural barriers lies a tract which is given the name of Dera Ghazi Khan district. I quite realise that it is not so to easy to extend irrigation facilities to this tract as it is easy in the case of some other parts of the Province. However, much can be done, if the Government were to spend some of its resources for the solution of the difficulties that the irrigation problem in the Dera Ghazi Khan, no doubt, presents. At present there are two irrigation schemes under the consideration of Government, as far as I understand, a sum much less than that demanded in the resolution, will be required to adopt these schemes. The honourable mover referred to these schemes, but he did so very briefly. I, therefore, take this opportunity to explain them in some detail. The first scheme, I mean the Manka Scheme, is intended to convert the present inundation canals into perennial ones. The discharge of water in these canals is 1,200 cusecs and it is sufficient to irrigate quite a large area of land. But the difficulty is that this depends entirely on the floods in the rivers and consequently more often than not, the water is not available in the beginning of the season for the sowing of crops as well as at the end of the season when crops are about to mature. This uncertainty and insecurity results many times in the waste of labour and money spent on sowing the crops. If my opinion this uncertainty can be done away with if arrangements are made to lift water two feet high from the Indus by means of hydro-electric pumps to enable the present inundation canals to run in September and October and also at the time when water is badly needed to mature the crops. It may be said that Government of India will object to such a course being adopted as there is likelihood of the Sukkur Barrage Scheme being adversely affected thereby. I think this objection is not sound and should not prevail with the Government. The discharge of water in the Indus is at least 25,000 cusecs and we do not require much out of it for our purposes. Besides our inundation canals have been in existence from time immemorial and they have, therefore, prior claims to any other schemes depending on the waters of the Indus. The Punjab Government, I think, should be able to persuade the Government of India to waive that objection.

The second scheme is called the Trunk Canal Scheme. Briefly it means that a trunk canal should be constructed to accumulate water that is, at

present, allowed to flow into the river and the water so accumulated should be utilised to feed the various canals with their heads constructed on the trunk canal. I understand that this scheme will not cost more than 16 lakhs of rupees and two lakhs of rupees will be required to give effect to my proposal in regard to the Manka Canal Scheme. In all, 18 lakhs will be required to improve the means of irrigation in the Dera Ghazi Khan District. And it would not be a great sacrifice for a population of 6 or 7 lakhs of people who are at present starving for the lack of these means of irrigation. I am sure that Government can be generous to that extent and will not grudge to spend the amount for the welfare of a section of its subjects. With these words, I strongly support the resolution.

Shaikh Faiz Muhammad [Dera Ghazi Khan (Muhammadan, Rural), Urdu]: Sir, Dera Ghazi Khan is that part of the Province which is styled by the officers posted to that district, as the penal settlement of the Punjab. Not only the officers but the Government has also come to regard it in the same light because if any officer of the Provincial Service is to be given light punishment, he is transferred and posted to that district. It is a great slur on the administration of the Province and it should be removed at once. The reasons for which this bad name is given to Dera Ghazi Khan District is, in my opinion, that its people.....

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: Is it because its people are bad?

Shaikh Faiz Muhammad: Not that. I had not yet completed my sentence and I was going to say that this bad name has been given to this district because of the poverty of its people. And the cause of this poverty is that means of irrigation in the district are few and far between and those that do exist are ill-managed. Almost all other districts of the Province enjoy the benefits of perennial canals but in Dera Ghazi Khan even inundation canals are not properly managed. As was pointed out by my honourable friend on my left this district has hills on one side and the river on the other side. The hill torrents as well as river floods do a great deal of damage to the lands in that district. If some scheme is worked and adopted in order to accumulate this water to be used throughout the year for irrigation purposes, these disadvantages of the district can be turned into blessings. There have been more than one irrigation scheme under the consideration of the Government for a long time, but the Government has taken an unconscionably long time in coming to a final decision with regard to any one of them. The Manka Scheme is one of them to which reference has already been made by the previous speakers. This scheme was initiated as far back as 1910 or 1911 when the old town was destroyed by the action of the river and a new town had been built on the present site selected by the Government. The people were not then willing to settle here as there were no irrigation facilities near at hand. But they were persuaded and a promise was held out to them by the then Lieutenant-Governor, Sir Louis Dane, that by the adoption of the Manka Scheme arrangements will be made to give permanent irrigation to the district. The scheme has been under consideration since 1910 and so far we have not been given any indication as to when it is going to be given practical shape. The people are now tired of waiting and they are vacating the town. It is time that Government should fulfil its promise and avoid in time the general stampede out of the town.

[Shaikh Faiz Muhammad.]

The other scheme for the improvement of the irrigation system in the Dera Ghazi Khan district is the Sanghar Hill Torrent Scheme. That also shares the same fate. It is likewise a useful scheme. If adopted, the water that comes down the hills in deluge and destroys whatever comes in its way, can be utilised for purposes of irrigation. Now only a few private persons make use of some of this water by diverting its flow to their fields with the help of dams. The rest of the water flows uselessly into the river. The abundance of this water is so great that it can irrigate the whole of the area in the Sanghar tahsil and some parts of the Dera Ghazi Khan tahsil to boot. But in spite of the admitted usefulness of this scheme, nothing serious appears to have been done to give effect to it. At best Deputy Commissioner of the district has been asked from time to time to make a report about it, who has in turn invariably asked the tahsildar to submit the report. But the hands of the tahsildar are already full and he gets no time beyond his duties to attend to this matter. I think a separate sub-division should be created which should be entrusted with the detailed survey and which should be asked to select a place for constructing a reservoir in the bed of the river to collect the whole water flowing down the hills.

The resolution as worded is very wide in its scope and the honourable mover does not appear to be wedded to any particular scheme. His object is only this, that the irrigation of the Dera Ghazi Khan be improved any way. There are other smaller schemes which can be adopted to improve irrigation. At present there is hardly any *nala* which has a pacca head. In times of floods the water, which the heads cannot contain, is intentionally spread over a large area and when the people raise a hue and cry against it, they are silenced with the remark that it is to spread silt over their lands that the water has been let loose. You can guess how a petty zamindar can afford to wait for a year or two for the sake of this silt in the face of the danger of starvation. They do not want this silt. Let the Government give it to them who may ask for it. Last though not the least is question of the extension of Gajani Wah which the Government ought to take into consideration. If it is extended further south and joined with Gaddi minor, it can irrigate another large area which is, at present lying waste there. I hope the Government will seriously consider all these schemes and see that the bad name given to Dera Ghazi Khan district is no longer justified. With these words I support the resolution.

Mr. J. B. G. Smith (Chief Engineer).: Sir, everybody knows that Dera Ghazi Khan is an unfortunate district. It is nothing new in this world that some countries or some tracts are more favoured than others. This district presents extreme difficulties. The mover has asked for an expenditure of 20 lakhs. I was rather interested to ascertain how the figure of 20 lakhs was made up, and I got a clue in the speech from the last member or it may be the speaker before, in which he said that the Manka Scheme, which is one of the schemes would cost 16 lakhs and the Trunk Canal Scheme would cost 2 lakhs. Now, it may be possible to construct a scheme such as that called the Manka Scheme for 16 lakhs, but it would not work. To get that scheme to work at all you would want probably double that amount, if not more. The scheme as has been formulated and sent up has suggested that the power to be derived should be

obtained by turbines at the upper fall of the reach where they propose to get their hydro-electric power. That is impossible to contemplate. You have got to get the power by excavating from the lower fall up to the upper fall. In this estimate of 16 lakhs no allowance has been made for that. I will just try and get you to visualise what this Manka Scheme means. The idea is supposed to be this. That as the supplies in the canal fall in the month of September or early October the turbines will be started up and they will supply power to the pumps to lift something like 1,200 or 1,500 cusecs many miles away and as the water continues to flow in the canal it will continue to supply the necessary power for lifting water at the pumps into the canal. As was noted before by a layman it seems very nice but it sounds too much like perpetual motion to be practical. This is exactly what it means. Apart however from that idea of perpetual motion consider what would happen if at the time of your supply some sort of failure takes place. How then are you going to get your power? You must have a stand by to create it to start with. No estimate was made what that stand-by would cost. The honourable mover in talking about pumping seemed to imply that it is a very easy matter and that pumping may be resorted to as easily as it has been done in most successful schemes on the Lower Bari Doab by the late Sir Ganga Ram. On the Lower Bari Doab, it is true, water was three or four feet below ground surface but the point of delivery of that water never varied. It was brought to the pumps through the main canal and through the distributary. The pump house was erected at a certain site and the water was brought to that pump house constantly. There was no possibility of that water leaving that site. I would ask you to think, is that possible in the case of a river like the Indus. The honourable mover has only got to go to the river Ravi near which his own land is situated. There a pumping scheme was started, and it was found that it was so very expensive to work that the scheme was dropped entirely and Government gave kharif irrigation from the Lower Bari Doab Canal to the area instead. Everybody knows that a river does not maintain one position. It moves about practically at will. For this Manka canal the heads from the river have been located in many places, I think I am right in saying, over a distance of 7 or 8 miles. What are you going to do with your pumps there? How are you going to get water to the pumps? All sorts of fantastic schemes have been proposed and even estimated. As I have said, the estimate is far below what it should be, but even supposing we have got a correct estimate, can we go to Government and recommend that the proposal is a thoroughly sound one and that it will not be a mere matter of dropping so many lakhs in the Indus river? In discussing this scheme the other day with an Engineer whose reputation is pretty good in the Punjab, he described it as a "dream." That is all I have to say on the Manka Scheme so far.

Another scheme which has been suggested is called the Trunk Canal Scheme. That would be a wholesale departure from all the existing and known methods of inundation canal irrigation. Those methods are well known to all of us. The heads of the inundation canals are brought to where the river strikes against the bank at the side which the canals irrigate. Sometimes they are moved up and sometimes down to meet this condition. The proposal of a trunk canal was formulated to us last year and the idea was

[Mr. Smith.]

to have an embankment, the borrow pits for which was to supply the canal which would carry water down to where the inundation canals at present exist. They were to be fed by regulators. The estimate for the scheme is given as two lakhs of rupees. That trunk canal—it did not get to the state of a project, but was only a proposal—was intended to run from a place called Kala to Jaunpur—I do not know whether the name is right—a length of a hundred miles. Practically all the inundation canals which are fed by various creeks from the river to this length of 100 miles were to be replaced by this trunk canal. And the grotesque figure of two lakhs was given. Quite apart from the fact that the cost of such a scheme would be something in the neighbourhood of 100 lakhs it is an entirely new departure from the existing practice of inundation canals. That scheme is being very carefully considered by the local Superintending Engineer and there are one or two canal reaches in which he is trying it. He is naturally awaiting the results of that trial before he can make any recommendation to Government as to whether the scheme is sufficiently practicable to allow it reaching the project stage.

Another scheme put forward for alleviating the conditions of Dera Ghazi Khan was to store the water of the hill torrents that run through the tract and utilise it. I have found one or two responsible persons favouring such a scheme and it would be interesting to know how they propose carrying it out. Of course nothing is impossible and it might be possible in this instance also to execute it but certainly not with any expense which might be considered reasonable. As you know, foundations could be laid anywhere, on sand or on rock, it all depends upon what you are prepared to spend on it. So is it with dams. You can make an attempt to raise a dam anywhere whether across a hill torrent or elsewhere. But you do not know what it is going to cost. I was hoping to get some constructive suggestion or help from the members who spoke on this. The only indication of how it could be done has been stated in these terms—

"*Kisi tarah se*" or "*kisi munasib tariqa se*"

This "*munasib tariqa*" is exactly what we want to know.

Sayad Muhammad Husain: The engineers know that. It is not for laymen. The engineers are paid for carrying out that work.

Mr. Smith: So far as we have been able to examine, it is not simply a matter of asking the Deputy Commissioner to put up a scheme or the tahsildar to do it as has been mentioned, nor is it even a matter for a Sub-Divisional Officer to work up. It is a problem which presents the greatest difficulty. I have not myself seen that particular tract but I have seen the Jawalpur tract. I know what difficulties there are in trying to control the hill torrents that come across that tract, and if my information is right the torrents in the Dera Ghazi Khan area are worse than those in this tract.

In conclusion, I wish to inform the House that not only have we tried a small experiment to see whether the idea of a trunk canal could be worked, but we have gone back into past history to see whether any such scheme was proposed before. We found that in 1871 a canal such as that proposed at present was proposed but not at the place where now suggested but very much higher up on the highlands. You probably know that the Dipalpur

canal which takes out at Firozepur was aligned somewhere rather close to the river bank and the engineers on closer examination found it necessary to shift the alignment by some miles before they could construct the canal. In a similar way, suppose you have a trunk canal constructed for a length of 100 miles carrying large volumes of water to where you at present suggest. Consider what will happen if the river does not keep its present position but cuts into that trunk canal. How are the supplies then to be met?

It is not an easy problem and our officers are quite correct in trying to satisfy themselves first before they try to satisfy Government that the scheme is practicable.

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain (Revenue Member): Sir, the resolution in itself cannot, I very much regret, command my support for the reasons that have been given by my expert adviser. After all it is a serious matter, the matter of irrigation. Three schemes have been mentioned, two of the Irrigation Department and one of the hill torrent, all of which are matters on which it would be a great mistake on my part to exercise my own judgment or permit myself to be influenced by the views of others however keenly interested in the schemes but, like myself, laymen. Both the schemes the Manka one and the Trunk Canal attracted our late Governor, Sir Malcolm Hailey, a great deal, and if his magnetic personality did not succeed in making those schemes technically sound and was not able to elicit a favourable verdict from our Chief Engineers, you may depend upon it, there is something substantially weak and wrong in the schemes. Our local officers, the Superintending Engineers and the Chief Engineer had everything to gain and nothing to lose by espousing the cause of these schemes. Firstly, because it is a victory of the skill of the engineer who works out such a big scheme, against the powers of nature as it were, and brings him credit for having increased the prosperity of a large area, in particular when that area happens to be a very backward one. As a matter of fact, the Manka scheme is an extremely attractive one on the financial side were it sound on the technical side. What I mean is that it promises a return of 15, 16 and sometimes it was stated even 20 per cent. The instructions given by Sir Malcolm Hailey and by myself as well, were that even if the return is much below this, the Government would like the schemes to be explored and worked out. Therefore I have no doubt that the Council will realise that if these two schemes have not been taken up, in the sense of being adopted as good schemes, it is solely for the reason that technically they were not found suitable for adoption. Government is most anxious to do all it can to help Dera Ghazi Khan. Money could be invested by Government on them, not necessarily treating them as being remunerative schemes but as protective schemes. And with these points in favour of the schemes being worked out, if they did not mature, it can only be due to one reason and one only, and that is that they are not pronounced by our technical advisers to be sound. (*Interruption*: Have you tried to re-examine them?) I assure my honourable friend that as soon as I took up office in 1926, I requested the Chief Engineer to go into them very carefully. That was done. The result was unfavourable. In 1927 again it was represented to me that enough had not been done. Again a reference back was made and again when H. E. the Governor went on tour, that was in 1928 probably,

[Hon'ble Sir Fazl-i-Husain.]

he specially requested the technical department to see if something could not be done, and invariably there was this opinion given not by one Chief Engineer but by more than one. Surely, surely you must disabuse your mind of the idea that the technical department does not want to adopt these schemes although they are good. Where is the sense in that assumption, I ask? Again a month ago on my return from Dera Ghazi Khan I looked up the papers and again I asked: Isn't there the slightest hope of doing something in the matter? I found that in the meantime during the second half of 1928 another Superintending Engineer hailing from a different part of the Province was given all the papers of the Executive Engineer and of the Superintending Engineer and also other papers from the Secretariat, and his advice was again not in favour of the scheme. It all comes to this. I am myself a layman and these things are very difficult to understand for me, but what they told me about the Trunk Canal Scheme when trying to make me understand it was this. If you have a certain number of eggs to carry over a very difficult country, stony, dangerous and so forth, would you like to carry them all in one basket or in many baskets? Would it be safe to put them all in one basket and take the risk of taking them all safe or none at all or in half a dozen baskets where some may reach safe and others may not. It struck me as a layman that if I were wise I would choose many baskets and not to risk them all by putting them in the same basket. Government cannot be expected to take such risks especially where the financial interests are so very considerable. The Indus is a proverbially fickle-minded river, a *zuberdust* (self-willed) sort of river and to say that it will stick to its course, and to go ahead with that hope is to take a very heavy risk. And all my technical advisers assure me that they cannot feel justified in voting for this scheme. Therefore, great as is my sympathy for Dera Ghazi Khan and its people, keen as the desire of the Government is to help them where it could, and as a matter of fact, it has helped them, it cannot commit itself to a scheme against the advice, the strong advice, the unanimous advice of its technical advisers. I daresay that no member of this House with reference to any of his own schemes, mechanical or structural, will ever do that. Therefore I assure the House that although we are anxious to help Dera Ghazi Khan and are anxious to explore all possible schemes Government having requested its local officers and its senior officers at the head-quarters that such schemes should be explored—it is really too much on the part of the Council to say that the matter is left in the hands of either a tahsildar or perhaps an overseer. It is not. Our records show what an amount of time, energy and thinking has been devoted to the consideration of these schemes, the preparation of various schemes and finding them unsuccessful, going back with smiling face to try others.

The observation was made by a speaker that Dera Ghazi Khan has always been a sort of backwater, a sort of Andamans in the Punjab. I assure you that this has never been the feeling on the part of Government. I recollect very well, Sir, my first Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals when I was a Minister, assured me that as a civil surgeon of all the places at which he had served, he loved Dera Ghazi Khan best. And remembering that he had spent so many years in the Punjab before

reaching the position of Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals..... (*Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram*: I referred to the Provincial Service men). I understand, Sir, that the climate of Dera Ghazi Khan and its poverty are congenial to the members of the Imperial Service but fail to satisfy the members of the Provincial Service. Does the honourable member intend to pay this compliment to the patriotism of the people of the province as against those coming from outside. No: I am sure he does not. As a matter of fact, it would never do to say that in the case of this gentleman—I mean General MacWatt who was the Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals in those days—these difficulties did not exist. It is a suggestion which I cannot quite follow. Therefore, Sir, it is not right that such a slur should be cast on Dera Ghazi Khan. The climatic conditions there are in fact much better than those of many other districts and as for the people, I have not the slightest doubt that members of various services would prefer to serve in a district like Dera Ghazi Khan where people are so hospitable, give so little trouble and there is very little of that troublesome thing called agitation, and I am reminded, there are no mosquitoes. It is not right to say therefore that it is a bad place to go to. As a matter of fact, I myself was more than once advised for the sake of health that Dera Ghazi Khan would be the best place to go to. Everything said and done, I think it is receiving the utmost consideration on the part of the Government. And Government is anxious to consider favourably any scheme that its technical officers consider good. And one thing that is needed is to make clear to the Council to what extent various officers who have served there have had the best interest of the place close to their heart. It was said that no one liked to stay there for a long time. I may tell you, Sir, that there is an honourable member present here in this Council who stayed there for more than 14 or 15 years, and if Government did not need his presence elsewhere he might have preferred to finish his service there, I refer to our Revenue Secretary, Mr. Wilson. Is it the suggestion that Mr. Wilson was sent to Dera Ghazi Khan as a punishment? If one looks to his personal reports there would be absolutely no justification for that suggestion. He was sent there because he was best suited for the work there and he stayed there for 14 or 15 years because he liked the place remarkably well and did a great deal of excellent work there. Having assured the honourable member, so far as non-technical points are concerned, that he has the best sympathy of the Government expressed in no uncertain terms by me on behalf of Government, having been assured by the Chief Engineer who just spoke before me that the three particular schemes that have been talked about are weak on technical and not financial grounds, and the defects are such that the technical department has not been in a position to recommend them for being adopted, there remains but only one point and that is in regard to the Sangla Hill torrent scheme of which I have heard a great deal but know next to nothing. Mr. Wilson who has been there for a long time will be able to tell the Council all about it—what has been done by him, what has been attempted by officers before him and what possibly could be done in the future, if he is permitted to speak.

6-0 P.M.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram [Multan Division (Non-Muhammadan), Rural] (Urdu): Sir, with reference to the Chief Engineer's speech I say

[R. B. Lala Sewak Ram.]

that the scheme is not for 1,500 cusecs as described by the Chief Engineer, but it is for 8,600 cusecs only. Secondly the schemes put forward does not wholly depend for current upon perpetual motion as described by the honourable member. It will be supplemented by oil engines also. Then the Chief Engineer states that the ground level between the upper and the lower falls will require great excavation works for producing current. But, Sir, in reality the bed level below the upper fall is very deep and does not require much excavation for the above-mentioned purpose. Again Sir, the Trunk Canal would be between Kola and Shero a distance of some forty miles. Hence it will involve not a very great expenditure. Colonel Battye, who is an expert is in favour of the scheme and can be referred to. Sir, so far as I can see the Chief Engineer's statement appears to be inconsistent and is not a satisfactory answer to our demand. The Honourable the Revenue Member has tried to meet our demand by laughing at its absurdity. Such vague answers can in no way satisfy us. The Government if it wants really to satisfy us should invite the opinions of experts on the matter in hand and try to meet our demand whether by incurring an expenditure of twenty lakhs or forty lakhs. We have no concern with that.

Sir, it is also advanced against the resolution that as the river is very fickle and changes its course every now and then, the pumping scheme can prove no more than a failure. There are many schemes by which the river can be brought under control. When once it is permanently controlled there will remain little possibility of waters leaving the site from where it is to be carried to the pumping station. With these remarks, Sir, I request the House and the Government to favourably consider the resolution.

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain (Revenue Member) (Urdu): Sir, the matter which is now before the House has reached a stage when expression of sympathy is not needed, and when it is altogether unnecessary to say whether the proposal is sound or unsound. Now another serious question has been raised and it is whether my officials are capable to deal with the various schemes for the improvement of irrigation in the Dera Ghazi Khan District. I must defend my officers. *(Interruption).* Sir, I have already assured the House that I am prepared to consider all the proposals whether of the past, present or future with regard to Dera Ghazi Khan, carefully and sympathetically and more favourably, but the use of language derogatory to my officers here in the House is in no way justified, and will not be tolerated.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram: Are you going to look through the scheme once again?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: No, not unless they are supported by our technical advisers. I am not going to get rid of them. If the honourable mover is not withdrawing his resolution, I shall, with your permission, continue.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram: I beg leave to withdraw, Sir.

Mr. President: Is the withdrawal conditional or absolute?

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram: Absolute, Sir.

The resolution was by leave withdrawn.

The Council then adjourned till 2 P. M. on Wednesday, the 27th February, 1929.

301 PLC—620—16-3-29—SGPP Lahore.

PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

3RD SESSION OF THE 3RD PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Wednesday, the 27th February, 1929.

THE Council met at the Council Chamber at two of the Clock. Mr. President in the Chair.

OATH OF OFFICE.

The following member was sworn in :—

Mr. D. Milne (Official, nominated).

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

CUTTING OF A PIPAL TREE IN DAIRA DIN PANNAH.

*1781. **Lala Bodh Raj :** With reference to the answer to question Nos. 1150[1] and 1165[2] asked on 8th March, 1928, will the Honourable Finance Member please state whether the enquiries have been completed and if so, with what results ?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow : The honourable member is referred to the full reply to the questions forwarded to the Secretary of the Legislative Council for communication to him on 5th July, 1928.

DISPUTE *RE tharra* IN DAIRA DIN PANNAH.

*1782. **Lala Bodh Raj :** With reference to questions Nos. 986[3] and 1299[4] asked on 1st March, 1928 and 5th May, 1928, respectively, will the Honourable Finance Member please state whether the enquiries have been completed and if so, with what results ?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow : The honourable member is referred to the full reply to the questions forwarded to the Secretary of the Legislative Council for communication to him on 5th July, 1928.

JINSI BATAI.

*1783. **Lala Bodh Raj :** With reference to the answer to question No. 1292[5] asked on 5th May, 1928, will the Honourable Member for Revenue please state if the decision of the Government of India on the subject of the reference has since been received ? If so, the copy of the said decision may be laid on the table.

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : Yes, and as a result of the decision *jinsi batai* has been abolished in the Dera Ghazi Khan district. The fact was announced to the Council by His Excellency the Governor in his address on the 26th November, 1928[6].

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[1] Volume XI, page 501.
[2] Volume XI, page 508.
[3] Volume XI, page 229.
[4] Volume XI, page 879.
[5] Volume XI, page 877.
[6] Pages 4-5 *ante*.

STRICTURES BY THE HIGH COURT AGAINST THE DISTRICT MAGISTRATE, SARGODHA.

*1784. **Lala Bodh Raj:** Will the Honourable Finance Member please state if the District Magistrate referred to in the judgment mentioned in question No. 1067[1] asked on the 3rd March, 1928, has, since the date of the judgment of the High Court, got any increment in his pay? If so, how much?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow: The officer referred to has received the increment of Rs. 100 to which he was entitled on the senior time-scale of pay of the Indian Civil Service.

Lala Bodh Raj: Was the officer given any punishment in view of the remarks made in the judgment of the High Court?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow: I do not think this arises out of the original question.

MAGASSAN AND MAGGI CANALS IN MUZAFFARGARH.

*1785. **Lala Bodh Raj:** Will the Honourable Member for Revenue please state—

(a) whether he is aware of the fact that the proprietors of lands irrigated by Magassan and Maggi canals in Muzaffargarh have got the complaints that they do not get enough water under the present arrangements to cultivate their lands;

(b) if it is a fact that a special Sub-Divisional Officer was deputed to enquire into the causes of their complaints? If so, has he made any report on the subject under reference?

(c) what steps have been taken to remove their grievances;

(d) if it is a fact that formerly both the canals were running when the water in the river was only 10 feet deep, while now they do not run even when the water is 19 feet deep? If so, what are the reasons?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: (a) The present allowance of water on the Magassan and the Maggi is very liberal, *i.e.*, 17·9 cusecs per thousand acres of culturable commanded area as compared with 8·25 cusecs on perennial canals. This liberal allowance has resulted in waterlogging the area round Sanawan.

(b) & (c) In order to prepare a project for improving the canals in Muzaffargarh district, in accordance with the recommendation of Mr. Anderson's Committee, a special sub-division was formed in November 1927. The cost of the work has been estimated as 9 lakhs and is under the consideration of the Government. Estimates amounting to 8·9 lakhs for improving the Kot Sultan and Magassan system have been included in the list of new works for the year 1929-30 for the approval of the Council.

(d) It is not a fact. The canals are entirely dependent on the rise of the Indus and are designed to commence running at normal mid-May levels obtaining on the Attock gauge. The duration of flow is entirely dependent on the levels of the river which is not within the control of the Irrigation Branch.

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[1] Volume XI, page 349.

COLONY LANDS ON CATTLE-BREEDING TERMS.

*1786. **Lala Bodh Raj:** Will the Honourable Member for Revenue please state—

(a) if it is a fact that the rules provided that colony lands given on cattle-breeding terms could be inherited only by the eldest son;

(b) if there is any proposal under consideration to amend the rules so as to permit all the sons to inherit equally?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain:

(a) No.

(b) No.

GRANT OF LAND TO 'OD' COMMUNITY.

*1787. **Lala Bodh Raj:** Will the Honourable Member for Revenue please state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the 'Od' community by themselves or through the Secretary, Bhagirath Sabha, Pirowal, in Khanewal tahsil, have made representations to the Government for the grant of land;

(b) if it is a fact that majority of them have been classed as members of agricultural tribe;

(c) what action has been taken on their representation?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: (a) Yes.

(b) No.

(c) Considered and held no action called for, but they should look to earthwork on canals as a suitable profession.

CLASSIFICATION OF MAHTAMS AS AGRICULTURAL TRIBES.

*1788. **Lala Bodh Raj:** Will the Honourable Member for Revenue please state—

(a) whether it is a fact that Mahtams in Muzaffargarh district have not been classed as members of an agricultural tribe, while they have been done so in some other districts of the province;

(b) if it is a fact that their only occupation is agriculture;

(c) what was the area of land owned by them in Muzaffargarh district at the time of passing of the Punjab Alienation of Land Act of 1900 and what is the area now left with them;

(d) what are the reasons for treating the Mahtams of Muzaffargarh district differently from those of other districts?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: (a) Yes;

(b) No;

(c) The information asked for is not available and the labour involved in collecting it would be very great;

(d) Agriculture is not their only occupation; they are well known as fishermen, and also follow other occupations as labour, rope making, private service.

Lala Bodh Raj : Is it a fact that in other districts Mahtams have been described as agricultural tribes ?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : Quite possible.

MULTAN MUNICIPALITY AND LOCAL OPTION ACT.

*1789. **Lala Bodh Raj :** (*i*) Will the Honourable Minister for Agriculture please state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that in January 1925 the Government declared that the municipality of Multan from 8th January, 1925 may exercise the powers conferred by sections 4, 5 and 8 of the Local Option Act of 1923 ;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that the committee adopted rules reducing the number of retail liquor shops and the hours of sale and submitted them to the Deputy Commissioner for enforcement ?

(*ii*) If so, why are the said rules not being put into force and when they may be expected to be promulgated ?

(*iii*) Will the Honourable Member please lay a copy of the said rules on the table ?

The Honourable Sardar Jogendra Singh : (*i*) (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Yes.

(*ii*) It appears from the end of paragraph 34 of the Provincial Excise Report for 1925-26 that the Municipal Committee reconsidered the rules on the advice of the Deputy Commissioner who pointed out that there were complaints of the unlicensed sale of spirit in the city by the vendors of soda water and *pan*. I am going to make further enquiries.

(*iii*) A copy of the rules has been laid on the table.

RULES.

(*i*) There should be only one wholesale shop and one retail shop of country liquor.

(*ii*) The site for these shops should be Basti Pareran near the Tibba, the shops being situated somewhere between the Kotwali outside Lahori Gate and the Tibba.

(*iii*) Hours of sale to be only seven hours a day—

(*a*) Winter	12 A.M. to 7 P.M.
(*b*) Summer	1 P.M. to 7 P.M.

(*iv*) The minimum age of person to whom country wine may be sold should be 18 years.

OCTROI DUTY ON VEGETABLE OIL.

*1790. **Lala Bodh Raj :** Will the Honourable Minister for Local Self-Government please state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that Multan municipality passed a resolution imposing about Rs. 40 a maund as octroi duty on the import of vegetable oil within its limits ;

(*b*) whether that resolution has been brought into force ? If not, what are the reasons for not enforcing it ?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : (*a*) The revised terminal tax schedule submitted to Government by the municipal committee of Multan contains a proposal to impose a terminal tax at the rate of Rs. 40 per maund on vegetable *ghi*.

(*b*) The terminal tax schedule is still under consideration.

The whole question of dealing with the trade in vegetable oils intended as substitutes for *ghi* is receiving the earnest consideration of Government. Government are considering proposals for penalising the adulteration of *ghi*, the sale of any article under the name of *ghi* that is not genuine *ghi* and the sale of vegetable oils on the same premises as *ghi*. Government are taking steps to examine the law in force in European countries to regulate the sale of substitutes for butter with a view to discovering what further steps are possible to deal with the matter.

Lala Bodh Raj : Is it a fact that the matter has been under consideration for more than six years ?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : I am afraid I cannot answer the honourable member without looking into the files.

Lala Bodh Raj : How long will the Government take to arrive at a decision in the matter ?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : No longer than is necessary. (*Laughter*).

Lala Bodh Raj : Have the Government any idea of the time ?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : I cannot answer the question without referring to the papers on the subject.

POLITICAL PRISONERS.

*1791. **Chaudhri Afzal Haq :** Will the Honourable Finance Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that in the budget session of the last year the Honourable the Finance Member promised to consider the question of treating all political convicts as special class prisoners ;

(*b*) if so, what steps have so far been taken to redeem the promise ?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow : (*a*) No. The honourable member's attention is invited to pages 632, 633 and 635, Volume XI, No. 18, Legislative Council Debates.

(*b*) Does not arise.

MARTIAL LAW PRISONERS.

*1792. **Chaudhri Afzal Haq :** Will the Honourable Finance Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) the names of Martial Law prisoners serving their terms in the Punjab jails ;

(*b*) whether Government has received information that some of them are in a precarious state of health ; and

[Chaudhri Afzal Haq.]

(c) the names of those infirm Martial Law prisoners whose release had been recommended by the medical officer on the ground of health ?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow: (a) A statement containing the names of Martial Law prisoners serving their terms in the Punjab jails is laid on the table.

(b) No.

(c) Does not arise.

Statement containing the names of Martial Law prisoners serving their terms in the Punjab jails.

(1) Kanhaya, son of Ruldor.

(2) Kahna, son of Gaman.

(3) Gardhari Lal, son of Moti Ram.

(4) Nizam Din *alias* Dado, son of Kamal.

(5) Buga Mal, son of Pana Mal.

(6) Saudagar Singh, son of Kala Singh.

(7) Ganda Singh, son of Atma Singh.

(8) Amar Singh, son of Lachman Das.

(9) Walaiti, son of Daulat Ram.

(10) Ratan Chand *alias* Ratto, Mahasha, son of Sita Ram.

(11) Sadiq, son of Ibrahim.

(12) Sandhi, son of Hussain Bux.

POLITICAL PRISONERS.

***1793. Chaudhri Afzal Haq:** Will the Honourable Finance Member be pleased to state—

(a) the names of all the political prisoners who are now serving their terms in jails of other provinces ;

(b) the date of their release ; and

(c) whether the Government have received any information as to their health in the year 1928 ?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow: (a) & (b) Attention of the honourable member is invited to the reply given to his question No. *1868[1] on 8th May, 1928. Prisoners mentioned at Nos. 11, 16 and 27 of the statement in question have however since been released and those mentioned at Nos. 5, 9, 10 and 13 have since been brought back to the Punjab.

Certain Martial Law prisoners convicted under section 121, Indian Penal Code, are also at present undergoing their sentences in the Andamans. A statement in regard to these and one other prisoner is laid on the table.

(c) Government do not receive any annual reports on the health of these prisoners. If any one of them falls seriously ill, his case is reported by the authorities of the Jail in which he is confined.

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[1] Vol. XI, page 990.

STATEMENT OF MARTIAL LAW PRISONERS AT PRESENT UNDERGOING THEIR SENTENCES AT PORT BLAIR.

1	2	3	4	5	6
Serial No.	Name, with father's name.	Offence for which sentenced and date of conviction.	Term of imprisonment.	Probable date of release.	REMARKS.
1	Jalal Din, son of Sawan ..	121, I. P. C.; 4th June, 1919 ..	Transportation for life ..	1st January, 1938.	
2	Karam Chand, son of Fateh Chand ..	121, I. P. C.; 2nd June, 1919 ..	Ditto ..	13th January, 1938.	
3	Manohar Singh, son of Lehna Singh	Ditto ..	Ditto ..	5th January, 1938.	
4	Raja Ram, son of Ganga Ram ..	121, I. P. C.; 17th June, 1919 ..	Ditto ..	14th January, 1938.	
5	Jai Ram Singh, son of Atma Singh ..	121, I. P. C.; 18th June, 1919 ..	Ditto ..	4th February, 1938.	
6	Allah Din, son of Dusandi ..	121, I. P. C.; 28th May, 1919 ..	Ditto ..	17th December, 1937.	
7	Muhammadi, son of Aziz ..	121, I. P. C.; 2nd June, 1919 ..	Ditto ..	11th December, 1937.	
8	Nadir Ali Shah, son of Qaim Ali ..	121, I. P. C.; 28th May, 1919 ..	Ditto ..	8th December, 1937.	
9	Dina, son of Wazira ..	121, I. P. C.; 4th June, 1919 ..	Ditto ..	15th December, 1937.	
10	Harnam Singh, son of Jiwan Singh ..	307, I. P. C.; 26th May, 1919; 121, I. P. C.; 17th June, 1919.	Transportation for life and seven years' rigorous imprisonment to run concurrently.	16th August 1934.	
11	Sarwar, son of Muhammad Bakhsh	121, I. P. C.; 17th June, 1919 ..	Transportation for life ..	17th October, 1937.	

NOTE.—Prisoner Mota Singh, son of Gopal Singh, who was convicted under section 124-A/153, Indian Penal Code, on 11th August, 1922, is serving his sentence in Burma and his probable date of release is about 20th August 1929.

Lala Bodh Raj: Has the case of any of these political prisoners been reported to the Government?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow: I should like to have notice of the question. I do not like to give inaccurate information.

POLICE OFFICERS.

***1794. Chaudhri Afzal Haq:** Will the Honourable Finance Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) the names of those police officers in each district against whose conduct judicial officers made adverse remarks in their judgments in 1927-28,

(*b*) what departmental action has been taken on those remarks?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow: The information asked for is being collected and will be communicated to the honourable member when ready.

MAL-TREATMENT OF PRISONERS BY POLICE OFFICERS.

***1795. Chaudhri Afzal Haq:** Will the Honourable Finance Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of prisoners or under-trials in Amritsar jail who complained of mal-treatment by Police officers in the year 1928;

(*b*) whether any injuries have been recorded by medical officers of that jail; and

(*c*) whether any action was taken by district police officer on that complaint?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow: (*a*) One under-trial prisoner complained of mal-treatment by the Police.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) On the recommendation of the Superintendent of Police the District Magistrate ordered a magisterial enquiry by a 1st class magistrate. The complainant in the meantime filed a complaint in the court of an Honorary Magistrate of the 1st class. As the case was *sub judice*, the magisterial enquiry was dropped. The complaint was eventually dismissed by the court, as the allegations could not be substantiated.

EUROPEAN POLICE SUPERINTENDENTS.

***1796. Chaudhri Afzal Haq:** Will the Honourable Finance Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the Punjab Police Enquiry Committee expressed a doubt as to the integrity of European Police Superintendents;

(*b*) whether those remarks have been brought to the notice of the Secretary of State; and

(*c*) if so, with what effect?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow : (*a*) If the honourable member alludes to the Committee on corruption in the public services, he is referred to their report, paragraphs 12 and 17.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) The honourable member is referred to the reply to his question No. 1384*[1].

KHWAJA GHULAM MUHAMMAD, SECRETARY, LAHORE KHILAFAT COMMITTEE.

*1797. **Chaudhri Afzal Haq :** Will the Honourable Finance Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that Khwaja Ghulam Muhammad, Secretary, Lahore Khilafat Committee, submitted an application for the grant of a passport for Hedjaz in the month of November 1928;

(*b*) if it is a fact that no reply has so far been given to the said applicant; and

(*c*) the reason for so much delay in not intimating the said applicant as to the result of his application?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) A reply has been sent.

(*c*) There was some delay in the Passport Branch, and the individual at fault has been dealt with.

Lala Bodh Raj : May I know the nature of the reply?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow : Here again, I should like to have notice of the question. I cannot give an accurate answer on the spur of the moment.

GRANT OF LAND IN HOSHIARPUR DISTRICT.

*1798. **Chaudhri Afzal Haq :** Will the Honourable Revenue Member be pleased to state the number of squares proposed to be granted community-wise in Hoshiarpur district?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : Four hundred rectangles of land have been proposed for allotment to peasant colonists from Hoshiarpur district.

No proposals have been made for the allotment of these rectangles in any fixed proportions to particular communities.

GRANT OF LAND IN LUDHIANA DISTRICT.

*1799. **Chaudhri Afzal Haq :** Will the Honourable Revenue Member be pleased to state the number of squares proposed to be granted community-wise in Ludhiana district?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : One hundred rectangles of land have been proposed for allotment to colonists from Ludhiana district.

No proposals have been made for the allotment of these rectangles in any fixed proportions to particular communities.

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[1]Vol. XI, page 1064.

REMUNERATION OF TREASURERS.

*1800. **Lala Bodh Raj:** (*i*) Will the Honourable Finance Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) if there is any proposal for revising the scheme of remuneration of the treasurers of the Punjab;

(*b*) if it is a fact that representations have been made from time to time by the treasurers that the contracts entered into by the Government with them with effect from 1st April, 1920 are inadequate; if so, what action has been taken on those representations?

(*ii*) Will the Honourable Member please lay on the table a statement showing the details of the existing and proposed contract money on account of the treasurers establishment according to districts in Multan division?

(*iii*) When are the new proposals for the revision of the present system of remuneration of the treasurers to be carried into effect?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow: (*i*) (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Yes. A scheme was prepared by Government, but in view of the existing financial situation the Standing Finance Committee did not recommend its inclusion in the budget for 1929-30.

(*ii*) As the scheme has not yet been finally sanctioned, Government does not think it desirable to disclose its proposals.

(*iii*) The scheme will be laid before the Standing Finance Committee again when the financial situation improves.

DISCOUNT ON SALES OF JUDICIAL AND NON-JUDICIAL STAMPS.

*1801. **Lala Bodh Raj:** Will the Honourable Finance Member please state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that under the present system of remunerating the treasurers they are allowed to draw discount on sales of judicial and non-judicial stamps;

(*b*) if there is any proposal to appoint the official vendors direct for the sale of stamps;

(*c*) if the reply to (*b*) be in the affirmative, how the Government intends to compensate the treasurers for the loss of discount on sales of stamps already allowed to them?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow: (*a*) Under the existing rules treasurers, being *ex-officio* vendors, are not allowed any discount on the sale of stamps supplied to them for custody and sale. If, however, they are specially licensed by the Collector of the district (as is permissible under the rules) to sell judicial and non-judicial stamps of and below Rs. 75 in value, they are allowed discount on the same scale as is allowed to other stamp-vendors of the district.

(*b*) No.

(*c*) Does not arise.

CHARGES OF COPYISTS.

*1802. **Lala Bodh Raj:** (*i*) Will the Honourable Finance Member please state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that representations have been made to the Government by the Honourable Judges of the High Court for reducing the charges of copyists;

(*b*) if so, what action has been taken by Government thereon;

(*c*) what are the reasons for not reducing the charges?

(*ii*) Will the Honourable Member please lay on the table the statement showing the rates of charges of copyists in force in the Punjab, Bombay, United Provinces and in such other provinces in which the rates are lower than those in the Punjab?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow: (*i*) (*a*) A reference has been received from the Honourable Judges of the High Court raising the question whether the charges for copies of judicial documents should not be reduced.

(*b*) & (*c*) The matter is under consideration.

(*ii*) The charges leviable by copyists which are in force in the Punjab are laid on the table. No enquiry has yet been made regarding these charges in other provinces.

The rates in force in the Punjab are—

	English or Roman Urdu.	*Vernacular.*
	Annas.	Annas.
First two hundred words or under ..	12	6
Every additional 100 words or less ..	6	3

SCHOLARSHIPS TO STUDENTS OF VERNACULAR CLASS.

*1803. **Chaudhri Yasin Khan:** Will the Honourable Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state the principle followed by the Sikh Deputy Director of Agriculture at Gurdaspur in the award of scholarships to the students of the vernacular class? Is it a fact that only two went to Muslims who constitute 80 per cent. of population?

The Honourable Sardar Jogendra Singh: Scholarships are not awarded to students of vernacular classes. Six bursaries of the value of Rs. 7 per mensem each are awarded to each class. The award is made to assist the poor students in defraying the cost of messing and is not made on a communal basis. In the case of the present class at Gurdaspur three bursaries were granted to Musselman students and three to non-Muslims.

*1804. Cancelled.

TROUBLE AT SOFTA.

*1805. **Chaudhri Yasin Khan:** Will the Honourable Finance Member please state if it is a fact that the responsible officials in the district of Gurgaon were duly informed of the probable trouble at Softa on the last Id-ul-Zuha, and that even then no magistrate reached the village Softa?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow : For the information required, the honourable member is referred to part I of the report of Mr. E. C. Marten, I.C.S., published as a supplement to the *Punjab Government Gazette*, dated the 6th July, 1928.

A magistrate, the Tahsildar of Palwal, was present at Softa at the time of firing on the 30th May, 1928.

SUB-INSPECTOR OF PALWAL.

***1806. Chaudhri Yasin Khan :** Will the Honourable Finance Member please state—

(*a*) what action has been taken against the Police Sub-Inspectors at Palwal who were responsible for misleading and overawing the Softa lambardars to sign the so-called compromise at Pirthala ;

(*b*) if it is a fact that the first Sub-Inspector of Police, Palwal, a non-Muslim has not so far been transferred from there ;

(*c*) if it is a fact that all the Hindu and other non-Muslims in the Palwal and Ballabgarh tahsils continue to be there still ;

(*d*) how does the Sub-divisional Officer, Palwal, explain his absence at Softa on 30th May, 1928 ?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow : (*a*) The Police Sub-Inspectors at Palwal, a Sikh and a Muhammaan, have been censured for acquiescing in and failing to report the fact that the Softa lambardars had been overawed by the Hindu majority in the panchayat held at Pirthala and had thus been compelled against their wishes and through fear to abandon their intention of sacrificing on the Id.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) The question is not understood.

(*d*) The honourable member is referred to Mr. Marten's report, which was published as a supplement to the Gazette of the 6th July 1928.

PUNITIVE POLICE AT SOFTA.

***1807. Chaudhri Yasin Khan :** Will the Honourable Finance Member please state—

(*a*) if the punitive police at Softa is to be removed in the near future ;

(*b*) if the villagers of Softa have represented to the authorities that in case the punitive police is removed the life and property of the whole village is in danger, because the Hindus of neighbouring villages are prepared to destroy the village ;

(*c*) if so, what action has the Government taken or proposes to take to ensure the safety of the village Softa after the police there is removed ?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow : (*a*), (*b*) & (*c*) The additional (not punitive) Police at Softa is to be removed from the village, but to remain at its present strength at Palwal in order to be near at hand in case of need.

DISTRICT ENGINEERS.

*1808. **Chaudhri Ram Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister for Local Self-Government kindly state whether it is proposed to provincialise the post of District Engineer? If so, what progress has been made in this connection?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : No. The matter was considered on previous occasions, but was not proceeded with as it was felt that the proposal might not be acceptable to district boards.

GRANT OF LAND.

*1809. **Chaudhri Ram Singh :** Will the Honourable Revenue Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of squares of land reserved in the colonies for distribution amongst the people of Kangra district;

(*b*) the price to be charged per square of land and the conditions on which such grants of land will be made;

(*c*) the ways and means of acquiring such grants of land; and

(*d*) the date by which the application for the same should reach the Deputy Commissioner of Kangra district?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : (*a*) Fifty, if the honourable member's enquiry refers to the Nili Bar Colony.

(*b*) Rupees 100 per acre for proprietary rights. The conditions of allotment and the method of payment for proprietary rights will be the same as for other peasant grantees in the Nili Bar Colony.

(*c*) Selection by the Deputy Commissioner, and allotment by the Colonization Officer.

(*d*) No date has been fixed, so far as is known to Government, but it is probable that the Deputy Commissioner has completed his selection.

ADMISSION OF LALA JAI LAL AND LALA CHANNA MAL FOR SUB-JUDGE COMPETITIVE EXAMINATION.

*1810. **Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram :** Will the Chief Secretary please state—

(*a*) whether Lala Jai Lal, B.A., LL.B. of Jhajjar, in the Rohtak district, and Lala Channa Mal, B.A., LL.B. of a village in the Karnal district, are both second division LL. Bs., are both Mahajans or Agarwals and were allowed to sit at the Sub-Judges competitive examination as 'zamindars' under the definition adopted by the High Court;

(*b*) whether the names of either or both of them were specially requisitioned by the High Court;

(*c*) what were the special circumstances, if any, which justified the special requisition referred to in (*b*);

(*d*) whether it is not a fact that both the gentlemen referred to in (*a*) belong to money-lending families and if the families do not follow the profession of money-lending, what is the principal profession which they follow;

[R. S. Chaudhri Chhotu Ram.]

(e) whether the families of the two gentlemen referred to in (a) are assessed to income-tax or have been assessed to income-tax at any time during the past five years, and if so, what is the highest amount in each case assessed as income-tax;

(f) what is the area of land owned by each of the gentlemen referred to in (a) or by their fathers if the fathers are living;

(g) whether the agricultural land owned by Lala Jai Lal and Lala Channa Mal or their fathers is 'self-cultivated' or let out to tenants, and if let out to tenants, what is the highest and lowest cash rent per bigha (*pukhta*) actually payable in respect of the lands of various qualities owned by them;

(h) whether Lala Jai Lal and Lala Channa Mal obtained certificates from the Deputy Commissioners of their respective districts testifying to their possession of the qualifications which enter into the definition of a 'zamindar' as laid down by the High Court:

(i) whether the High Court made any, and if so, what enquiries to satisfy itself as to the claims of Lala Jai Lal and Lala Channa Mal accepted as zamindars;

(j) whether under the rules framed by the High Court, Sub-Judge candidates claiming the status of zamindars are reqtired to obtain a certificate from the Deputy Commissioners of their districts?

Mr. J. G. Beazley: (a) Both Lalas Jai Lal and Channa Mal are LL.Bs. of the 2nd division and Mahajans. One of them was allowed to sit at the examination as "zamindar."

(b) One only.

(c) The matter is entirely in the discretion of the Honourable Judges.

(d), (e), (f), (g) Government does not consider that it would serve any public purpose to give this information.

(h) One only.

(i) This contingency did not arise as neither was selected.

(j) Yes.

PILGRIM TAX AT KURUKSHETRA.

*1811. **Chaudhri Duli Chand:** Will the Honourable Minister for Local Self-Government kindly state—

(a) the annual income for the last five years from the levy of the surcharge of one anna on every Railway ticket issued to or from Kurukshetra and Thanesar city stations in order to keep the place in sanitary condition;

(b) the year from which the levy was imposed; and

(c) whether Government or the District Board of Karnal have any voice in the control of income from this source?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon: (*a*)—

		Rs.	
(*i*) 1924-25	.. ..	3,109	
(*ii*) 1925-26	.. ..	8,568	in which Rs. 8,788 on account of the tax levied on the occasion of the Solar Eclipse Fair of 1926 is included.
(*iii*) 1926-27	.. ..	6,146	
(*iv*) 1927-28	.. ..	4,810	
(*v*) 1-4-28 to 30-1-29	.. ..	19,782	in which Rs. 15,888 on account of the amount levied on the occasion of the Solar Eclipse Fair of 1928 is included.

(*b*) The surcharge has been levied continuously from 1st May, 1924.

(*c*) The fund is administered by the district board in consultation with an Advisory Committee constituted by Government.

MATRICULATION EXAMINATION OF THE PUNJAB UNIVERSITY.

***1812. Chaudhri Duli Chand:** Will the Honourable Minister for Education kindly state—

(*a*) the number of students who appeared at the Matriculation Examination of the Punjab University in 1928; and

(*b*) the percentage of successful candidates?

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal: (*a*) 17,124.

(*b*) 57·1.

MATRICULATION EXAMINATION.

***1813. Chaudhri Duli Chand:** Will the Honourable Minister for Education kindly give an answer to my question No. 658[1] asked on 15th March, 1928 as a reminder to question No. 748[2] asked on 28rd November, 1927?

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal: (*a*) 11,505.

(*b*) (*i*) Government schools, 2,287.

(*ii*) Privately-managed schools, 7,807.

(*c*) (*i*) General percentage of successful candidates from the province as a whole, 55·86.

(2) Percentage division-wise—

Division.	*Government schools.*	*Privately-managed schools.*
Ambala	36·78	58·9
Jullundur	42·42	55·12
Lahore	57·88	58·36
Multan	66·51	58·08
Rawalpindi	58·45	59·57

[1] Vol. XI, page 800. [2] Vol. X-B, page 1272.

HONORARY MAGISTRATES AT KAITHAL.

*1814. **Chaudhri Duli Chand:** Will the Honourable Member for Finance kindly state—

(a) whether the question of increase in the present number of honorary magistrates at Kaithal sub-division in the district of Karnal is under consideration; and

(b) if so, when the orders of the Government in the matter may be expected?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow: (a) and (b) The question of increasing the number of honorary magistrates in Kaithal sub-division is under the consideration of the local officers. When the proposals are received the orders of Government will issue in due course.

EX-SOLDIERS IN THE KARNAL DISTRICT.

*1815. **Chaudhri Duli Chand:** Will the Honourable Member for Finance kindly state—

(a) the total number of ex-soldiers in the Karnal district at present;

(b) the number of those among them who have been granted Crown land, and

(c) the number of pensioners among ex-soldiers in the district of Karnal?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow: (a) and (b) It is regretted that the information is not available.

(c) 242.

CANDIDATES FOR THE POST OF KANUNGOS.

*1816. **Chaudhri Duli Chand:** Will the Honourable Member for Revenue kindly state the names of candidates accepted as direct kanungos in the district of Karnal during the last two years classifying them as agriculturists and non-agriculturists?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: None.

CONSTABLES IN THE DISTRICT OF KARNAL.

*1817. **Chaudhri Duli Chand:** Will the Honourable Member for Finance kindly state—

(a) the total number of constables in the district of Karnal;

(b) their communitywise number, classifying them as agriculturists and non-agriculturists?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow: (a) 512.

(b)—

	Agriculturists.	*Non-agriculturists.*
Muslims	256	9
Hindus	156	50
Sikhs	27	14
Total ..	439	73

CORRUPTION COMMITTEES.

*1818. **Chaudhri Duli Chand:** Will the Honourable Finance Member kindly state—

(a) whether there is a corruption committee at Rohtak;

(b) the names of members thereof;

(c) how many meetings they have held during 1928;

(d) whether there is any such committee in the district of Karnal;

(e) if so, what are the names of the members of this committee and how many meetings they have held during 1928?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow: (a) No.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) No.

(e) Does not arise.

REVISION OF PAY OF DISTRICT TREASURERS AND THEIR STAFF.

*1819. **Lala Jyoti Parshad:** Will the Honourable Finance Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that a proposal was sent to the Deputy Commissioners of the districts for the revision of the pay of the district treasurers and their staff? If so, when was it sent and will a copy of it be kindly laid on the table;

(b) how far the above proposal has received the consideration of Government since then and with what result?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow: The honourable member is referred to the reply to Council Question No. 1800.

GRANT OF LEAVE, ETC., TO DISTRICT TREASURERS.

*1820. **Lala Jyoti Parshad:** Will the Honourable Finance Member please state whether under the present rules district treasurers do not get any privilege leave, pension, and travelling allowance when visiting sub-treasuries? If so, will Government kindly state reasons?

* Page 476 *ante*.

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow : District Treasurers are not Government servants, but are the employees of Divisional Treasurers. Government has no information as to the leave, pensions or rates of travelling allowance allowed by the latter to District Treasurers.

FIGURE GAMBLING IN HISSAR AND BHIWANI.

***1821. Lala Jyoti Parshad :** Will the Honourable Revenue Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that figure gambling (data or satta) is prevalent in Hissar and Bhiwani towns ;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that complaints were made to the Superintendent of Police, Hissar, against the above ? If so, what action was taken by the Superintendent of Police ?

(*c*) whether Government proposes to take some immediate steps to stop this general evil ?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Yes. The Police are unable to take legal action in the matter as the existing law is defective in certain respects.

(*c*) A bill to amend the law has been prepared.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

MEMORIALS OF COMPOSITORS OF THE GOVERNMENT PRESS, LAHORE.

930. Chaudhri Afzal Haq : With reference to the answer to starred question No. 1602[1] asked on the 3rd December 1928, will the Honourable Revenue Member be pleased to state whether the Government has since come to any decision with regard to the memorials of the compositors of the Government Printing Press, Lahore ?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : No, the matter is still under consideration.

SHEIKH AHMAD JAN, HEAD MUNSHI.

931. Chaudhri Afzal Haq : Will the Honourable Revenue Member be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether it is a fact that one Sheikh Ahmad Jan, head munshi, Khanewal Division, Lower Bari Doab Canal Circle, who had put in 25 years' service was dismissed in 1917 ;

(*ii*) whether it is a fact that he was subsequently re-instated in July 1919 ;

(*iii*) whether it is a fact that he was kept in service of the department up to April 1928 ;

(*iv*) whether it is a fact that no pension has since been granted to him ? If so, why so ?

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[1] Pages 232-233 *ante*.

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: (*i*) Yes.

(*ii*) He was not re-instated but was re-employed.

(*iii*) Yes.

(*iv*) His pension claim is under consideration.

JIRGAS IN THE DERA GHAZI KHAN DISTRICT.

932. Shaikh Faiz Muhammad: Will the Honourable Member for Finance be pleased to lay on the table a statement giving the following particulars with regard to Dera Ghazi Khan district—

(*a*) total number of cases, both civil and criminal, referred to jirgas other than the chief jirga during the year ending with 31st of December 1928;

(*b*) number of cases included in the above in which one or both the parties were Hindus;

(*c*) number of such cases in which Hindus were allowed to sit as members of jirgas;

(*d*) names of Hindu gentlemen allowed to sit as members of jirgas in cases in which the parties were Muslims?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow: (*a*) 265.

(*b*) 31.

(*c*) 21.

(*d*) A statement is laid on the table.

(1) L. Thakur Das;
(2) L. Motan Ram;
(3) L. Kanya Lal;
(4) L. Parmanand, Bhutani;
(5) L. Tola Ram;
(6) L. Bosa Ram;
(7) L. Punnu Ram;
(8) L. Bhoja Ram;
(9) L. Daulat Ram;
(10) L. Bodh Raj;
(11) L. Lekh Raj;
(12) L. Illahin Ram;
(13) L. Jaman Das.

BORDER MILITARY POLICE.

933. Shaikh Faiz Muhammad: Will the Chief Secretary kindly state—

(*a*) what is the total strength of Border Military Police force in Dera Ghazi Khan district;

(*b*) what is the number of Balochis and non-Balochis in the force;

(*c*) what is the total number of siladari Sowars, Dafadars and Jamadars whose appointment rests on the recommendations of the Tumandars or other persons having siladari rights;

[Shaikh Faiz Muhammad.]

(*d*) what is the number of Sowars, Dafadars, and Jamadars who are in any way related to the Tumandars or other Siladars;

(*e*) what is the number of non-siladari Sowars and Dafadars;

(*f*) whether any non-siladari post is held by a relative of the Tumandar;

(*g*) why non-Baluchis are allowed to serve in the Border Military Police in Dera Ghazi Khan district?

Mr. J. G. Beazley: (*a*) 268.

(*b*) Baluchis 258, Non-Baluchis 10.

(*c*) Jamadars 8, Dafadars 24 and Sowars 148.

(*d*) Jamadars 7, Dafadars 10 and Sowars 41.

(*e*) Dafadars 2, Sowars 75.

(*f*) Yes.

(*g*) Non-Baluchis are allowed to serve in the Border Military Police.

POPULATION OF THE DERA GHAZI KHAN DISTRICT.

934. Shaikh Faiz Muhammad: Will the Chief Secretary kindly state—

(*a*) how much of the total population of the Dera Ghazi Khan district resides in the various Tumans and how much outside them;

(*b*) what is the total population of the politically controlled area attached to Dera Ghazi Khan district?

Mr. J. G. Beazley: (*a*) 186,158 and 282,894, respectively.

(*b*) 26,758.

BREACH OF TRAFFIC RULES.

935. Chaudhri Afzal Haq: Will the Honourable Member for Revenue be pleased to state whether it is a fact—

(*a*) that on the road certificates for lorries issued in the Sialkot district there is a condition that "No person should be allowed to sit on the foot board, mud guard or the roof of the vehicles";

(*b*) that the lorries plying for hire between Zafarwal and Narowal and Zafarwal and Sialkot frequently contravene almost all these conditions and that no driver is ever challaned by the police nor is there any one to check this irregularity;

(*c*) if the answer to the above be in the affirmative, will Government please say what steps it proposes to take to put a stop to this practice?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) No general complaint has been brought to the notice of local officers. In 1928, 14 persons were challaned for not complying with the conditions

referred to. Adequate measures have been provided to prevent the breach of motor traffic regulations.

(c) Does not arise.

HONORARY MAGISTRATES AT ZAFARWAL.

936. **Chaudhri Afzal Haq:** Will the Honourable Member for Finance be pleased to state whether it is proposed to enhance the present powers of the honorary magistrates on the bench of honorary magistrates at Zafarwal in the Sialkot district?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow: No proposals are before Government at present. The attention of the honourable member is invited to the answer given to Council Question No. 615[1] in March 1928.

HONORARY MAGISTRATES AT ZAFARWAL.

937. **Chaudhri Afzal Haq:** Will the Honourable Member for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that there is no court of a sub-judge at Zafarwal in the Sialkot district;

(b) if so, whether Government have any intention of investing the honorary magistrates of Zafarwal with the powers of sub-judges?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow: (a) Yes.

(b) No.

SHIFTING OF HEADQUARTERS TAHSIL AT ZAFARWAL TO NAROWAL.

938. **Chaudhri Afzal Haq:** Will the Honourable Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that a few years ago the headquarters of the tahsil at Zafarwal in the Sialkot district were shifted to Narowal;

(b) whether the people of Zafarwal Ilaqa submitted memorials to the Financial Commissioner and His Excellency the Governor urging that this change has adversely affected the trade, industry and prosperity of the Ilaqa;

(c) if the answers to the above be in the affirmative, what action Government have taken or intend to take in the matter?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: (a) and (b) Yes.

(c) None, as re-consideration is not in public interest.

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[1] Vol. XI, page 649.

HINDU CREMATION GROUND, SHEIKHUPURA.

939. Chaudhri Afzal Haq: Will the Honourable Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the Hindu cremation grounds are situated quite close to and rather within the new town of Sheikhupura;

(*b*) if the answer be in the affirmative whether Government intend to take any steps to remove these cremation grounds to a distance from the town and the civil lines of Sheikhupura in the interests of public health?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon: (*a*) & (*b*) Yes.

CANAL SIGNALLERS AT LYALLPUR—RESIDENTIAL ACCOMMODATION.

940. Chaudhri Afzal Haq: Will the Honourable Member for Revenue kindly state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the accommodation in the residential quarters for canal signallers at Lyallpur is not sufficient for their requirements;

(*b*) if so, what steps Government intends to take to provide additional accommodation for them?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: (*a*) No.

(*b*) Does not arise.

ENGLISH OFFICES OF THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONERS IN THE LAHORE DIVISION.

941. Chaudhri Afzal Haq: Will the Honourable Member for Revenue be pleased to lay on the table a statement as it stood on 31st December 1928, showing the names, length of service and dates of retirement of superintendents and head clerks communitywise in the English offices of the Deputy Commissioners in the Lahore division together with the length of their service and the dates on which they are due to retire, with a remark in the case of those who have already been granted extensions of service, and the public grounds for such extensions?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: Enquires have been made. The information asked for will be communicated to the honourable member in due course.

ASSISTANT AND SUB-ASSISTANT-SURGEONS—FEES FOR ATTENDING IN-DOOR PATIENTS.

942. Chaudhri Afzal Haq: Will the Honourable Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether there are any rules or orders under which the assistant and sub-assistant surgeons incharge of the civil dispensaries in the Punjab are authorised and entitled to demand fees for attending in-door patients;

(*b*) if the answer be in the affirmative, will the Honourable Minister kindly lay a copy of such rules or orders on the table;

(*c*) if the answer be in the negative, will the Honourable Minister kindly state as to how Government proposes to deal with those doctors who forcibly extract fees from in-door patients in their hospitals and dispensaries?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon: (*a*) No.

(*b*) Does not arise.

(*c*) Should any case of extortion of fees be brought to the notice of Government, it will be examined on its merits and suitable action taken if the medical officer is found to be at fault.

NAROWAL-ZAFARWAL *KUCHA* ROAD.

943. Chaudhri Afzal Haq: Will the Honourable Minister for Local Self-Government kindly state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the Narowal-Zafarwal *kucha* road if being raised from its present level;

(*b*) whether it is also a fact that owing to the new earth being put on it the road has become impassable for wheeled traffic;

(*c*) if the answers to the above be in the affirmative, what steps Government intends to take to enable the motor vehicles to pass easily on this road?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon: A report has been called for and the information required by the honourable member will be communicated to him in due course.

SAFETY OF LADIES TRAVELLING ALONE IN TRAINS.

944. Chaudhri Afzal Haq: (1) Will the Honourable Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that Rule 506—Chapter XIV of the North-Western Railway Operating Manual (Provisional Issue) lays down that in all the trains a compartment set apart for "women" is not to be occupied by "men" in any circumstances;

(*b*) whether it is also a fact that in several cases, as a result of a single lady travelling alone in a female compartment thefts and murders have occurred in the female compartments of the trains;

(2) if the answers to the above be in the affirmative, will the Honourable Member for Revenue be pleased to state what steps Government propose to take to ensure the safety of a single lady travelling alone in a female compartment?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: (1) (*a*) and (2). If the honourable member desires, enquiries will be made from the Government of India who are responsible for the administration of State railways.

(1) (*b*). No such cases, it is understood, have occurred in the last two years though there were instances previously.

ESTABLISHMENT—MINISTERIAL STAFF—COMMUNAL REPRESENTATION.

945. Khan Sahib Khan Muhammad Saifullah Khan: Will the Honourable Member for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) (*i*) the total number of head clerks in the offices of Superintendents of Police in the Province;

(*ii*) how many of them are (1) Mussalmans, (2) Hindus and (3) Sikhs;

(*b*) (*i*) total number of such head clerks in the Western Range;

(*ii*) how many of them are (1) Hindus, (2) Mussalmans and (3) Sikhs;

(*iii*) whether it is a fact that there is only one Mussalman head clerk out of 10 in the Western Range;

(*iv*) whether Government intend to take steps to increase the proportion of Muslim head clerks in the offices of the Superintendents of Police?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow: (*a*) (*i*) 29.

(*ii*) (1) 12 Mussalmans (2) 13 Hindus and (3) 4 Sikhs.

(*b*) (*i*) 10.

(*ii*) (1) 7 Hindus (2) One Mussalman and (3) 2 Sikhs.

(*iii*) Yes.

(*iv*) Government see no necessity to do so; Muhammadan Executive officers are in the majority in that Range.

RECRUITMENT FOR GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS.

946. Khan Sahib Khan Muhammad Saifullah Khan: Will the Honourable Member for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the Government is recruiting Hindus in the Police Department to keep up the percentage of that community in the Department;

(*b*) if so, what steps Government intends to take to further the recruitment of Muslim candidates for employment in other departments to keep up the percentage of the Muslim community?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow: (*a*) Efforts are being made to overcome the marked disproportion in the rank of constable by enlisting more Hindus. Other ranks are not affected.

(*b*) Government will adhere to its policy of endeavouring to avoid an undue preponderance of any one community in any department of the public services to the prejudice of the reasonable claims of other communities.

PUBLIC PROSECUTOR, MIANWALI.

947. Khan Sahib Khan Muhammad Saifullah Khan: Will the Honourable Member for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that ever since the establishment of the Mianwali Sessions Division in 1914, the public prosecutor has always been one Hindu, re-appointed three or four times;

(*b*) whether the Government is aware that the Muslims of the Mianwali Session Division, who are in predominant majority submitted memorials to the Local Government and the Legal Remembrancer in March last urging the appointment of a Muslim public prosecutor;

(*c*) whether the present public prosecutor is retiring next spring on account of old age;

(*d*) if the reply to the above parts be in the affirmative what steps Government intends to take to remove the grievance of the Muslim public?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow: (*a*) Yes. The legal practitioner in question has been re-appointed twice. His appointment expires on 30th April 1929.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) and (*d*) The matter is in the discretion of Government.

CLERICAL ESTABLISHMENT IN CIVIL SURGEONS' OFFICES.

948. Khan Sahib Khan Muhammad Saifullah Khan: Will the Honourable Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(1) whether it is a fact that Muslims are very poorly represented in the clerical establishment as clerks and head clerks in the civil surgeons' offices in the Province;

(2) whether it is a fact that 29 new posts for clerks for the Medical Department have been sanctioned from April 1929, or any other proposals to increase the staff are under consideration;

(3) if so, whether Government intend to take any steps to increase the representation of Muslims in this cadre?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon: (1) Of 87 appointments, 21 are filled by Muslims.

(2) No. The question of creating the additional appointments referred to is under consideration and it is not likely that the appointments if sanctioned will be created before 1st April 1930.

(3) The matter will be duly considered.

SUSPENSION OF LAND REVENUE IN JULLUNDUR AND HOSHIARPUR DISTRICTS.

949. Chaudhri Muhammad Abdul Rahman Khan: Will the Honourable Revenue Member kindly state—

(*a*) whether he has received any applications from the zamindars of the Jullundur and Hoshiarpur districts for the suspension of land revenue;

(*b*) if so, what action has been taken on these applications?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: (*a*) No.

(*b*) The question does not arise.

LAND IN THE NILI BAR PURCHASED IN AUCTION BY MIDDLE CLASS PEOPLE.

950. Risaldar Bahadur Nur Khan: Will the Honourable Revenue Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that most of the middle class people who purchased lands at auction in the Nili Bar have given up their possession owing to their inability to pay the price distributed over heavy instalments and payable at considerable rate of interest;

(*b*) if so, what steps Government intend to take or have taken to remove this difficulty of these people?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: This is not the information that Government has on this subject.

MILITARY SCHOLARSHIPS.

951. Risaldar Bahadur Nur Khan: Will the Honourable Minister for Education kindly state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that only those students belonging to military classes are eligible to get military scholarships whose guardians' yearly income is less than Rs. 700;

(*b*) the reasons for which this limit is prescribed;

(*c*) whether Government is aware of the fact that the ordinary expenses of a college student in these days are in no way less than Rs. 50 per mensem;

(*d*) whether the Government is also aware of the fact that besides the expenses incurred on the education of children a military pensioner or a discharged soldier has to maintain himself and his family?

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal: (*a*) Yes;

(*b*) In order to guard against the award of scholarships to candidates who are in affluent circumstances.

(*c*) Government is aware that the expenses of students in colleges have risen in recent years, but has no exact figures in its possession.

(*d*) That fact is incontestable—there can be no doubt that a military pensioner has to maintain himself and his family besides meeting the expenses incurred on the education of his children.

VILLAGE PANCHAYATS FOR DISPOSAL OF FOREST CASES.

952. Risaldar Bahadur Nur Khan: Will the Honourable Revenue Member kindly state—

(*a*) how far the Government have proceeded with the resolution passed by the Standing Forest Committee in its meeting held at Simla on the 5th September 1928 asking the Government for the establishment of a village panchayat for the disposal of forest cases;

(*b*) when Government is likely to come to a decision in the matter?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: (*a*) The honourable member seems to be under some misapprehension. The suggestion that local advisory committees be formed was under consideration and the non-official members of the Board were requested to formulate definite proposals in this connection. None of the honourable members has sent in any suggestions whatsoever. Government however, has the matter under consideration.

(*b*) It will help Government if the non-official members of the Board will kindly submit their definite suggestions at an early date.

PROSECUTION OF CERTAIN ZAMINDARS UNDER SECTION 379, I.P.C.

953. Risaldar Bahadur Nur Khan: Will the Honourable Revenue Member please state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that six zamindars of the villages of Kahia and Rawat in the Murree tahsil, district Rawalpindi, were prosecuted under section 379, Indian Penal Code, for making use of the trees which had withered and fallen in the Bhor Ban reserved forest, Rawalpindi;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that their rights regarding gathering of leaves, grazing of cattle and the use of dry fuel for domestic purposes have been confiscated for three years;

(*c*) whether the accused have been acquitted by the court but their rights have not been restored?

(*d*) if the answer to (*c*) above be in the affirmative, the reason for not restoring those rights and when it intends to restore those rights?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: (*a*) The persons concerned were prosecuted for cutting up and removing *green* trees which had fallen, and to which they had no right.

(*b*) No.

(*c*) Yes, but an appeal against acquittal is under consideration.

(*d*) Does not arise.

MILITARY SCHOLARSHIPS.

954. Risaldar Bahadur Nur Khan: Will the Honourable Minister for Education please state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that military scholarships are awarded to college students in recognition of the services rendered by the candidates' guardians and not on account of the merits of the candidates themselves;

(*b*) whether Government have prescribed that only such college students be awarded military scholarships as have passed their matriculation examination in the first division;

(*c*) if the answer to the above be in the affirmative, what are the reasons for imposing the restriction referred to in (*b*)?

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal : (*a*) and (*b*) Yes.

(*c*) Government does not think it desirable to continue the grant of scholarships beyond the point at which the scholars' abilities seem likely to justify the expense involved.

TRACK FROM NAKODAR TO SARINH.

955. Sardar Partap Singh : Will the Honourable Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the track from Nakodar to Sarinh is in the possession of the district board, Jullundur ;

(*b*) from what date the district board took the track under its possession ;

(*c*) whether the boundaries of the track were fixed when the district board took its possession and put boundary marks ;

(*d*) whether the trees grown or planted by zamindars on the sides of the track, before its possession was taken by the district board, were cut by the zamindars or by the district board ;

(*e*) whether the district board have planted fresh trees on the sides of the track ; if so, on what parts of the track ;

(*f*) whether the district board have ever repaired the track, and if so, on what dates ;

(*g*) whether he is aware of the fact that there is the general complaint that wheeled traffic is impossible in certain parts of the track ; if so, what are the causes of the complaint ;

(*h*) whether it is a fact that at the place where railway line crosses the track there is no level crossing for this track ;

(*i*) if the answers to (*g*) and (*h*) be in the affirmative, what steps Government intends to take to remove these complaints ?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) October 1918.

(*c*) The boundaries were shown in the revenue papers. No boundary pillars have so far been fixed.

(*d*) Some trees were sold by the district board in 1918 for Rs. 500.

(*e*) Yes, in the first mile only.

(*f*) No.

(*g*) The complaint actually exists. It has not been possible to put the road into proper condition for lack of funds.

(*h*) Yes.

(*i*) The road is a calss III road, for the up-keep of which the district board is solely responsible.

PEASANT GRANTS.

956. Sardar Partap Singh : Will the Honourable Revenue Member be pleased to answer unstarred question No. 759[1] asked on the 29th November 1928 ?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : A reply to question No. 759 is laid on the table.

Answer to Council Question No. 758.

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) The land originally allotted was inferior and the grantees had originally only been granted half a square as against the usual grant of one square to colonists from the Central Punjab. Each grant was therefore increased to one square.

(*d*) No.

2. Does not arise.

AIR MOTORS.

957. Mr. E. Maya Das : Will the Honourable Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the Government have decided not to employ air motors for lifting water and other purposes in any district of the Punjab ;

(*b*) if so, why ;

(*c*) if the answer be in the negative, what action is Government prepared to take in the matter ?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : (*a*) The reply is in the negative.

(*b*) Does not arise.

(*c*) Experiments have been made with windmills and results obtained so far have shown that this form of motor is not likely to prove of economic value in the province. Generally speaking the wind velocity in the province is too low for the economic use of air motors. Further experiments are being made and wind records at all stations in the province have been collected with the object of making use of air motors if this should prove feasible. No final decision has yet been reached with regard to the feasibility of the proposition.

SUN MOTORS.

958. Mr. E. Maya Das : Will the Honourable Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that Government have decided not to employ sun motors such as are used in California for lifting water and other purposes in any district in the Punjab ;

(*b*) if so, why ;

[1] Page 101 *ante*.

[Mr. Maya Das.]

(c) if the answer be in the negative, what action is Government prepared to take in the matter?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Some years ago the Agricultural Department enquired into the use of sun motors in California and in Wadi Maluk, Egypt. The experimental work in progress at these places did not warrant the Department proceeding further in the matter until sun motors had reached a higher stage of development. No final decision has yet been reached with regard to the feasibility of the proposition.

EXAMINERS FOR VERNACULAR FINAL EXAMINATION.

959. **Shaikh Faiz Muhammad:** Will the Honourable Minister for Education kindly state the total number of examiners appointed for the vernacular final examination in each subject this year and the number of Muslims among these?

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal: The information is laid on the table.

	Total Examiners.	Muslim Examiners.
Urdu	44	26
Arithmetic	47	18
History	24	7
Geography	25	10
Sanitation	25	9
Practical Geometry	25	12
Persian	15	10
Elementary Science	143	49
English	126	52
Agriculture	3	2
Hindi	5	..
Punjabi	1	..
Arabic	1	1
Sanskrit	1	..
Drawing	1	..

STARRING OF QUESTIONS.

Mr. President : May I request the honourable members not to star such of their questions as they do not desire to be answered orally and answers to which they wish to be laid on the table ? May I also suggest to the Government members that instead of reading lengthy answers, they may lay the same on the table, if ready, or circulate them with the official reports of the proceedings of the Council.

RESOLUTIONS.

RESOLUTION *RE* REPEAL OF THE PUNJAB VILLAGE AND SMALL TOWNS PATROL ACT.

Sardar Partap Singh : (Jullundur, Sikh, Rural) (Urdu) : Sir, I beg to move :—

"That this Council recommends to the Government to take necessary steps for the repeal of the Punjab Village and Small Towns Patrol Act, 1918."

Sir, when this legislation was introduced it was stated in support of it that it was intended not only to protect the life and property of the villagers but that it will also go a long way to check the depredation of the dacoits and other cattle and crop thefts. Now let us see whether this Act has succeeded in its object and whether it is at all calculated to protect the life and property of the people for whose benefit it was enacted. Let us further see whether this Act is equally useful for all ; whether it is just and practicable and whether the people like it and whether its retention is in the least necessary. I will take these points one by one.

As far as I understand, at least 90 per cent. of the population in the villages is not protected in so far as their lives and properties are concerned. In fact they do not want any protection even if this Act can give any. For the purposes of discussion on the merits and demerits of this Act, I will divide the population in the villages into three parts. The first part consists of those who are husbandmen and who till lands with their own hands. They form 75 per cent. of this population. In the second category come those who help the farmers in tilling their lands. They are *chuhras, chamars,* oilmen, carpenters and blacksmiths and other labouring classes, and form 15 per cent. of the population. The third class of people are those who are *sahukars,* shopkeepers and big landlords who do not till their land with their own hands. They form only 10 per cent. of the population in villages. Sir, the Village and Small Towns Patrol Act does not afford any protection to the people who come in the first category. Those who have been ever to the Jullundur Doab must have experienced, to their great inconvenience, that they could not enjoy sound sleep because of the incessant noise of the working of the well and loud voices of '*Rab Beli, Rab Beli*' coming from the group of men working on the *charsa.* That is to say that, in this illaqa the farmers remain out on their fields day and night except perhaps in the rainy season. The major part of their life is not spent in the villages but at a distance from the villages where their fields are situated. Then these poor farmers have very often to work for twenty hours at a time and their lot is so hard that they cannot afford to cease doing their work even when it is too hot or too cold to move out for an ordinary man. They find very little rest which they need most. Moreover they tether their cattle in their fields to make use of cow dung as manure

[Sardar Partap Singh.]

which they cannot get otherwise on account of their very limited means. Even in the cold weather their animals remain in the fields day and night if possible under the shade of small huts. Perhaps only for two or three months in a year they take their cattle to their houses in villages when it is extreme cold. In many cases the fields of these villagers are situated at a distance of one or two miles from the village *abadi* and in such cases it is essential for the farmers to remain continuously outside the village to take proper care of their cattle and crops. So that the villagers spend most of their time on the fields ; their cattle, for a greater part of the year, remain day and night on the fields and the cattle and crops are their only property for the protection of which they do not require any help which the men on patrol duty may be able to give. They are proverbially poor and they have got nothing beyond these cattle and crops of which the thieves or dacoits can deprive them. In the face of these facts how can one say that this Act can be of any use to them? It has rather proved a source of very great inconvenience to them and in many cases a source of material loss to these poverty ridden farmers. I know of many cases when the cattle of these farmers were lifted or their crops were removed when they were keeping watch away from their fields in the village. Such cases may not have come to the notice of Government and the reason for it is that the sufferers are afraid of police and their exactions. It is, therefore, clear that this Act has proved harmful to those for whose good it was passed.

Now take the case of *kamins* who fall in the second category. Every one knows how much wealth they possess. They are very poor and live from hand to mouth. It is very seldom that their houses, if we can at all call them houses, are broken in by thieves. As the Punjabi proverb goes '*Nanga put choran wich khele*' which means a naked person may play in the midst of thieves securely. These *chuhras* and *chamars* are not afraid of thieves because they have nothing to lose at their hands. Of course, the *sahukars*, shopkeepers and the big landlords, who have hoarded wealth by means, fair or foul, do need the help of such an Act. But their number in the villages is very small, not even 10 per cent. of the whole population, although even this figure I have purposely put too high for the sake of argument. Sir, is it justice and fair play that 90 per cent. of the population should be compelled to be on watch and ward at night for the sake of a handful of men and their riches ?

That this Act is not equally useful for all is amply proved by the facts that I have stated above. I will now proceed to show that this Act is unjust as well. Sir, an Act which compels a man to keep watch at night against his will and without remuneration so that the life and property of another person may be safe, cannot be said to be equitable or just. This Act is exactly of that type and it requires poor farmers and labourers, who have to work for about 15 hours in the day and who feel totally exhausted after hard work, to be on guard at night for the sake of a few *sahukars* and big landlords. And if these farmers and labourers find it impossible to take up their turn, they must pay 8 annas or even more as remuneration to be paid to men who are engaged for patrol duty in their places. Now these 8 or 10 annas constitute the earnings of a day of these poor people. What a pinch must they feel to part with this. I know that the *sahukars* and big

landlords are also required to pay 8 or 10 annas to be paid to the man who keeps watch at night in their turn, but for them it is not a great sacrifice. Each of them earns at least Rs. 20 per day and he can easily afford to pay that little amount. If the earnings of these two kinds of people be compared, it would mean that the poor farmer has to pay forty times more than his rich neighbour to engage a man for patrol duty at night. What a great injustice it is. The act of the Government in levying chaukidara from the villagers is not even justified when it keeps Government-paid police for the watch and ward of the cities. There is another injustice being done to the poor villagers. They have to pay chaukidara tax which is imposed according to the number of houses in each village. As we know the houses of rich people are always like palaces, but those of the poor are mere huts. And the chaukidara tax is realised in almost equal amount from those who live in palaces and from those who live in huts. In other words, the same amount is charged for the protection of palaces and for the protection of huts. Over and above that, 90 per cent. of the population is compelled by this Act to take care of the lives and properties of 10 per cent. population at night. It is really the height of injustice.

This Act is also impracticable inasmuch as a farmer, and the farmers constitute a majority of the population in villages, cannot be expected to keep watch at two places at the same time. How can he take care of his cattle and crop at some distance from the village when he is taking his turn for patrol duty in the village? At the time of the introduction of this Act, Sir John Maynard had said that the chaukidar had other duties to perform during the day time and could not therefore be expected to keep watch and ward during the night. I agree with him, but how can you expect a labourer to keep awake during the night after his hard labour of day when he carries loads of bricks and mortar to the topmost roof of a palace of a *sahukar* under construction, and again, how would you make a peasant to attend to *pahra* who is dead-tired by his work in the field? I will not dilate upon it and proceed to show that this Act is not liked by the villagers. It is not liked not only now, but it was opposed by the representatives of these villagers when it was introduced, and in support of my statement I would like to read to the House, with the permission of the Chair, a few extracts from the speeches of those who were not in favour of the Bill and who opposed it when it was introduced. The honourable Khan Bahadur Malik Muhammad Amin in his speech reported at page 290 of the *Punjab Gazette* of 1918, said that :—

> "I oppose the introduction of this bill. I assure Your Honour that all the villagers are against the bill and feel that there is no necessity at present for the bill."

The other member who opposed this Bill was the honourable Diwan Bahadur Daulat Rai who said :—

> "A case for this legislation has not been made out. The present *voluntary system* is better and more effective."

This Bill was also opposed by the honourable Pandit Jawahar Lal who expressed his opinion in the following words :—

> "The present bill is not a desirable one at the present time. It will give rise to dissatisfaction not only amongst the village people but also amongst the towns people to whom it may be applicable."
>
> "When there are emergent occasions, people have been found willing to co-operate with the district officials, but there is great difference between voluntary co-operation and forced *co-operation or* forced order."

[Sardar Partap Singh.]

He was followed by the honourable Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Lal Chand, ex-Minister who, in opposing this Bill, said :—

"There is a genuine feeling among the village people against this Bill. They themselves pay their chaukidars and they thought that it will be remitted on account of their service in the war, but they will be greatly disappointed. In the name of the poor villagers who have won for the Punjab a name of which we are all proud, I submit that the Bill is not at all justified or even called for."

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Risaldar Partap Singh also opposed this Bill and he stated :—

"I most humbly beg that at this time when all our young men have gone to the war, this Bill may be postponed till we have glorious end of the war."

Then I would like to read an extract from the speech of the honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Gajjan Singh which is as follows :—

"The first point in favour of the Bill was that it is an ancient custom, but really it is not. *Thikari Pahra* might perhaps have existed in the pre-British days when the Government of the day was weak and was not able to protect the villagers but the same cannot be said of the British Government, which of course we are all very proud to think is very strong and quite efficient to cope with any disorder in any circumstance.

"Then it is stated that the villagers like this measure, but in fact they have never been consulted. In all districts the unanimous opinion of zamindars is against the Bill.

"I fear that the zamindars will suspect, why is such trouble now being inflicted on our heads ? Is not Government strong enough to take upon itself such like things ?

"In the cities we have an elaborate system of police financed and paid by Government. On the other hand the villagers have to pay the chaukidars from their own pockets."

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain, the Leader of the House, opposed the Bill in the following words :—

"The new measure is an attempt to reintroduce the unfair system of the poor protecting their rich neighbours. One man has got nothing in his house and stands in need of no protection from anybody while another man has thousands in his house which require protection. Justice demands that the man who has most should contribute most towards the necessary protection and the man who has nothing to protect should not contribute an equal amount in the protection of that nothing.

"As soon as you introduce legislation on the subject, the beauty, the value and the utility of voluntary co-operation ceases. As soon as you compel a man to be virtuous, there is no virtue left in his doing it.

"Measures like these make people think that the Government is not strong enough to prevent crime. On this ground also I would appeal to Government not to press the Bill which appears to have elicited the opposition of the communities which it is meant to support.

"Penalty clauses are very harsh. Let the people pay for the services of an extra chaukidar and do not *compel them to work as* chaukidars themselves."

From these extracts it will appear that this Act was not wanted when it was originally passed. Now the villagers have become tired of its presence. If Government is not already aware I may bring to its notice that the Punjab Provincial Zamindar League and the District Zamindar Leagues have passed resolutions against this Act showing thereby that public opinion is decidedly against it.

If there was any justification, although I do not think there was any, in making this law in the first instance, there is no justification whatever for its retention any longer on the statute book. The people in the villages have now a strong sense of duty and they have learnt the value of mutual

co-operation and if it is at all necessary to protect their lives and property, they can do it without any compulsion by the Government. To me the compulsory system of watch and ward at night without any remuneration appears to be no better than that system which we call by the name of *begar*. Government has very kindly put a stop to the latter system recently and I do not see why *begar* should be perpetuated in another form. At the time of emergency the people are prepared to help the Government without the presence of such Acts. I am sure that no amount of difference of opinion will make them hesitate to help the Government whenever such help is needed. The Shiromani Gurdawara Parbandhak Committee did render help to the Government in quelling the riots at Amritsar in recognition of which the Akali prisoners were released. In conclusion I might say that if Government really wanted to improve the chaukidara system, it could do so in no time. Let it place the chaukidars under the control of the panchayats. Let it give power to these bodies to appoint, dismiss, fine, reward the chaukidars and if it is done to-day, I can assure the Government that to-morrow there will be no cases of thefts.

With these words I commend the resolution for the acceptance of the House.

Mr. President: The resolution moved is—

"This Council recommends to the Government to take necessary steps for the repeal of the Punjab Village and Small Towns Patrol Act, 1918."

Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan: (Muhammadan, Landholders): Sir, with your permission, I beg to move my amendment which is as follows:—

That the following be substituted for the original resolution:

"This Council recommends to the Government to institute an enquiry into the working of the Punjab Village and Small Towns Patrol Act, 1918, with a view to find out if any amendment of the Act is necessary."

Mr. President: The amendment does not appear to be in order. As worded, it is only an expanded negative of the original resolution.

Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan: (Urdu) I wish that I may be allowed to move my amendment as, I do not like to oppose the resolution. If I am not allowed to move it, I shall have to oppose the resolution.

Mr. President: The honourable member may redraft his amendment and send it on to me. I shall consider it. In the meantime, the Council may discuss the original question.

3 P. M.

Chaudhri Duli Chand: (Karnal Non-Muhammadan, Rural) (Urdu): Sir, I rise to support this resolution. The Village Patrol Act is defective in many respects. It is unnatural, unpopular, unjust and unnecessary. It is further disgraceful and impracticable and if it is repealed, the villagers will be relieved of many troubles which they have to face in the presence of the Act.

I will now proceed to show in the first instance how this Act is unnatural. As we all know man was not designed to work for all the twenty-four hours. That these twenty-four hours are divided into two parts, day and night, day for work and night for rest, clearly shows that man must needs take rest after he has toiled and

[Chaudhri Duli Chand.]

moiled for ten or twelve hours. It is in the nature of man to sleep for a certain number of hours. And the villagers, and for the matter of that the zamindars are no exception to it. Throughout the year the zamindars have to work hard for many hours together in their fields to earn their livelihood. They have to work unmindful of the extremes of climate. Even in the hottest months and the hottest part of the day, when an urban gentleman would not come out for fear of sun-stroke, the zamindars are seen labouring in the fields. They can not afford to lie covered in their blankets in cold weather. They must go out to work even at a time when gentlemen would shudder to go out and if they did, they would shiver to death. It is with very great difficulty that the villagers can steal a few hours of rest. Now you can imagine whether it is not unnatural to ask them to take their turn for *thikri pahra* when they are totally exhausted and when their very nature pines for rest. Besides there is another difficulty. If in a house there happens to be only a pair, that is, a husband and wife, and there is no other male member to look after the cattle and crops in the absence of the husband, the thieves and dacoits find a golden opportunity to lift the cattle and destroy the crop and, not unoften, elope with the wife of the villager on patrol duty.

The Act is unpopular inasmuch as 90 per cent. of the population in the villages do not like it. And why, because after work they need rest as I have already explained. There are very few persons in villages who have not got to do manual and hard labour. Even the *chamars* and shoemakers and other artisans have to help the zamindars in the fields. And if I may say so, it is only the few moneyed persons who want that such Acts may be enforced. They grudge us rest. They do not like us to receive education and they want that we should always play second fiddle to them, that we should not know our rights and liabilities; that we should remain as ignorant as before and further that even the name of self-government should not reach our ears. It is for these reasons that they fight tooth and nail to strengthen the hands of Government in such matters.

That the Act is unjust is proved by the fact that A is asked to be on watch and ward to protect the life and property of B without any remuneration. Why should I be asked to watch at night the village house of a *rais* of Lahore when I have no interest in it? Is there any justification for turning the whole village into a band of watchers at night for the sake of two or three or even four wealthy persons in that village? Why should not these wealthy persons engage their own chaukidars to safeguard their life and property? We are prepared to help them as our neighbours, but they must also help us by the money that they have got in abundance. Fair exchange is no robbery. If the villagers know that they will get some reward for patrol duty at night and this reward will take the shape of reduction in the land revenue that they have to pay, many will willingly take up that duty. It is a pity that now they are fined and that fine is realised with land revenue.

Further, the Act is unnecessary because the villagers for whose benefit it was passed have not much to lose at the hands of thieves. And if they have anything at stake, the patrol duty can be done by the chaukidars whom they pay from their own pocket. The chaukidara tax is in itself unjust but another injustice is added to it and that is, that the chaukidars

are allowed to enjoy at night while the villagers remain on watch even to protect the life and property of the chaukidar who is their own servant. But why should the chaukidars not enjoy? He renders so many services to the sub-inspector of police when he goes to the police station to have his records inspected and signed by the sub-inspector.

The Act is disgraceful inasmuch as it gives the executive officers opportunities to disgrace men of independent views. Those good old days are gone. Now even the villagers have become educated to some extent or at least there has come an awakening in them. Now no one is heard to say to the officers : *Ap mere mai bap hain.* Those days are gone never to come back when no one dared pass the way a Deputy Commissioner was passing. It is known to all now that these roads are public property. But some of the officers do not tolerate this awakening and under cover of Acts like these, they put to disgrace those who may have shown a spirit of independence and may not have got up on any occasion to salute them. The military sardars who have been to foreign countries and have seen the ways of the world, do not care to dance attendance upon the sub-inspectors and it is on pretences like these that they are punished for their independent views. Therefore, the sooner this Act is repealed, the better.

I think I would be guilty of destructive criticism if I did not make here some constructive proposals. If it is not intended to repeal the Act altogether, it should be so amended as to apply to areas and persons who may be willing to make use of it. Such persons should give their names to the sub-inspector of their *ilaqa* who should arrange, under the orders of the Deputy Commissioner concerned, to employ *chaukidars* for watch and ward on payment made by such persons. The Village Patrol Act as it stands is uncalled for and unjustified as was remarked by the Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain when it was introduced and passed. I wonder how it came to be placed on the statute book when the zamindars at that time were in a majority. (*Voice* : Your own brethren helped to make it a law). Perhaps at that time they did not possess so much intelligence (*laughter*). I understand that one urban member also opposed this legislation. He must have been an impartial man. I support this resolution and I hope that no official or non-official member will oppose it.

Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan [Muhammadan, Landholders] (Urdu) : Sir I beg to move—

> "That for the original resolution the following be substituted,
> 'This Council recommends to the Government to take necessary steps to institute an enquiry as to whether the Punjab Village and Small Towns Patrol Act, 1918, should be amended or repealed.'

I request the honourable mover, through you, Sir, to accept this amendment. It is not that I am opposed to his resolution, but my object in moving this amendment is simply to gain time to enable Government and others concerned in the matter to consider over it at leisure. In fact, I and others on this side do not only sympathise with the honourable mover and his object, but are also deeply interested in the matter. There are no doubt difficulties in the working of the Act as the honourable mover and my friend Chaudhri Duli Chand have said, but we have yet to see whether these difficulties can be removed only by repealing the Act or that this purpose can be served by introducing necessary amendments in it. And it

[Capt. Sardar Sikandar Hayat Khan.]

is for this reason that I have moved this amendment. It is possible that this Act may not have worked to the best advantage of the people of the central or southern parts of the Province, but that is not the case so far as that part of the Punjab is concerned from which I come. (*A voice*: You people are big men). The question is not whether one is big and the other is small. In our part of the country people are not afraid so much of thieves as they are afraid of armed dacoits from across the border. If it had been a matter of crimes of ordinary nature or even of thefts, the people in the northern part of the Province could have very well managed without the help of this Act. The difficulty in that part of the Province is that armed and daring dacoities are committed not seldom, but very often. If this Act is repealed and if the vouluntary system of *thikri pahra* is again resorted to I think that the life and property of the villagers in the Northern Punjab will not be safe. Under the voluntary system very few conscientious persons are ready to do their duty of watch and ward at night The scamps and the lazy amongst them go to sleep comfortably and do not care for the safety of others unless they are compelled to do their duty. It is, therefore clear that we will experience some difficulty if the Act is repealed. In the circumstances the honourable mover will be well advised to accept my amendment which will give sufficient time to all parties concerned to consider over the matter calmly and carefully. By the way, I may remind those who are in favour of the main resolution, that even in very small villages in which this Act is enforced, an individual has to take his turn for patrol duty only once in a month or so. Therefore, I would repeat my request to the honourable mover of the resolution as well as Government to accept my amendment.

Sayad Muhammad Husain [Montgomery, Muhammadan, Rural] (Urdu): Sir, the arguments which my honourable friend has advanced while moving his amendment, have not convinced me. He said that if the Act had failed in its object so far as the central and southern parts of the Province are concerned, the districts in the north of the Province have benefited by it in which many cases of dacoities have been avoided by the men on partrol duty. I wonder how it has been possible for such men to withstand and put up a fight with the dacoits who were armed as he says. Are all these men exempted from the operation of the Arms Act? Do all of them keep and know the use of rifles or have all of them been granted license to keep arms? If that is so, I am only too glad. But I do not think that that is the case. I do not know of any district in the Punjab in which a general permission has been given to keep arms and as I read and understand the law on the subject, a man is said to have committed an offence if he is found to be in possession of arms without a license.

Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan: Government has supplied a number of rifles which are kept under safe custody and near at hand to be used in cases of emergency.

Sayad Muhammad Husain: That cannot help. Without giving proper training you cannot expect a person to use a rifle properly even if you arm him with one. Therefore, I do not see any force in the arguments of my honourable friend. Many years have elapsed since this Act was passed. During

this time very few, if any, have expresed satisfaction with its working. This legislation was opposed at that time also when it was introduced and the volume of opposition was very great. Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain, who was then the leader of the zamindar party, was one of those who opposed this legislation and he pointed out many difficulties which he foresaw, would have to be experienced in the working of the Act. We see those difficulties patent to-day. There is no reason why the poor should be compelled to keep watch at night to allow the rich to enjoy undisturbed sleep. In fact, it is no use asking or compelling such persons who badly want rest after a whole day's hard labour, to ward off the thieves or dacoits at night. You cannot expect them to put their heart into a work of this nature. They are sure to run away at the sight of thieves and dacoits and particularly when the latter are armed. There have been actually some such cases. I know of a particular case of this nature. There is one Lala Jamiat Rai who is a great friend of mine. He is a *sahukar*. The dacoits made a raid on his house twice. When they entered the village, in which he lives, for the first time, all those who were on patrol duty fled away as soon as they saw the dacoits entering the village. The dacoits reached the house without the least resistance and Lala Jamiat Rai had no alternative but to hand over the keys of the safe to them. Fortunately for him, only a small amount of money was in the safe at that time with which the dacoits made good their escape. They came again, and again the watchers took to their heels at their sight and although Lala Jamiat Rai tried hard to rally them, he failed to do so. He came to me and told the whole story. I advised him to go and see the Superintendent of Police, but I told him in the same breath that there was no use complaining against the men on patrol duty. They are not paid and they have no interest at stake to risk their lives. I also advised him to spend a part of his wealth and employ chaukidars at his own expense. To come to the point, the Village and Small Towns Act is meaningless. It is not conducive to the welfare of the public and Government also gains nothing thereby. The police officers beat mercilessly the men on patrol duty whenever they find them sleepy or indifferent to their duty. (*A voice*: Not only police officers, but the constables also beat them in such a way as if they were not men). I regard every police officer as a public servant. I sometimes shudder when I picture before my eyes the scene of a police officer striking hunter after hunter on the back of one of these poor people. The duty of watch and ward must be done by the chaukidars. Sometime back a resolution was passed requiring the chaukidars to get their books signed by the patwaris. That was really a useful resolution and it was tried in one or two districts of the Punjab. If it had been made applicable throughout the Punjab, much good would have resulted from it. In that case chaukidars would have had nothing to fear from the sub-inspectors of police and would have been usefully employed for patrol duty. In my opinion, this Act should be repealed at once and its existence should not be prolonged by enquiries as has been suggested by the honourable mover of the amendment. With these words I oppose this amendment.

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow: [Finance Member] Sir, I need not dilate on the history of this Act and of the ancient custom. I think the honourable mover himself admitted that it dated from the time before the British came to rule in this province. Nor need I dilate on the Act itself. Because

[Hon'ble Mr. Stow.]

after all, the Act merely enforces a custom which is germane to the village panchayat. We have heard a good deal of the village panchayat in these days, and it is described as a panacea for a good many ills. The faults if any, lie neither in the custom nor indeed in the Act itself; they must be in the working of the Act, which after all, as I have said, only enforces a custom. This Act, as all know was passed in 1918 and it has been in operation for ten years. It was not long before criticism began to make its appearance. The Honourable Sir John Maynard in answer to a question by Sirdar Dasaundha Singh in 1921 gave the following reply, which, with your permission, I shall read to the House :—

> "The Punjab Village and Small Towns Patrol Act of 1918 was passed by the Legislative Council without a dissentient voice. In villages the system is worked through panchayats which report on the number of persons required for patrol duty and the method of selection whether by rotation, by lot or otherwise. The panchayats exercise powers to grant exemptions and to fine for neglect of duty. The system is thus a portion of village self-government and when properly carried out, constitutes, a valuable instrument of self-help."

Please note the words, "properly carried out." The answer continues :—

> "The reports which have been received upon it indicate that it is working well. But any reports of specific abuses in the local working of the Act will receive careful investigation."

Now, Sir, I have not been able to trace any specific complaints made to the Government on which an investigation could be made. But Government has lately had occasion to examine the working of the Act, and it may be of interest to the House to hear the results of this examination. The Commissioners and the Deputy Commissioners have all reported that the Act when put into force was undoubtedly useful. I may point out that this Act does not apply to the Dera Ghazi Khan district where the Frontier Crimes Regulation is in force. Nor need we take into account the Simla district. It is also noteworthy that there are at least six important districts of the province where there has never been any occasion to put the Act in force.

Pandit Nanak Chand : Which are those districts ?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow : As far as I have been able to ascertain from the reports of the Deputy Commissioners, they are Kangra, Sialkot, Gujranwala, Hoshiarpur, Sheikhupura and Jhelum. It may be that the mere fact that the Act existed was sufficient to induce the people to make their own arrangements; if so, I can hardly think that it is the fault of the Act.

The Act is undoubtedly of considerable service in dealing with crime when it becomes of an organised character. In Hissar, Rohtak and Karnal it is reported that during the last two years the Act has been put in force in order to deal with cattle theft, which as every-one knows at times assumes the proportions of a public danger in that part of the country. Again in Lahore where, as all know, gangs appear from time to time and terrify the countryside with their depredations, it has been necessary to put the Act in force, not in all the villages, but only in a certain number of them. It is reported that this action was of great value. It is remarkable that many of the villages which arranged for *thikri pahra* under the pressure of the

Act, continued that system even though the application of the Act was removed after a year. If the application of the Act is not renewed, a village is under no obligation to arrange for *thiri pahra*. Again, in the colony tracts of the district from which the last speaker comes, in Montgomery, the Deputy Commissioner of that district as well as the Deputy Commissioners of Shahpur and Lyallpur report that in the newly settled areas the application of the Act has been very helpful. I should also mention that when it was announced in certain districts that the Act might have to be put into force in small towns, the small towns which were addressed on the subject at once made arrangements to increase the number of their own *chaukidars* and the Act was not applied.

However, it is clear from the debate that there are certain difficulties and drawbacks in the working of the Act. It will be all the better for an enquiry, such as has been proposed by the honourable member who has moved the amendment. I am therefore prepared to accept the amendment on behalf of the Government.

Chaudhri Afzal Haq: [Hoshiarpur-*cum*-Ludhiana (Muhammadan), Rural] (Urdu): Sir, I did not intend to make a long speech with regard to this resolution, but I was simply wonderstruck when the Honourable Member for Finance opposed the original resolution. In the Parliament if the leader of the opposition is opposed to a certain measure and then after a time he becomes the leader of the House he sticks to his original views and acts according to them as far as that measure is concerned. You will allow me to say Sir, that this is the only honourable and dignified course that a legislator should adopt. I have carefully gone through the speech of the Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain with regard to this Act when he adorned one of the opposition benches. At that time he was pleased to remark that the Act is very defective and absolutely worthless. Now he has become the leader of the House. I did not intend to say anything before hearing what the Government had to say about it. The gentleman who as the leader of the Opposition was dead against this measure is the leader of the House now. Therefore the Government should not hesitate to accept the original resolution and take shelter behind the amendment.

The Act in question has never been applied in my district but a neighbouring district with which we are closely concerned has had to face this measure in all its ugliness. I submit Sir, that to sacrifice the few for the sake of the nation may be considered a wise policy but who can ever think of sacrificing the whole nation for the benefit of a few persons? The Government in this country is well established. It has at its disposal all the means to preserve law and order in the country. It claims to be the best guardian of law and order in the world. In these circumstances, I fail to see why a custom which has been dead for nearly a thousand years has been revived in the 20th century. What purpose does the Government intend to serve by its revival? Does it mean to show to the world that the conditions that were prevalent in the country a thousand years ago have again made their appearance?

Only ten years ago all the members who could use their tongue—there are always some members to be found who will never say a single word—were against this measure. I will request the House to remember that in

[Chaudhri Afzal Haq.]

the year 1919 the country was not the same as we find it now in 1929. At that time the whole country was in a turmoil. People used to fight among themselves, riots were frequent and dacoities were very common in the country. And Sir, the Government was much more irresponsible at that time because Reforms had not yet been introduced. You cannot say that the Act was accepted without a single dissenting vote, because although on account of the majority of the official and nominated members at that time a division was not challenged, still the fact remains that all the elected members were opposed to this measure.

When the Leader of the House who is the most responsible of all the Government Members was of opinion that the Act is absolutely worthless how can you or I call it a useful measure?

Mr. President: The honourable member has repeated this argument thrice. I would ask him not to repeat it again.

Chaudhri Afzal Haq: Sir, I repeated this argument in order to show that the leader of the House considered this Act absolutely worthless and therefore, the Government is not justified in opposing the resolution. In the end, let me say that it does not become the Government or this House to institute an enquiry with regard to this Act as its defects are patent to any one who can see things for himself and that the original resolution should be accepted unanimously.

Mr. H. M. Cowan (Home Secretary): Sir, may I first draw your attention to one or two misunderstandings which appear to prevail among the honourable members who have spoken in favour of this resolution.

First of these is a very excellent war cry in favour of the resolution that *thikri pahra* is enforced on the poor for the benefit of the rich. Now, Sir, I do not know if the honourable members are prepared to prove that. My own experience is that that is not so. I know something of the working of the Act and my experience has been that the police of the district arranged that the rich men should be requested to take adequate measures for their own protection and for the protection of their property, and I never knew of an occasion in which rich men refused to do so. In the district to which I am particularly referring, those people used to appoint Gurkha chaukidars who were given arms licenses and used to guard their houses. I do not think that it is a rightful opposition to the Act to say that it is run for the benefit of the rich through the grinding of the poor.

Now, Sir, the honourable members who are in favour of this resolution have pointed out certain alleged evils of the Act but they have not pointed out what is to be done if this Act is to be abolished. You must do something. I think that is quite clear. The honourable member the mover of the resolution did read out the opinion of members from previous debates from which, I think, he quoted with favour the remarks that the villagers would be ready to employ and pay for double chaukidars if they could avoid having this Act. Well, Sir, we find the next gentleman who speaks, the honourable member for Karnal, Chaudhri Duli Chand, attempts to destroy this solitary constructive suggestion that is made. According to what he said there would be two chaukidars instead of one to run after the thanadar and arrange for his comfort!

The third thing is this— a great amount of capital is made of the attitude taken by the Honourable Revenue Member before the passing of the present Act. But, Sir, I think it is forgotten, at all events, it is not referred to, that, subsequent to the criticisms which were made to the Bill then before the Council, there was a select committee. It examined the Bill carefully and it was passed into law after having been amended and recommended by it. Whether the Honourable Revenue Member was a member of the Select Committee I am not in a position to say. Now, Sir, a number of objections have been hurled at this Act. Some of them called it useless *nākārā* and others called it *lā-mā'ni*. It has been asked what is the use of this Act? It is *nā qābil-i-'amal*. If it is so, *i.e.*, meaningless and incapable of enforcement what need to repeal it? In short, these are irresponsible criticisms.

Now, Sir, let us turn to a few points about the working of the Act. We find that the system of *thikri pahra* has been very carefully enforced. It has produced excellent results not only in the prevention of crime, but in the apprehension of criminals and stolen property. If the Act were repealed, crime would increase and, in the opinion of very high police officers, even if the staff of the existing police stations were doubled the position could not be redressed. Then, Sir, some honourable members made a great fuss about the attitude of the police towards the Act as to how chaukidars were treated by the police and how the police enforced this *thikri pahra* rather carelessly and without consideration. This really is not so and in support of that I draw attention to paragraph 28 of the Annual Police Report for 1927 which I hope all honourable members of this House have read. We see there that the police fully realize that *thikri pahra* is an emergency measure and should only be enforced as a last resort. Again, it is said in that paragraph that it is bad policy to worry villagers unnecessarily and it is also of the greatest importance that village patrols should work on a voluntary basis. In point of fact, the village patrol is worked on the whole on a voluntary basis. I find that the Act is only sparingly enforced and that, excluding the four special districts of Ferozepore, Ambala, Montgomery and Hissar where special circumstances appear to exist, in less than 1 per cent. of the 30,000 villages of this province is the Act enforced.

Again Sir, the hardship due to this Act on the villagers is not very great. Its enforcement only means that able-bodied men accustomed to out-door life have to go and do duty occasionally at night. I wonder if it is fully realized by the gentlemen who are in favour of this motion that if a man does not wish to go himself on duty he can supply a substitute. The honourable mover of the resolution drew attention I think to the difficulty of procuring substitutes. That is a matter which should be very easily arranged in the village by means of mutual arrangement. Instead of A paying a rupee and B paying a rupee each, they and others might combine to employ one additional man to do duty on various nights. There should be no difficulty about that.

I now turn briefly to the consideration of the question what would happen if this Act were abolished. It may be said that the system would continue on a voluntary basis just as it existed before the passing of the Act. This,

[Mr. Cowan.]

however, is unlikely for, if the need for the Act was felt in 1918, how much more is it felt in these days, when in a matter of this kind people are becoming less amenable to persuasion and less tolerant of executive orders which have not got legal sanction behind them. It may be taken on the whole that, if the Act goes, the system goes.

There are two alternatives. One is to let things slide, and that is perhaps the alternative the honourable member Chaudhri Duli Chand would prefer. But that course would mean a menace to security, the preservation of which is the primary function of government whether bureaucratic or democratic. Such an alternative is not to be contemplated. What can be done? Something must be done. Are you going to employ extra police? I see no other alternative. If you employ extra police, then that extra police has got to be paid from one of two sources, either at provincial expense or at the expense of the villagers in the form of punitive police. With regard to the former, this would involve a very great increase in expenditure. The *thikri pahra* system is at present enforced in 1,500 villages on a compulsory basis and in about 4,600 villages on a voluntary basis, that is in about 6,000 villages in all. If four constables were employed in each of these villages on an average pay of Rs. 17 per mensem, the cost would be about 48 lakhs annually. This would be a minimum. There would also be extra cost for head constables, etc. It is up to the honourable members to say whether they are going to replace the present system based on local self-government, based on custom, costing nothing to Government, only involving a little extra work occasionally, by a system which would cost Government 48 lakhs. It is up to them to show where that amount will come from. The Honourable Finance Member will doubtless welcome any suggestion as to where he can get 48 lakhs from.

Another objection to this course would be that it would be very difficult to maintain discipline and proper control over the large additional force sprinkled in some 6,000 villages throughout the province.

If, on the other hand, the alternative of the imposition of additional police paid for by the villagers is adopted, this would be unpopular among the villagers who undoubtedly prefer the system of *thikri pahra* arranged by themselves, to the imposition of punitive police. For the above reasons I oppose the resolution, while at the same time, in view of the possibility of hardships in certain districts, I support the amendment of the honourable member Sardar Sikandar Hayat Khan.

Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram: [South-East Rohtak (Non-Muhammadan), Rural]: Sir, I have no love for a law of the nature of the Village Patrol Act. In fact I have a very strong prejudice against the continued existence of such a law on the statute book, and after having heard the speeches that were made by the honourable member for Karnal and the honourable member from Shergarh, I dislike this law all the more. In fact the Zamindara League, with which I am closely associated, has been trying its best to see this Act repealed and in pursuance of a resolution passed by them a small deputation waited on His Excellency the Governor with a view to ask him to repeal or modify the Village Patrol Act. I do not think it will be disclosing any secret if I say that His Excellency promised

to make an enquiry into the alleged abuses to which this Act is put. In view of that assurance and in view of the fact that the Honourable Home Member has agreed to the amendment suggested by the honourable member representing Attock, I think it would be best to accept that amendment. It is much better to have half a loaf than to run the risk of losing the whole. After all in this House there are many representatives of rich and wealthy people in whose interests the Act is supposed to be administered. Any way the honourable mover of the resolution should realise that there is likely to be pretty tough opposition to his resolution, and it will be in the interest of the object that he has at heart if he accepts the amendment that has been proposed by Captain Sardar Sikandar Hayat Khan. If the Honourable Home Member had not expressed the readiness of Government to accept that amendment, I would have supported the resolution very cordially, but as things are I shall earnestly advise honourable mover of the resolution to accept the amendment.

Chaudhri Afzal Haq : Sir, I want to know what sort of enquiry Government have accepted, whether it will be made by non-official members or whether it will be an official enquiry.

(At this stage both Sir Fazl-i-Husain and Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq stood up).

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : (to Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq) : I thought you were going to reply to that question.

Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq : May do so some time (*laughter*).

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain (Revenue Member) : There does not seem really to be ground for controversy in a matter like this. The Act is alleged to work very harshly. It is said that there are serious abuses of the provisions of this Act or the threatening provisions of this Act. What is intended is to receive reports on these two or three points, place the relevant material before the Standing Committee on Police, consult them, discuss the matter with them, and then if it appears that the provisions of this Act need amendment or even repeal, Government can proceed to take action. What does the resolution want to do ? It commits this Council to the view that the Act must be repealed. Is the Council prepared to say: we will have no enquiry, we will listen to no facts, we will not go into facts, we will not discuss ? Admittedly the Council is not the most suitable place or machinery for a careful discussion of detail....

Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq : Sir, the Honourable Revenue Member has no right to make a second speech. He was asked to answer a question. He is not answering it, he is appealing to us and making a second speech.

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : No, Sir, I never made a first speech, so this cannot be a second speech. Besides the honourable member is wrong in saying that I have no right to speak. A Government Member can speak as a member of this House.

Mr. President : I had not called upon the Honourable Member to address the House. What I understood him to do was to answer the question put by the honourable member.

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : I thought that I was called upon to speak. Now, I sit down till you let me speak, Sir.

The Honourable Sardar Jogendra Singh (Minister for Agriculture): Sir, I simply wish to say that there is not much difference in what the honourable mover of the resolution wishes Government to do and what Government is prepared to accept. Government is prepared to enquire into the matter to find out whether the Act should be maintained or whether it should be repealed. The history of the Act, as the honourable mover, I hope, realises, is that that Act aids self-help and permits the villagers to combine themselves for self-protection and gives legislative sanction. Government is prepared to enquire into the question and place the results of the enquiry before the Standing Committee of this House, and if the Committee thinks that any action is desirable, Government will be prepared to give it the fullest possible consideration. I think this answers the question which the honourable mover asks.

Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq [Amritsar City (Muhammadan), Urban]: Sir, this Act, I think, is one of the most obnoxious Acts on the statute book. When this Act was being passed I said that it should be opposed in the Amritsar district. The Honourable Minister for Agriculture, though he is a Sikh and belongs to the Jat community, has not the same knowledge as I, a humble lawyer, have got about the working of the Act.

The Honourable Sardar Jogendra Singh: No. I have lived in the villages and seen the working of the Act which the honourable member has not.

Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq: He has lived in the villages of Oudh, probably not in the villages of the Punjab. I have seen the Act being worked in the villages of the Amritsar district and I know how it is being worked there. I know that is the reason why our villagers are not always pleased with Government. Such Acts look very innocent but when you come to work them, they become very obnoxious. I do not see, Sir, that there is any harm in the villagers coming forward to protect their hearth and home. But when you look into the details of the working of this Act if the Home Secretary and those who think with him have some knowledge of the state of things in actual practice, I am sure all will agree with me in saying that this is a very obnoxious Act. Fancy the Honourable the Revenue Member or, for the matter of that, the Honourable Mr. Stow living in a village where the lambardar is in enmity with him and he tries to harass him in the exercise of the powers given to him under this Act and asks him to come out and patrol the village one night when he had engagements elsewhere. It should be realised, Sir, that there is even no right of appeal, there are no documents, no witnesses and no evidence. The village people make a report to the police and what do the police do? They send for the people and the magistrate of the *ilaqa* to whom they say that the man was really a *ladmash* and he is often chalaned under Section 110. Once I had to go with a magistrate and I had occasion to see an actual case. The magistrate did not go till three days after the appointed date. These people who are alleged not to have patrolled the village were kept there for five days, I think. Some had left their crop unattended, some had left their homes with just the necessary clothes and they all had to remain all these days with considerable difficulty. I

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appeal to honourable members to imagine the situation. For they cannot fully realise it because they are lying in their cosy beds and comfortable easy chairs, knowing very little of how things are going round them. In spite of this Act being on the statute book for over six years yet there are many *badmashes* all over the country. Have the Government looked into the reason why it is so? (*The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain*: They are all new ones);. I cannot understand this remark of the Honourable Member, Sir. I ask, has the number of burglaries, the number of dacoities decreased since in any way? An honourable friend of mine draws my attention to the fact that far from that being the case the number has more than doubled. I therefore say, try without the Act and let us not be frightened with imaginary apprehensions. The Act has evidently failed in its working. As it is, I am aware of instances where the people of one village make the *badmashes* go to another village and when the latter are hauled up, coming to their support by proving *alibi*. The Honourable the Home Secretary spoke of custom. Are we going to follow the customs as old as Emperor Akbar? If that were to be, why not follow the good old customs which then prevailed? For instance, we were governing ourselves then; we had our own military men. Could these be revived now? What is the use of having highly paid officers who will not use their brains to devise some improvement in the system? What is the use of having the entire police force? I know there are many people here who allege that a great many of the burglaries that occur are due to the police themselves. If the poor people of the villages are to guard themselves, why have the police, why at all pay taxes to the Government for safeguarding our security? This system is unknown to any civilised country and the sooner it is done away with here the better. I am glad that the Government have accepted to hold an enquiry. But I should request them to hold an independent enquiry. It should not merely be a whitewash by such of the Commissioners or Deputy Commissioners who are wedded to the idea of keeping this Act alive. There should, if the enquiry should be a proper one, be a majority of non-officials on it. There should be many non-officials ready to serve on such a committee; *ex*-ministers should be forthcoming. We have an experience of committees before with too much of the official element. They always try to throttle public opinion and always try to add to the burdens of the people. With these words, I support the resolution.

Rai Bahadur Lala Mohan Lal: [North-East Towns (Non-Muhammadan), Urban]: Sir, I have not had the privilege of listening to all the speeches on this resolution which have been made but I heard the word "Lala" from the lips of the honourable member from Montgomery. I concluded that the idea probably was that this *thikhri pahra* business was intended only for the protection of lalas. I have heard the honourable member from Amritsar also referring to the customs that prevailed in olden days. I may remind honourable members, and I do believe they know it themselves too, that in India in ancient times, there was no police but it was considered the primary duty of the residents of every village to protect themselves. The basic idea was that there was to be a brotherhood and brotherly feelings were to prevail and it is to this that the origin of the *thikri*

[Rai Bahadur Lala Mohan Lal.]

pahra system is to be traced. Sir, in these days when there is such a high tension between the Hindus and Muslims, the agriculturists and non-agriculturists, I am of opinion that it would be wrong on the part of the Council to give a vote in favour of the repeal of the measure which will weaken the hands of Government in executive matters, when the hands of the Government in my humble opinion ought to be strengthened. I agree with some of my friends here that if there are any difficulties in the working of the Act, it is the duty of the Government, it is our duty as members of the House, to see that they are removed and the necessary protection to the villagers ensured. If I remember rightly the occasion for the passing of the Village Patrol Act was when there was incendiarism in Mianwali, when people took the law into their own hands and the houses of *sahukars* were burnt and when it was represented to Government that because of the strained feelings between the communities, some measure was necessary under which it would be the duty of the several *ilaqas* to protect themselves. I may be wrong but that is my surmise. So far as I can see from the speeches that have been made on behalf of the Government, this measure has been put in use in exceptional and emergent cases only. It is not that the Government or its officers in the local districts have applied the provisions of this Act in cases where they were not found absolutely necessary. In these circumstances I agree with every word that was spoken by my honourable friend Chaudhri Chhotu Ram. I feel that it is our duty to support the amendment moved by the honourable member Captain Sikandar Hayat Khan, that the Government should take into consideration the provisions of this Bill and make the necessary enquiries in order to have the difficulties in its working removed. As regards the Act it should be allowed to stand as it is and not repealed.

Mr. President: The resolution moved is—

"This Council recommends to the Government to take necessary steps for the repeal of the Punjab Village and Small Towns Patrol Act, 1918."

To which amendment is moved,—

"That for the original resolution the following be substituted:

"This Council recommends to the Government to take necessary steps to institute an enquiry as to whether the Punjab Village and Small Towns Patrol Act, 1918, should be amended or repealed."

The question is that that amendment be adopted.

The motion was carried.

Mr. President: The motion before the House is—

"This Council recommends to the Government to take necessary steps to institute an enquiry as to whether the Punjab Village and Small Towns Patrol Act, 1918, should be amended or repealed."

The question is that that resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried.

RESOLUTION RE JACOBABAD-KASHMORE RAILWAY LINE.

Shaikh Faiz Muhammad [Dera Ghazi Khan (Muhammadan), Rural (Urdu)]: Sir, the resolution which I want to move runs as follows:—

"This Council recommends that necessary steps be taken to get the Jacobabad-Kashmore Railway line extended to Dera Ghazi Khan."

Sir, in the course of the discussion of a resolution yesterday the Honourable Member for Revenue was pleased to say that the Government will be only too glad to do whatever it can for the benefit of the people of Dera Ghazi Khan and that it is prepared to incur any reasonable expenditure that may be required in this connection. I as a representative of the Dera Ghazi Khan district thank the Government and the Honourable Revenue Member for that attitude towards my people and hope that the promised sympathy will assume a practical form to-day.

Sir, the construction of the means of communication also is an important factor as far as public welfare is concerned. But it is a pity that the Government has paid no attention to the wants of Dera Ghazi Khan district in this connection. From south to north this district extends over 300 miles and the breadth from east to west is nearly 40 miles. But we have no better means of conveyance than horses, camels and tongas. Recently motor cars have also appeared but only rich people can take advantage of them. Therefore, it is required that the Jacobabad-Kashmore line may be extended to Dera Ghazi Khan, and if it prove a success it may be further extended to Dera Ismail Khan.

There are three branches of the North-Western Railway, which can be extended to Dera Ghazi Khan. One of these is within and the other two are outside the Province. The Mahmudkot—Ghazi Ghat branch line can be extended to Dera Ghazi Khan, but as the Indus comes in the way it will be necessary to construct a bridge a cross it. The other line from Chathran which is at a distance of 15 miles will also prove too costly for the same reason. But in the way of the extension of the Jacobabad-Kashmore line which is at a distance of 30 miles from the southern boundary of Dera Ghazi Khan district there is no such impediment. Therefore, I earnestly request the Government to take steps to get that line extended to Dera Ghazi Khan.

Sir, we cannot expect the Government to spend money on the construction of a line from which it cannot hope to derive any profit. Let me, therefore, say a few words from the business point of view. Some time back the Deputy Commissioner of Dera Ghazi Khan collected the figures of export and import. It was then found that a large quantity of grain was being carried to and from Sukkur by boats. The Deputy Commissioner had not taken into consideration the land produce of Barkhan for which Dera Ghazi Khan is the market. Then comes the passenger traffic. The population of this part of the country chiefly consists of Baluchis who have got various connections with Baluchistan. Quetta, the capital of Baluchistan will also be benefited by this extension because the line can be further extended to that place and then people will travel by this line instead of the circuitous main line. Thus the line can prove greatly profitable to the Government also. In these circumstances I hope that as the Honourable Revenue Member has promised the Government will readily accept the resolution and no voice will be raised against it.

Mr. A. R. Astbury (Secretary, Public Works Department): Sir, this Government is entirely in accord with the underlying spirit of this resolution.....

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram: Sir, we cannot hear at all.

Mr. President: I sympathise with the honourable Rai Bahadur, but I cannot ask Mr. Astbury to raise his voice beyond its highest pitch.

Mr. A. R. Astbury: Sir, the Government is entirely in accord with the underlying spirit of this resolution. But there is a difficulty in accepting it as it stands because it is too explicit, that is to say, it recommends the consideration of one particular line whereas Government knows that under the orders of the Railway Board, the North-Western Railway is about to undertake a traffic survey of the whole of the district of Dera Ghazi Khan, with a view to see which particular line or lines in that area will be most suitable. So, for that reason Government would prefer that this resolution should be withdrawn and the state of affairs should be left where it is. I undertake on behalf of the Government to impress on the Railway Board the views of the honourable member. I would like to explain one or two little difficulties which are in the way. One is that Railways are a Central Subject and it is not within the powers of the local Government to undertake a particular railway line. The second is that the prospects of any railway in this area are very poor. The Railway line between Jacobabad and Kashmore is not indeed doing as well as was expected. The proceeds are very low. There is one more difficulty. We cannot expect the Railway Board to be eager to extend railways where the experience in the past has not been quite satisfactory. I must also mention that the country which the line would have to traverse is difficult. Lastly, the guarantee which may be asked by the Central Government may be rather high. But I assure the honourable member that I shall bring the views of the honourable member on this subject before the Railway Board, and I think that that will be sufficient ground for him to withdraw this resolution.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram [Multan Division (Non-Muhammadan) Rural] (Urdu): Sir, Dera Ghazi Khan has always remained unfortunate in the past and even to-day it is unlucky. The members on whose support we can depend are absent. Mr. Astbury has tried to assure us of its future prospects. I suggest Sir, that statistics regarding the export and import of goods of river-borne trade in this district may be prepared. (*Interruption.*) If they are really preparing the statistics then the result arrived at will convince them of the advisibility of extending the Railway line to that district. A cursory glance at the map of the district will impress on them the importance of the suggestion put forward by the honourable mover of the resolution. The line extended will pass through, Rajhan, Rajanpur, Jampur, Dajal, Sakhi Sarwar and Tonsa Sharif from where it can be further extended to Dera Ismail Khan. From the military point of view this line will be so important that even the Military Department would be ready to construct it at its own cost. A scheme the cost of which the military authorities would be willing to share may be prepared. From a strategic point of view it will be a very useful frontier railway. The present disrupture and anarchy in Afghanistan also demands a railway line being built at the frontier. It will be in the interest of the Government. With a request to Mr. Asbtury to

recommend the proposal very strongly to the Military Department I resume my seat.

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : The honourable member has not listened evidently to the speech made by the honourable Mr. Astbury who spoke last, and he has attributed to the latter statements which he did not make, and thereby he is pressing the speedy disposal of this very desirable resolution with which the Government is much in sympathy.

Shaikh Faiz Muhammad [Dera Ghazi Khan (Muhammadan) Rural]: (Urdu): Sir, we are easy to please, even small promises satisfy us. The Honourable Revenue Member has given us an assurance and we are well satisfied with it. All the past promises have resulted in nothing substantial, but still we continue to have faith in the Government. Sir, we hope the present promise will be given effect to and with full reliance on the undertaking given by the Government, Sir, I withdraw my resolution.

The resolution was by leave withdrawn.

RESOLUTION *RE* APPOINTMENT OF HONORARY MAGISTRATES.

Lala Bodh Raj [West Punjab Towns (Non-Muhammadan), Urban]: Sir, I beg to move that—

> "This Council recommends to the Government to appoint District Advisory Committees consisting of the following officials and non-officials to prepare a list of persons fit to work as Honorary Magistrates in each district and the Local Government should appoint only those persons who are included in the list so prepared and submitted :—
>
> (1) The District Magistrate ;
>
> (2) The District and Sessions Judge ;
>
> (3) An elected member of the Council resident in the district and in case there be more than one member resident in the district two members be appointed by election by the members if the number exceeds two ;
>
> (4) Two persons appointed by the Municipal Committee by election ;
>
> (5) Two persons appointed by the District Board by election."

Mr. President : Sub-Clause (3) appears to be meaningless and should be changed.

Lala Bodh Raj : I agree to change it, Sir. Sir, from the resolution you will find that the object of moving this resolution is simply to bring in a change in the system of recruitment of honorary magistrates. From the nature of the questions that have been asked on the floor of this house now and then and the resolutions that have been moved you will find that there is a popular feeling that the sooner this institution of honorary magistrates is abolished the better.

My object in moving this resolution is not to abolish this institution altogether. I want only to suggest to Government a method of recruitment of these honorary magistrates who have to work singly or on benches. In the development of responsible self-government we have got such semi-official institutions as the municipalities, the district boards and the legislative councils. Under the existing rules in force it is left to the discretion of the district magistrate to make the appointments of honorary Magistrates but my resolution wants that the selection should be done by a committee or at least a panel should be prepared by the committee leaving the final selection to the district magistrate. The power of the Government

[Lala Bodh Raj.]

in making the final selection is not attempted to be taken away. Instead of vesting the discretion entirely in one individual officer, I am attempting in this resolution to provide that the selection shall be made by a committee of the people of the locality who have got the confidence of the people and who claim to be the representatives of the people. The country is advancing towards responsible self-government and we want that the people of the country should be ruled through their own representatives, and therefore there is no reason why the people in this case should not be given a voice in the matter of the selection of their magistrates who have to administer criminal law. A perusal of the resolutions that have been moved in this House and the questions asked here will go to show that the magistrates are recruited from the class of people who often pay visits to the District Magistrate. Without casting any reflection on the honorable members of this House who have been returned as true representatives of the people and happen to be honorary magistrates, I should say that in the ranks of these honorary magistrates, there are men with no educational qualifications, with no knowledge of the law they are going to administer. The stipendiary magistrates are required to be double graduates both in law and arts, and in addition to that they are required to pass the competitive and other departmental examinations, and over and above all this, Government have appointed committees to make the final selection. If the honorary magistrates are required to perform the same judicial functions as the stipendiary magistrates, there is no reason why a similar committee should not be appointed for the selection of the honorary magistrates.

With your permission Sir, I would like to draw your attention to the rules on the subject intended to guide the District Magistrates in making appointments of honorary magistrates. They are found at pages 346 and 347 of Council Debates of 26th October 1923. They are as follows :—

"(2) Qualifications for appointment :—

The person appointed must possess ability, common sense, a sense of justice and sufficient knowledge of law and procedure.

Other qualifications for the appointment are :—

(*a*) General character and reputation.

(*b*) Hereditary and feudal claims in areas where they exist ;

(*c*) Loyal services.

(*d*) Influence and popularity. But loyal services and popularity alone should give no claim. No one should be appointed who is not free from such pecuniary embarrassment as would lead to temptation, or is unable to read and write the vernacular fluently.

* * * * * *

(5) Honorary Magistrates should be encouraged to pass the Extra Assistant Commissioners' Departmental examination by the lower standard."

In practice the rules are not so hard and fast as one would expect them to be. For example in one of the rules, rule (6), it is stated that the limits of age are 30 and 65 years, but neither limit is to be regarded as hard and

fast. The other rules also are flexible in application that the District Magistrate has got such a wide discretion that he can appoint any man he likes.

Again, Sir, in answer to a question put on the 2nd March 1925 (page 182 of Council Debates, Volume VIII) regarding the educational qualifications of honorary magistrates in Multan division Government replied that they had no detailed knowledge of the educational qualifications of honorary magistrates beyond such as are requisite for the exercise of the judicial functions. In answer to a question by my honourable friend Sardar Narain Singh at the meeting of 19th January 1925, Government gave a list of honorary magistrates who are not literate or fluent in Urdu. There are about twenty-five such persons in the list. Lastly, Sir, in reply to another question put on 19th July 1927 the Honourable Finance Member said that there were twelve persons who did not know how to read and write Urdu. If such is the state of affairs as is shown by the statements made by the Government themselves on various occasions, you can easily imagine whether the interests of the parties seeking justice at the hands of these honorary magistrates will be safe or not.

There is yet another class of persons from which honorary magistrates are recruited. They are the retired Government servants, such as retired Extra Assistant Commissioners, Sub-Judges and police officers. These people have spent the best part of their lives in serving the Government and they have been made to retire as they are considered to be unfit for further service. But Government thinks it fit to confer the powers of honorary magistrate on these persons. There is a widespread popular belief that the object of the Government in conferring these powers on such persons is not to administer speedy justice but to serve their political ends by keeping these people in close touch with the Government so that their services might be availed of in times of emergency.

Sir, in the committee which I have proposed, you will find that I have not ignored the official element. On the other hand, the District Magistrate, the official head of the district, and the Sessions Judge who is responsible for the proper administration of justice by these honorary magistrates, are there on the committee of selection. Leaving aside these two officials the rest are non-officials. The member of the Council, if there is any resident in the district and if there are more than two, then two members. . . . . .

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram: That is yourself.

Lala Bodh Raj: Any member of the Council who is resident of the district, may be Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram or anybody else. If the number of honourable members of this Council residing in the district exceeds two then I propose that there should be two members elected out of these members who should work on this committee.

Mr. President: This part, I may say again, is not clearly expressed, in fact, it is meaningless as it stands.

Lala Bodh Raj: My meaning of this part about the constitution of the committee is that if in a district where an honorary magistrate is to be appointed, there is only one member of the Council who resides there he should be on the committee, and if the number exceeds one then two members may sit on the committee; that is, if the number of members residing in that *ilaqa* is two then both of them should sit on the committee and if

[Lala Bodh Raj.]

the number exceeds two then two should be appointed by election out of those members who are residing in the district.

Mr. President: That may be the meaning of the honourable member but what I am concerned with is whether that meaning is expressed in so many words.

Lala Bodh Raj: The words as they stand are—

> "an elected member of the Council resident in the district and in case there be more than one member resident in the district, two members be appointed by election by the members if the number exceeds two."

Mr. President: The resolution, as worded, does not express what the honourable member has stated.

Lala Bodh Raj: If the number of members residing in the district is two then both of them should work on that committee. Then two persons appointed by the municipal committee by election and two persons appointed by the district board by election shall work on the committee. The honourable members of this House who happen to be honorary magistrates, I am sure, should be glad to welcome this resolution because their interests are not affected in the least.

Pandit Nanak Chand: Because they can nominate themselves.

Lala Bodh Raj: Because they are themselves the representatives of the people and they have got the confidence of the people and they are sure to be appointed or to be brought on the list desired by the resolution. So if there are members who are still of the view that this resolution should not be carried then they will expose themselves to the charge that there are certain relations of theirs who under this resolution will not be brought on such lists and if they oppose this resolution the people outside will be justified in saying that the members of this House have been carried away by interested motives. I am sure that the members of this House will not give an opportunity of this charge being levelled against them and I would request members of this House that this resolution which is quite a modest one is, in the circumstances, necessary and is calculated to remove malpractices that are prevailing at present in the institution of honorary magistrates. It may be said that the malpractices do not prevail. In the year 1922 or so a committee was appointed to enquire into the malpractices that were prevailing in the institution of these honorary magistrates. The Committee made its report and from the findings of that report and from the opinions that have been expressed off and on, on the floor of this House, we see that there are still mal-practices prevailing in this institution as there are malpractices prevailing in other departments of the Government and the method that I have suggested is one which will remove to a great extent these malpractices. I do not claim that this resolution is calculated to remove all the defects that at present exist in that institution, but it is a great step forward. At present the selection is made by the district magistrate alone. The district magistrate has to remain, under the rules of service, only for three years in a district and he cannot be in close touch with the circumstances of the

candidates that he is to recommend for appointment as honorary magistrates. He has to rely on the notes that have been left by his predecessor or he has to rely on the inquiries that he has to make from persons who go to visit him and the persons who go to pay such visits generally belong to the same class to which the candidates themselves belong and the district magistrates have not got sufficient opportunity to know the popular feelings regarding any candidate. So far as our experience goes we see that the district magistrates do not come into contact with the popular feelings and they cannot, in making recommendations say whether the particular candidate that they are recommending commands the confidence of the people. We want that these honorary magistrates instead of being centres of Government influence should be the centres of public opinion and they should rather represent the people than the Government in the affairs of life. If I mistake not, in England and in other European countries, there are similar committees for making the selection of honorary magistrates or for making their appointments and I do not see any reason or justification for the Government to refuse the appointment of such committees in order to prepare a list of such persons as are considered fit by the persons of the *ilaqa* where the honorary magistrate is to work. With these few words, Sir, I move this resolution and I hope that the members of this House will give their support to this resolution.

Mr. President: There is another defect in the language of the resolution. Suppose that the committee proposed by the honourable mover of the resolution is constituted. Suppose further that in exercise of powers, which the honourable mover proposes to vest in that committee, a list of 20 or 30 suitable candidates in a district is prepared. How long will the persons thus selected or nominated by that committee continue to be appointed? In other words, how long will the list once prepared remain in force? The resolution, as it stands, clearly states that honorary magistrates shall be appointed by the Government from among those persons whose names may be selected by that committee. Suppose the list is prepared of 20 persons. Will the Government maintain it for ten or twenty years? There is no provision as to when the list is to be revised; how the persons once selected are to be eliminated and new and better qualified persons to be brought in. All these defects are there. In fact the resolution, as it stands, should not have been admitted. The honourable member may withdraw it now and table it again after wording it properly. As it stands, it is meaningless.

Lala Bodh Raj: I am sorry that I did not elaborate these points and for the information of this House, I would say, Sir, that the wording of the resolution is the same as that of a similar resolution which was passed by the Central Provinces Legislative Council. So far as this point is concerned whether the list which has been once prepared shall remain for good or whether it shall be revised every now and then, I would submit that as the resolution does not say anything one way or the other, it is in the discretion of that committee whenever an appointment is to be made or whenever any recommendation is to be made to revise that list or to act upon the list already prepared. So it is quite in the discretion of that committee. I have not fettered their discretion. I have kept the discretion very wide and it is for that committee to decide whether a new list is to be prepared

[Lala Bodh Raj.]
at the time that the recommendations are to be made or whether they have to stick to the list already prepared and leave it to the Government to make their selection.

Mr. President: The resolution, as it stands, does not express that meaning. The sessions judge, the district magistrate, and some members of this Council are expected to prepare a list of suitable candidates. Does the honourable member mean that Government should be restricted to that list for ever? If not, how and when is that list to be revised and by whom? How is the new sessions judge or district magistrate to have a voice in the selection of new suitable men? All these defects are there. Therefore, I do not feel justified in putting the resolution as worded, to the House.

Lala Bodh Raj: As is the practice at present, there are certain names with the district magistrate and certain names are left by the out-going magistrates and it is for the in-coming magistrate to rely upon those notes or to prepare his own list.

Mr. President: Such additions and interpolations, I am afraid, cannot be allowed at this stage. I allow the honourable member two minutes to prepare a revised draft of his resolution.

Lala Bodh Raj: I do not mean to make any addition to the resolution.

Mr. President: The honourable member will please resume his seat. I refuse to propose his resolution as it stands from the chair.

Lala Bodh Raj: If I am permitted, I will redraft it.

Mr. President: That is what I suggested to the honourable member to do.

Lala Bodh Raj: Thank you, Sir.

Mr. President: I allow the honourable member 15 minutes.

5 P. M.

(At this stage the Council adjourned for 15 minutes.)

(On re-assembling).

Mr. President: The resolution as redrafted is yet defective but not altogether meaningless. It reads—

> "This Council recommends to the Government to appoint District Advisory Committees consisting of the following officials and non officials to prepare a list of persons fit to work as Honorary Magistrates in each district and the Local Government should appoint only such persons as are included in the list so prepared and submitted:—
>
> (1) The District Magistrate;
>
> (2) The District and Sessions Judge;
>
> (3) An elected member of the Council resident in the district and in case there are two members resident in the district both of them shall work on the Committee. In case there are more than two members, two members may be appointed by election from amongst these members.
>
> (4) Two persons appointed by the Municipal Committee by election;
>
> (5) Two persons appointed by the District Board by election."

The draft it still defective and meaningless, especially in clause (4), inasmuch as there are several and not only one Municipal Committee in every district. I decline, therefore, to put the question from the Chair.

The following resolutions standing in the names of the respective members were not moved as the members were absent :

Honorary Lieutenant Sardar Raghbir Singh : This Council recommends to the Government to appoint C.I.D. officers for the detection of bribery in the Civil and Criminal Courts.

Rai Shahadat Khan : This Council recommends to the Government that immediate measures be taken to get the amount of damage done to the zamindars residing in the flooded areas of this province, investigated with a view to give them relief.

Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : This Council recommends to the Government that the Chauntra Thana be excluded from the other jurisdiction of Attock district and be included in the Rawalpindi district.

Mr. E. Maya Das : This Council recommends to the Government to take necessary steps to abolish the motor vehicle tax.

Dr. Sir Muhammad Iqbal : This Council recommends to the Government that the provisions of the Town Improvement Act of 1922 should be brought into operation within the limits of the Lahore Municipality.

Rana Firoz-ud-Din Khan : This Council recommends to the Government that one lakh acres of land be reserved in the Nili Bar Colony for sale to the statutory agriculturists on fixed average price to be paid by easy instalments extending over a period of twenty years.

RESOLUTION *RE* CONSTRUCTION OF BHAKRA DAM.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram [Multan Division (Non-Muhammdan) Rural] : (Urdu)—

Sir, I beg to move :

> "That this Council recommends to the Government to start at once the construction of the Bhakra Dam, and to provide for this purpose a sum of rupees fifty lakhs in the coming budget to meet the initial expenses."

Sir, I had not even a remote idea that my resolution will come up so soon to-day. Under this impression I did not bring some reference notes, yet I hope that on this matter Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram and Chaudhri Baldeo Singh who are present will throw a great light. The Bhakra Dam matter has been postponed for a very long time. In the first Council the resolution was passed and the Government agreed to prepare a scheme but the construction of the Sutlej Valley Project was taken up and it was left in abeyance. Many a time the same thing happened with regard to it. I may submit, Sir, that the areas that are going to be irrigated by it belong to those Jats who had rendered great services to the Government during the Great War. I have some five hundred voters in the areas concerned and that is why I am speaking for the resolution. I have also some relatives in the Hissar district, who wrote to me to move this resolution in the House. The Government can prepare the estimate of expenditure, and the details of the working; and my friends from these districts will acquaint you with the areas that will be irrigated by it. If the Government's finances are not sufficient to cope with all this expenditure at one time it may proceed with the work slowly. Those engineers who have finished the work on the Sutlej Valley

[Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram.]

Project may be made to start the Bhakhra Dam and after the completion of that scheme the Bakhra Dam scheme should be taken up. The Government has committed itself, for it gave an undertaking to start it as early as possible. With these remarks I move the resolution before the House for its favourable consideration.

Chaudhri Baldeo Singh [North-West Rohtak (Non-Muhammdan), Rural]: Sir, the question of Bhakra Dam has been postponed on several grounds by Government, and it has been for a long time stated that Government has been sleeping over this thing. At least in Hariana tract it is said that Government is far more anxious to push forward the Thal Project and to place back the Bhakra Dam. Also it is said that members from our own district also think that the Thal Project should be taken first in hand. But the position at present is that the Thal Project.....

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: Which part of the district of Rohtak?

Chaudhri Baldeo Singh: In the Hariana district—Rohtak, Hissar, Karnal and Gurgaon. In the matter of the Thal Project the Bombay Government has objected to it, and therefore as long as the Sukkur Barrage Scheme has not been worked, and it has not been decided whether water in the Indus is enough and to spare, the Thal Project will remain in abeyance. Now Government has no other project before it and the experts have already decided that the place where the Bhakra Dam is to be constructed is quite hard enough to bear the weight of water up to a depth of 500 feet. That objection having been met I think Government should have proposed at once for the sanction of the Government of India and to start construction as soon as it was possible. Now, we see that up to this time the plans have not been prepared. The estimates have not been prepared and there is going on at present correspondence with the Government of India with a view to find out if the Bombay Government would not object to this scheme. I cannot understand how the Bombay Government can have any objection to the scheme which is a storage scheme. The storing of water by a dam does not mean that the water of the Sutlej will be held up. Only the quantity of water which is stored in the dam will be used for the irrigaton of the tracts which will be watered by this scheme and therefore the surplus water of the river will run through the Indus as it has been running. Therefore I do not believe there can be any grounds for the Bombay Government or as a matter of fact for the Government of India to raise objection on account of the Sukkur Barrage Scheme. The second difficulty that has been pointed out in the construction of the Bhakra Dam is that of money.

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: By whom?

Chaudhri Baldeo Singh: This was the difficulty pointed out by Government in the last debate.

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: Certainly not. I never did so. Why create difficulty when there is none?

Chaudhri Baldeo Singh : If there is no difficulty about finding money, so much the better for it. So far as money is concerned, there is no difficulty before Government. That being so, I see no reason, now that the Sutlej Valley Project is about to be finished, why the Bhakra Dam should not be started.

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : It will be started.

Chaudhri Baldeo Singh : I am afraid the progress shown so far is very slow. It may be said that this is a scheme upon which the destinies of the Hindu zamindars of the South-East Punjab depend. In the interests of the zamindars who are mostly Hindus it is most essential that this scheme should be expedited as soon as possible.

The estimates should be prepared and money should at once be allotted for it and the construction should be undertaken as soon as possible. And I believe that the construction of this dam can be taken in hand even if the Thal project is to be carried out. For, as the Government has admitted there is no difficulty so far as money is concerned. So it seems that no member of the House could possibly take any objection on any grounds whatever for the execution of the Bhakra Dam at a very early date. The whole of the Punjab is very well irrigated by canals, so much so that in some parts water-logging has been a far greater grievance than water scarcity. In our districts, water scarcity has been the chief curse and famine has been raging always in one form or another. Therefore, I think, members of this Province who have the benefit of a good source of irrigation in their respective districts should uphold this scheme and vote for this motion.

Mr. J. B. G. Smith (Chief Engineer, Irrigation) : Sir, I should have thought that this resolution would not have come up at all. Since I last spoke to this House on this subject it has been explained twice to the House, once last March and once again this year in answer to two sets of questions on the 25th and 26th. (*A voice* : The answers were very obscure). I will explain the answer, Sir. The position seems to be generally well understood that we are awaiting some reply from Bombay. And the honourable gentleman who just spoke wanted to know why it was necessary to await any reply from Bombay. He also went on to say that Bombay had no real ground of objection. With this latter statement we are all in entire agreement. But, we know perfectly well what happened over the Thal project and this Government was to my mind very well advised to get a reply from the Government of Bombay and the Government of India, in this case, to the effect that they will not later on, when we have incurred probably some lakhs in doing the necessary surveys, in completing the revised project, turn round and say : You cannot go on with the scheme. What has happened now ? Last month to my surprise when we expected a reply from the Bombay Government saying : 'Go ahead.', we got a telegram saying that some of the members wanted to come and meet us and discuss details. Naturally we jumped at it. (*A voice*—With regard to the Bhakra Dam ?) Yes, with regard to the storing of the waters of the Sutlej River, they said that they had some objection and wanted to come and discuss with us. Naturally we said : "Yes, come at once." They came. The argument that was being advanced by this particular gentleman was so peurile and seemed to be so obstructive that I told him that I refused to discuss that

[Mr. Smith.]

particular aspect of the question with him. It was this. He was trying to argue that if we obstructed the waters of the Sutlej for the purpose of impounding it for the Bhakra dam, we would lower the surface level—a very old argument—of the Indus River to such an extent that their inundation canals would not function. I told him that it was such a stupid argument that I would not even consent to discuss it and that if he wanted that point to be discussed he should do it formally through his own Government. That shows you the attitude that the Bombay people are adopting. Do you not think it is, as well, before spending money on the project, to make certain that we should tie the hands of Bombay so very effectively that they would not be able to interfere once we set to work on the project? I am sure now that you have this explanation of why we have gone to Bombay you will see that there has been no unnecessary delay, no postponement on our part at all. Only to-day—I was not prepared for this resolution coming up to-day being far down in the list of business—I got Mr. Nicholson to telephone down to Delhi to Mr. Harris asking him whether any reply had come from Bombay as we were on for a resolution to-morrow morning. Presumably, Mr. Nicholson has done it and he has probably got a reply awaiting to be delivered to me to-morrow morning. That shows why we have been delaying and I have nothing more to say on the matter.

Pandit Nanak Chand [Hoshiarpur, Non-Muhammadan), Rural]: Sir, the question of the Bhakra Dam has been coming before this Council and the Council that preceded this, many a time. It is of the utmost importance so far as the zamindars of Hissar, Rohtak and Karnal districts are concerned. There has been a good deal of promises on the part of the Government from as far back as 1916 or 1917, when the Great War was going on, when Sir Michael O'Dwyer promised that the zamindars of these localities would be amply rewarded for their war services by this particular irrigation scheme. We have not been able to understand why since 1915 down to the present day this scheme has not been taken in hand by the Government while we find there have been other schemes which the Government have taken in hand and are in the process of execution. The only reason that I have been able to find, or rather that is what I suspect to be the reason, is that by irrigating these tracts, the Government have no profit to make as they have no crown lands to sell. That seems to be the reason why the Government have been delaying this scheme and adopting the Sutlej Valley Project and other schemes. (*The Honourable the Revenue Member*: Which other schemes?) There was the Thal Project. (*The Honourable the Revenue Member*: That was started in 1901, but the actual execution has not commenced yet.) I know that. There is the Nili Bar scheme besides the Sutlej Valley Scheme. (*The Honourable the Revenue Member*: That was much earlier, 1914, I believe.) Sir, the Honourable the Revenue Member is in the habit of interrupting so that when his speech comes we will also not be denied the privilege. Why is the Honourable Member so anxious to interrupt now and then? He has got the advantage of reading blue books which we have not. I hope he will not further interrupt me, Sir. (*The Honourable the Revenue Member*: Only to correct him, Sir.) Sir, I was saying that this was a very important scheme and definite promises were held out by the head of the Government to the zamindars that they would be afforded

these irrigation facilities. This has not been done so far and as I have stated, one of the reasons which struck me for this delay was that there are no crown lands which the Government could sell and make a large profit. Otherwise, we cannot possibly understand what business it is of the Bombay Government to interfere with the scheme. If the Government of Bombay's objection were to be heard, that argument could also apply to the Sutlej Valley Project. They could complain in respect of that scheme as well. But the Government did not take the views of the Bombay Government in respect of that scheme. And I submit it was not at all necessary on the part of the Government to ask with regard to this particular scheme what the views of the Bombay Government, or for the matter of that, of any other Government, were. It is Punjab water and it is being utilised for irrigating lands in the Punjab. There seems to be no necessity for approaching the Government of Bombay at all on this point. The cause of the Thal Project was entirely different because in that case there has been a scheme of the Bombay Government which should take water from the Indus and where that province stood to be affected. The Thal Project will not only benefit these districts, but it will also benefit the Hoshiarpur district in an indirect way. That is to say, if the project is taken up, people will have some source of livelihood while the project is in progress. In that way those districts will also be benefited. We find from the replies given to the questions put by the honourable member, Chaudhri Duli Chand, that the project has been an admittedly safe and sound one from the engineering point of view and that there is absolutely no danger of the dam breaking. Therefore, I submit that when people are so keen on the scheme and when there is absolutely no difficulty—for we have heard the Government saying that no financial considerations stand in the way—this scheme should be undertaken at once and I hope that the House will pass this resolution without any further discussion.

Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram [South-East Rohtak (Non-Muhammadan), Rural]: Sir, the subject of this resolution has been close to my heart for the last five years. Before I say anything in regard to the merits of the resolution itself or to the necessity of bringing into existence this dam across the Sutlej, I should like to reply to one or two insinuations that were made by the previous speakers on this resolution. One of the insinuations was that the Bhakra dam scheme was being delayed in the interests of another scheme. With that I have no concern. It is for the Government to reply to that insinuation. There was, however, another insinuation which was to the effect that members here representing Rohtak tried to have the Bhakra dam scheme delayed in the interests of the Thal Scheme. That insinuation is entirely wrong and baseless. There is no warrant for it. I am not aware of any one in the Hariana tract, as has been suggested, subscribing to that insinuation. It has not been made at the instance of any member representing any district in the Hariana tract. In fact it is, I know, no more and no less than an election dodge which has been adopted by some men residing in the Hariana tract at the instance of men at Lahore. I do not want, however, to dilate on it any further.

The fact is that in 1924 when I became a member of this Council the Bhakra Dam project had practically been abandoned and even at the risk of seeming immodest, because modesty does not pay, I may fairly claim

[Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram.]

that both as a private member of this Council and as a Minister of the Punjab Government, I took a large share in reviving the Bhakra Dam Scheme.

Pandit Nanak Chand: Another election dodge.

Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram: Well, it is a matter which can be easily ascertained if there is a will to ascertain, and no room for any doubt need be left on the point. After I became Minister I spoke to the Governor, to the Finance Member and other colleagues very frequently about the necessity of reviving this scheme. I went to the extent of paying a visit to the site of this dam myself accompanied by one of the heads of departments of the Punjab Government, namely, the Director of Agriculture.

Pandit Nanak Chand: Did you not agree to have the Thal Project first and Bhakra Dam afterwards in 1922 or so?

Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram: That is a matter of history. There was a time when as a private member I moved a resolution that the Bhakra Dam should be taken in hand as soon as possible. I found very great difficulties in the way. Government was opposed on grounds technical as well as financial and that was the stage to which I was referring when I said that the scheme had practically been abandoned by Government as a hopeless scheme. That resolution of mine had the effect of persuading Government to undertake this scheme if certain conditions were fulfilled. Unless those conditions were fulfilled I found that my resolution had absolutely no chance of being adopted in the Council, and the only alternative that was before me was either to have the resolution defeated or to secure for it Government's agreement with such modifications as were unavoidable under the circumstances. Now, with regard to the interest that seems to have been aroused suddenly in certain quarters, I may also be allowed to say a few words. Not a single member representing any district other than Rohtak, Hissar, or Karnal has ever seen fit to put in any questions in this Council in the interest of the Bhakra Dam scheme. (*A voice*: Wrong, absolutely wrong). I put questions regarding the Bhakra Dam Scheme as soon as I came to this Council. (*Interruption*). I hope my friends to the left will give me the same treatment as they claim from others. They should not interrupt me. If they continue to interrupt me that will simply be a waste of time. Any way I have said clearly that not a single member representing any district other than Rohtak, Hissar and Karnal has deemed fit to put a single question in this Council in the interest of the Bhakra Dam scheme, and this suddenly awakened interest in the Bhakra Dam scheme on the part of outsiders has its origin in the exigencies of the elections that are coming. Now, if my friends had taken the trouble to study the proceedings of this Council they would have found that there was not a single session of this Council at which I did not put questions on this subject. There has not been a single occasion on which I have not made a speech urging the claim of the Bhakra Dam scheme (*Interruption*). My friends do not know that the Thal Project was abandoned and why it was abandoned; there was nothing in my speech to show. . . . . (*Interruption*).

Mr. President: Honourable members should not interrupt.

Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram : I am not afraid of any propaganda of the honourable member and his Lahore friends. Everything is in print, in black and white. As long ago as 1927 at the time of the Budget debate I made a pointed reference to the Bhakra Dam scheme and the Honourable the Revenue Member gave a very sympathethic reply. At the last budget session also I made a fairly long speech putting forward the claims of the Bhakra Dam scheme as vigorously as I could. Again the Honourable Revenue Member gave a very sympathetic reply, and I think I may give to the Council the purport of this reply in one sentence. He said "Though I do not expect that I shall be able to complete the execution of the scheme, yet I earnestly desire that I should be able to make a beginning."

Mr. President : Will the honourable member please speak to the question before the House.

I hope that the honourable member from Hoshiarpur will not interrupt the honourable member for Rohtak. There is an old adage "Do unto others as you would that they should do unto you." The honourable member did not tolerate interruption, when he was speaking. So I hope he will not do what he did not like in others.

Pandit Nanak Chand : Sir, I was correcting some of the mistakes. I was just going to give an explanation of my interruption. It was stated that not a single member other than representing Rohtak, Hissar and Karnal ever took any interest in this matter. That I submit is entirely wrong.

Mr. President : The proper time for personal explanation is at the conclusion of the speech which calls for it; but it may be given immediately after the statement requiring explanation is made if the member in possession of the House gives way and resumes his seat.

Pandit Nanak Chand : Sir, when I spoke nobody was in possession of the House (*laughter*).

Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram : Now, Sir, I address myself to the merits of the subject of this resolution.

Mr. President : The honourable member has got only 5 minutes more.

Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram : Well, Sir, I will compress what I have to say within five minutes.

Mr. President : Do please.

Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram : This scheme has been under consideration for the last 15 years perhaps. In the initial stages there were some difficulties, both technical and financial. Financial difficulties have disappeared, and the Government has been assured by the reports of experts of high authority that no technical difficulties stand in the way either. Therefore, it is time that Government addressed itself earnestly and vigorously to the execution of this project. The scope of this scheme is very large and very huge areas will come under irrigation and when this scheme has been executed, it will benefit in British territory not only the Hissar and Rohtak districts, but also Ferozpur district. Thus the tracts of the Punjab which have been neglected so far will receive the attention of the Government which they ought to have received perhaps 30 years ago. The south-eastern part of the Punjab is in several ways a very badly treated part of the

[Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram.]

province. As a matter of fact, sometimes in pure despair, we begin to feel as if the Punjab Government did not regard the south-eastern districts of this province as a part of the Punjab. Presumably there may be some ground for the suspicion because in pre-mutiny days we really did not belong to the Punjab, and probably that may account for the indifference and lukewarmness that has been exhibited by Government in the way of bestowing its attention to the prosperity of the people in these parts of this great province. However, as we have been in this province more than half a century, I think, it is for the Government to see that we are accorded the same privileges as are accorded to the rest of the Punjab. The Government should be willing to promote in these parts schemes of beneficence as it has been doing in other parts of the Punjab. As this scheme has been neglected for quite a number of years, therefore, the suspicion in the minds of the people is quite natural, and the best way in which this suspicion can be removed is to proceed with this scheme at as early a date as possible. Another point to which I may draw the attention of the Government is that the south-eastern districts of the Punjab are economically in as bad a position as the western, south-western or the north-western districts of the Punjab. In fact in some respects Gurgaon and Hissar districts are even worse than Dera Ghazi Khan and Muzaffargarh, and the only way in which the Government can come to the help of these districts effectively is to extend the facilities of irrigation to these tracts at a very early date.

The speech of the Chief Engineer indicates that so far as the Punjab
6 P.M. Government is concerned there is no reason to fear any delay; but the Bombay Government is trying to hinder the scheme being taken in hand. If the Punjab Government makes a strong representation to the Government of India that the Bhakra dam project being essentially a storage scheme, the interests of Bombay are in no way affected, they would see our point of view and the unreasonable nature of Bombay's attitude. The Government of India should be asked to put its foot down on any opposition that may be contemplated by the Bombay Government.

The Council then adjourned till 2 P.M., on Thursday the 28th February 1929.

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PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

3RD SESSION OF THE 3RD PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Thursday, the 28th February 1929.

The Council met at the Council Chamber at two of the clock. Mr. President in the chair.

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

INCOME FROM IMPOUNDING CATTLE.

*1822. **Lala Joti Parshad:** Will the Honourable Minister for Agriculture please lay a statement on the table showing for the years 1926, 1927 and 1928 the total amount of penalty and fine realised from owners of cattle impounded by the Superintendent, Government Cattle Farm, Hissar?

The Honourable Sardar Jogendra Singh: A statement is laid on the table—

Year.	*Total amount of penalty and fine realised from the owners of cattle impounded.*
	Rs. A. P.
1926	4,817 9 0
1927	9,159 6 0
1928	6,464 12 0

INDUSTRIAL SCHOOLS IN THE AMBALA DIVISION.

*1823. **Lala Joti Parshad:** Will the Honourable Minister for Education please state—

(a) the places where there are industrial schools in the Ambala division;

(b) the places in the Ambala division where they are proposed to be started in the next financial year;

(c) whether there are any industrial schools in the Hissar district; if not, why?

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal: (a) Industrial schools already exist at Ambala, Rohtak and Gurgaon, and one is being opened at Bhiwani during the current financial year.

(b) Rewari and Panipat.

(c) One is being opened at Bhiwani this year.

AMALGAMATION OF CANAL AND REVENUE PATWARIS.

*1824. **Lala Joti Parshad:** Will the Honourable Revenue Member please state—

(a) the result of the experiment of amalgamation of canal and revenue patwaris on the Western Jumna Canal;

(b) whether it is a fact that work suffers a great deal by reason of amalgamation;

(c) if the answer to (b) be in the affirmative, for how long more would the Government like to continue the experiment?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: This measure is a part of the experiment which was tried in pursuance of a Resolution passed by the Legislative Council. In some quarters the view is held that this part of the experiment be also abandoned. The matter is still under consideration.

COMMUNAL RIOT IN KAITHAL.

*1825. **Lala Joti Parshad:** Will the Honourable Finance Member please state—

(a) whether a communal riot took place on 25th October 1928, at the Baba Ladana fair in Kaithal sub-division;

(b) whether any arrests were made in connection with the above riot and if so, what is their number communitywise;

(c) whether it is a fact that most of the police-officers for keeping law and order at the fair were Muhammadans?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow: (a) A riot took place in which the parties belonged to different communities but in origin the riot was apparently in no sense communal.

(b) Thirty-five persons were sent for trial of whom two were Muhammadans and the others non-Muslims.

(c) One head constable and five constables were on duty at the fair of whom the head constable and three constables were Muhammadans.

CASES CHALLANED IN THE SUB-DIVISIONAL OFFICER'S COURT, KAITHAL.

*1826. **Lala Joti Parshad:** Will the Honourable Finance Member please state—

(a) the number of cases challaned in the court of the sub-divisional officer, Kaithal, for the last two quarters;

(b) the number of discharges, acquittals, and convictions communitywise during the same period?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow: A statement is laid on the table—

STATEMENT SHOWING THE CASES CHALLANED AND PERSONS INVOLVED FROM JULY 1928 TO DECEMBER 1928 IN THE SUB-DIVISIONAL OFFICER'S COURT AT KAITHAL.

Cases challaned.	Persons.				Discharges.				Acquittable.				Convictions.				Remarks.
	Hindus.	Muslims.	Sikhs.	Total.	Hindus.	Muslims.	Sikhs.	Others.	Hindus.	Muslims.	Sikhs.	Total.	Hindus.	Muslims.	Sikhs.	Others.	
214	422	120	1	543	304	70	..	..	15	8	..	..	103	42	1	..	

DEPRESSED CLASSES.

*1827. **Lala Joti Parshad:** Will the Honourable Minister for Education please state whether the answer to starred [1]question No. 1627, asked by me on 3rd December 1928, is ready? If so, it may kindly be read over.

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal: The information is not yet ready. It will be communicated to the honourable member when ready.

POLICE OFFICERS IN THE HOSHIARPUR DISTRICT.

*1828. **Lala Joti Parshad:** Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state—

(a) whether it is a fact that almost all the police officers in the Hoshiarpur district are Muslims; if not, to what community the following officers in the police department, belong:—
(1) Superintendent, (2) Deputy Superintendent, (3) Court-Inspector, (4) District Headquarters Inspector, (5) Reader to the Superintendent, (6) Head Clerk, (7) Pay Officer, (8) Assistant Reader?

(b) What is the population of Hindus and Muslims in the Hoshiarpur district?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow: (a) The officers filling the posts mentioned are all Muhammadans except (4), District Headquarters Inspector.

(b) According to the census of 1921 population of Hindus and Muhammadans in the Hoshiarpur District is as follows:—

Hindus	500,339
Muhammadans	289,298

DEK NULLAH.

*1829. **Chaudhri Zafrullah Khan:** Will the Honourable Revenue Member please state—

(a) whether any definite scheme for training the Dek Nullah in the Sialkot district has been finally settled;

(b) if the answer to (a) be in the affirmative, what progress has so far been made towards putting the scheme into operation and within what approximate period may the scheme be expected to come into operation?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: (a) Not yet.

(b) Does not arise.

RIGHT OF ZAMINDAR PROPRIETORS OF KANGRA DISTRICT TO CUT WOOD FROM FORESTS.

*1830. **Chaudhri Ram Singh:** Will the Honourable Revenue Member kindly state—

(a) whether it is a fact that in the Hamirpur tahsil of the Kangra district the zamindar proprietors of the shamilat forests possessed the right of cutting wood for implements from the forests annually;

[1]Page 241 *ante*.

(*b*) whether restrictions have now been imposed on this right of the zamindars by the Forest Department which only allow to cut wood for implements from the forests after every three years;

(*c*) if so, what steps Government intends to take to relax this restriction?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: (*a*) Right-holders are permitted to cut trees for certain purposes in accordance with the prescribed rules.

(*b*) No new restrictions have now been imposed.

(*c*) Does not arise.

DISTRIBUTION OF INCOME FROM RESIN TO THE ZAMINDAR PROPRIETORS OF THE KANGRA DISTRICT.

***1831. Chaudhri Ram Singh:** Will the Honourable Revenue Member kindly state the reasons why no action has so far been taken to give effect to the resolution regarding distribution of income derived from resin to the zamindar proprietors of the shamilat forests in the Kangra district which was passed by the Council in its session held at Simla in July 1927?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: Government gave full consideration to the recommendation of the Council and came to the conclusion that there was no justification for distributing the income derived from resin to the zamindar proprietors.

LAND PRICE IN THE NILI BAR.

***1832. Chaudhri Ram Singh:** Will the Honourable Revenue Member kindly state what is the price per square of land in the Nili Bar at which it is being distributed amongst the military and non-military classes of His Majesty's subjects and the number of instalments in which this price is to be realised?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: The honourable member's question is not quite clear but it is understood to refer to the purchase price of proprietary rights in land now in course of distribution or recently distributed to military and civil peasant grantees.

A copy of the statement showing the conditions governing such grants as regards the price and the instalments of the purchase of proprietary rights is laid upon the table. The conditions are the same both for military and for civil peasant grantees.

(1) Upon or after the expiration of five years from the conferment under condition 4 of a right of occupancy in the said lands during the continuance of the tenancy, the tenant shall, if he has during the continuance of the tenancy duly complied with and observed each and all of the conditions in this statement of conditions contained and has duly paid in the manner in the said conditions provided, all sums due to the Government under the provisions of the said conditions and each and all of them, but subject always to the terms and conditions hereinafter in that behalf made and provided, be entitled to purchase from the Government the proprietary right in the said lands and in the event of any such purchase being duly

[Hon'ble Sir Fazl-i-Husain.]

carried into effect and completed, the purchaser and his heirs and legal representatives shall hold and possess the said lands and every part thereof in proprietary right free of any payment on account of *malikana*, but subject to the due and regular payment of the land revenue, rates and cesses and all other charges leviable in respect thereof under any law for the time being in force in that behalf.

(2) The terms and conditions upon which the tenant may, in the circumstances specified in the preceding clause of this condition, purchase from the Government the proprietary right in the land granted to him as such tenant, as aforesaid, shall be as follows :—

Firstly.—That the tenant shall duly pay to the Government as purchase money a total amount which shall be fixed as shown in the statement below in accordance with the number of half-yearly instalments in which the amount is payable :—

(*a*) For land receiving perennial irrigation :—

For purchasers in	Number of half-yearly instalments.	Amount of each instalment.	Total amount payable.
	Rs.	Rs. A. P.	Rs.
One year	2	50 0 0	100
Two years	4	28 0 0	112
Five years	10	12 0 0	120
Ten years	20	6 8 0	130
Fifteen years	30	5 0 0	150
Twenty years	40	4 8 0	180
Twenty-five years	50	4 0 0	200
Thirty years	60	3 8 0	210
Forty years	80	3 0 0	240

(*b*) For land receiving non-perennial irrigation—

One year	2	25 0 0	50
Two years	4	14 0 0	56
Five years	10	6 0 0	60
Ten years	20	3 4 0	68
Fifteen years	30	2 8 0	75
Twenty years	40	2 4 0	90
Twenty-five years	50	2 0 0	100
Thirty years	60	1 12 0	108
Forty years	80	1 8 0	120

Secondly.—That it shall be open to the tenant to select any number of instalments included in the above statement in which to pay the amount payable for the purchase of proprietary right.

Provided that the amount of the first instalment paid by him shall determine the number of instalments, and that he shall not be allowed to complete the purchase in a greater or less number of instalments without the special permission of the Collector.

Thirdly.—That with effect from the harvest in which the first instalment is paid the *malikana* otherwise payable on the tenancy shall be conditionally remitted, and so long as the tenant regularly and within due date continues to pay the instalment due no *malikana* shall be assessed on the land of the tenancy. If the tenant fails to pay any instalment by the due date, the Collector shall impose *malikana* at the rate which would have been payable if the tenant had not exercised his option of purchase and with effect from the harvest in which the default occurs, and no part of the *malikana* paid in that or in subsequent harvests shall be credited towards the total amount payable for the acquisition of proprietary right;

Provided that a tenant who has defaulted in the payment of any instalment may at any time apply to the Collector for permission to renew the purchase of proprietary right, and on the receipt of such application the Collector shall allow the tenant to renew the purchase, and the *malikana* otherwise payable on the land of the tenancy shall again be conditionally remitted from the harvest in which the tenant pays the instalment next following the date of the permission granted by the Collector.

The instalment so paid and all instalments paid before the default of the tenant shall be credited towards the total amount payable. If the tenant again defaults the same procedure shall be followed.

Fourthly.—That the Collector may fix a date not later than the 15th November for the *kharif* payment and not later than the 1st April for the *rabi* payment before which the tenant shall pay the instalment for the *kharif* and the *rabi* harvest, respectively. A tenant who does not pay his instalment before the date so fixed shall be deemed to have defaulted for that harvest.

Fifthly.—That the tenant shall not acquire any proprietary or other right, not conferred upon him as a tenant by the conditions contained in this statement of conditions, and shall continue to be subjected to the conditions of the tenancy, unless and until the whole amount of the said purchase money shall have been duly paid and discharged in the manner hereinbefore provided.

Sixthly.—Provided also that the Collector may withhold proprietary rights from the tenants of any estate in which the state of crime is such as in his opinion to disentitle the villagers to the concession.

[Hon'ble Sir Fazl-i-Husain.]

Seventhly.—Provided also that proprietary rights may also be withheld from the tenants of any estate in which a breach of the canal or distributary has occurred within five years of the date of the tenant's application for purchase, if there is reason to believe that such breach was wilfully caused by residents of the estate.

(3) When any tenant has, under the provisions and in pursuance of the preceding clauses of this condition, purchased the proprietary right in any lands from the Government, and has duly paid the whole of the purchase money therefor to the Government, and has complied with all the terms and conditions hereinbefore provided in that behalf, the Government shall execute, or cause to be executed, a valid conveyance granting, conveying and assuring the proprietary right so purchased to the purchaser, and the purchaser shall thereupon, in respect of the land so purchased, cease to be subject to the conditions herein contained with the exception of conditions Nos. 6, 7, 8, 9, 13, 15 and 23 by which and by the provisions of the Colonization of Government Lands (Punjab) Act, 1912, applicable to proprietors of land, he shall continue to be bound.

(4) A tenant who has acquired proprietary right in his tenancy will also receive proprietary right in the land allotted to him in the village site on payment at the same rates as for the tenancy.

CANDIDATES FOR SUB-JUDGESHIP.

*1833. **Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram :** Will the Chief Secretary kindly state—

(*a*) the number of candidates who have been selected for the post of sub-judges as a result of the examination held recently;

(*b*) the names of the candidates referred to in (*a*) and the tribe and the district to which each belongs;

(*c*) how many of the Hindu, Muslim and Sikh candidates selected for the post of sub-judge are members of notified agricultural tribes;

(*d*) whether the Government will publish the result of the examination referred to in (*a*) showing the marks obtained by each selected candidate in each subject? If not, the grounds on which non-publication is justified may be stated.

Mr. J. G. Beazley : (*a*) 16.

(*b*) A statement is laid upon the table.

(*c*) It will be seen that excluding the Christian there were 15 candidates. Of these 8 were certified by the Deputy Commissioners of the districts concerned to be *zamindars* as defined in the rules. The rules do not lay down that information should be supplied regarding tribes, but so far as can be judged from the entries in the list, 5 of the candidates would appear to be members of notified agricultural tribes, while in two cases particulars are lacking and further verification is required.

(*d*) No.

LIST OF SUB-JUDGE CANDIDATES SELECTED FOR APPOINTMENT TO PROVINCIAL CIVIL SERVICE, JUDICIAL BRANCH.

Serial No.	Name.	Residence.	Caste.
1	Masud Ahmad ..	Mozang, Lahore ..	Shaikh.
2	Tara Chand, Aggarwal ..	Pinnangwan Tahsil, Ferozepore Jhirka, District Gurgaon.	Aggarwal.
3	Dhari Singh, Jain ..	Gohana, District Rohtak ..	Jain Aggarwal.
4	Bakhshi Shiv Charan Singh	Sukho, District Rawalpindi	Khatri.
5	Muhammad Aslam Khan ..	Lahore ..	Malak.
6	Gobind Ram, Bhudhiraja ..	Chiniot, District Jhang ..	Arora.
7	Kundan Lal, Gupta ..	Khokhar Kalan, Patiala State.	Gupta.
8	Kartar Singh, Ghambirji ..	Sialkot ..	Arora Sikh.
9	Fazl-i-Haq ..	Dhariala Segon, District Rawalpindi.	Rajput Minhas.
10	Yudhister Lal ..	Multan City ..	Taneja Arora.
11	Tirath Das Sehgal ..	Haveli Mahangir, District Jhang.	Sehgal Khatri.
12	Bashir Ahmad ..	Sialkot	Kahlon Jat.
13	M. Fazal-i-Haki ..	Bhogiwala Jattan, Tahsil Zira, District Ferozepore	Jat.
14	Azam Ali ..	Kirto, District Sheikhupura	Jat Buttar.
15	Balbir Singh ..	Jandiala, District Jullundur.	Jat Sikh.
16	William Augustine ..	Delhi	Christian.

ODS IN THE ROHTAK, ETC., DISTRICTS.

*1834. **Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram:** Will the Honourable Revenue Member kindly state—

(a) whether he is aware of the annual visits of *Ods* with large number of sheep, goats and asses to the districts of Rohtak, Hissar, Karnal and Gurgaon;

(b) whether the zamindars of the districts named in (a) make frequent complaints to local officers as also to other high officers visiting those districts as to the damage done to their crops by the herds of goats and sheep accompanying the visitors of this nomad tribe;

[R. S. Chaudhri Chhotu Ram.]

(c) the number of reported cases of violence that occurred between *ods* and local zamindars in 1927 and 1928 in the districts named in (a);

(d) the steps which Government propose to take to afford protection to crops and to avert breaches of the peace?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: (a) and (b) Yes.

(c) A statement is laid on the table.

(d) The Government is of opinion that the law as it exists should be sufficient to check the mischief of trespass. Magistrates have also been directed to make full use of the provision of the Indian Penal Code and Criminal Procedure Code in more serious cases. The Police have been asked to collect certain information in regard to the Ods during this cold weather with a view to see what further action if any is needed.

STATEMENT SHOWING FIGURES OF REPORTED CASES OF VIOLENCE.

Name of District.	Year.		Total.	Remarks.
	1927.	1928.		
1. Rohtak	3	5	8	Due to Ods damaging crops and zamindars to take their animals to cattle pound.
2. Hissar	4	4	8	Of these 3 were non-cognizable cases.
3. Karnal	3	1	4	
4. Gurgaon	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Only two cases of cattle theft in which Ods were concerned were reported in 1928.

STATUTORY AGRICULTURISTS AND DISTRICT INSPECTOR OF SCHOOLS.

*1835. **Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram:** Will the Honourable Minister for Education kindly state the name and tribe of any Hindu officer belonging to a statutory agricultural tribe who may have acted as a District Inspector of Schools, either in a permanent or officiating capacity, in the Ambala division in 1927 or 1928?

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal: Pandit Ramji Lal, Gaur Brahman of Rohtak district, worked as officiating District Inspector of Schools, Hissar, in 1927.

SIKHS IN THE PROVINCIAL EDUCATIONAL SERVICE.

*1836. **Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram:** Will the Honourable Minister for Education kindly state—

(*a*) the number of Sikhs in the Provincial Educational Service;

(*b*) the names and tribes of those among the Sikhs in the Provincial Educational Service who belong to notified agricultural tribes?

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal: (*a*) Sixteen.

(*b*) The following three are members of notified agricultural tribes:—

Rai Sahib Chaudhri Gyan Singh.

B. Jodh Singh.

S. Shiv Charan Singh.

PROVISION OF CHAIRS TO RETIRED MILITARY COMMISSIONED OFFICERS UNDER TRIAL.

*1837. **Sardar Bahadur Captain Dalpat Singh:** Will the Honourable Member for Finance kindly state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that retired military commissioned officers under trial are not provided with chairs to sit on in courts;

(*b*) whether any instructions have been issued hitherto on the subject of showing courtesy towards retired military commissioned officers especially when they are in their uniforms or when they are known as such to civil officers;

(*c*) if not, what steps Government intends to take to ensure the proper treatment of retired military officers by civil officers and courts?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow: (*a*) This is a matter within the discretion of the courts.

(*b*) Yes. The honourable member's attention is invited to press communiqués, dated 20th March 1923 and 28th July 1924.

(*c*) Government is always ready to enquire into any case reported to it, through the proper channels, in which due courtesy has not been shown and to take suitable action if an official is found to be at fault.

GRANT OF LAND TO *EX*-SOLDIERS IN THE ROHTAK DISTRICT.

*1838. **Sardar Bahadur Captain Dalpat Singh:** Will the Honourable Member for Revenue kindly state the number of *ex*-soldiers in the district of Rohtak and the number of those among them granted Crown land?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: The honourable member has not stated the time for which he wants figures, and the collection of such figures is by no means an easy task. I have been to the Sutlej Valley Project area where the military authorities were given 75,000 acres of land to distribute amongst military men, and the impression left on me after my tour in the Nili Bar is that Rohtak district is not by any means inadequately represented in those grants.

MILITARY SCHOLARSHIPS.

*1839. **Sardar Bahadur Captain Dalpat Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education kindly state—

(a) the amount of money spent on military scholarships during each of the years from 1921 to 1928;

(b) whether adopted sons are given the benefit of military scholarships now as before;

(c) whether military scholarships are awarded on the score of the services of combatant brothers as before;

(d) if answers to (b) and (c) above be in the negative, will he kindly give reasons for the withdrawal of these concessions;

(e) the difference between the present and the original conditions for the award of military scholarships; and the reasons for introducing different conditions now?

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal : (a) A statement showing the information desired is laid on the table—

	Amount spent on military scholarships.
	Rs.
1920-21	39,279
1921-22	81,267
1922-23	61,296
1923-24	45,624
1924-25	66,444
1925-26	68,047
1926-27	48,514
1927-28	13,017

(b) No. Adopted sons have never been eligible under the rules.

(c) Military scholarships are awarded on the score of the services of combatant brothers provided that the father is dead. Relaxation of this rule is allowed in special circumstances.

(d) As in (e) below.

(e) A copy of the rules showing the difference between the present and the original conditions for the award of military scholarships and explaining reasons for the introduction of different conditions is being supplied to the honourable member.

Chaudhri Duli Chand : May I know why the amount spent on military scholarships is decreasing year by year?

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal : I should like to have notice of the question.

MILITARY SCHOLARSHIPS.

*1840. **Sardar Bahadur Captain Dalpat Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education please state—

(a) whether he is aware that in the district of Rohtak the payment of military scholarships is quarterly now; and

(b) why the system of monthly payment was stopped?

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal : The necessary enquiries are being made from district authorities and the information asked for will be supplied to the honourable member as soon as it is ready.

MILITARY SCHOLARSHIPS.

***1841. Sardar Bahadur Captain Dalpat Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education kindly state the name of the districts where the payment of military scholarships is quarterly ?

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal : The information is being collected and will be supplied to the honourable member when ready.

KHAZAN SINGH, MILITARY SCHOLARSHIP HOLDER.

***1842. Sardar Bahadur Captain Dalpat Singh :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education kindly state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that Khazan Singh, son of Ramji Lal, of village Kachrana Kalan in the district of Karnal reading in the Jat High School of Rohtak is a Military scholarship holder ;

(*b*) how many months the question of the renewal of his scholarship for the current year took ;

(*c*) the date of the submission of his bill after the renewal of his scholarship ;

(*d*) the date of payment of the above bill ;

(*e*) the reason for this delay ?

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal : The information has been called for and will be supplied to the honourable member when ready.

BINDRABAN FORESTS.

***1843. Chaudhri Ram Singh :** (*i*) With reference to the answer given to starred question No. 1454[1], will the Honourable Revenue Member kindly state—

(*a*) whether the Bindraban forests in the Kangra district are reserved or are open to the use of the zamindars ;

(*b*) if they are reserved, since when they have been declared reserved?

(*ii*) Will the Honourable Revenue Member please further state whether the zamindars are not allowed to cut the standing trees in these forests ?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : (*a*) Bindraban is a reserved forest in which certain rights of user have been admitted.

(*b*) 6th March 1879.

(*c*) Zamindars are not allowed to cut standing trees in this forest.

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[1]Pages 24-5 *ante*.

HALLA LABOUR.

*1844. **Chaudhri Ram Singh :** With reference to the answer given to starred question No. 1496[1], will the Honourable Member for Revenue please state—

(*a*) whether the Department of Shah Nehr Mukerian possesses any document according to which it can require halla labour on ten per cent. canals ?

(*b*) if so, will Government kindly lay a copy of the said document on the table ?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : (*a*) No.

(*b*) Does not arise.

TAX ON GOATS AND SHEEP.

*1845. **Chaudhri Ram Singh :** With reference to the answer given to question No. 1497[2], will the Honourable Member for Revenue please state—

(*a*) whether Government intends to abolish the tax on goats and sheep in the Kangra district ;

(*b*) if so, when does it propose to abolish it ?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : (*a*) and (*b*). The attention of the honourable member is drawn to the reply given on 8th March 1928 to parts (*ii*) and (*iii*) of Council question No. 1138 (starred).[3]

SCALE OF FEES OF SUB-ASSISTANT SURGEONS OF RURAL DISPENSARIES.

*1846. **Chaudhri Ram Singh :** With reference to the answer given to starred question No. 1588,[4] will the Honourable Minister for Local Self-Government state—

(*a*) whether the Sub-Assistant Surgeons stationed at rural dispensaries are entitled to charge any amount of fees when they attend patients at their homes ;

(*b*) if not, whether Government intend to prescribe any scale of fees for the future ?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : (*a*) Medical officers in charge of rural dispensaries opened under the medical expansion scheme are district board employees and not Government employees and the matter is primarily one for district board to decide.

(*b*) No.

SALE BY AUCTION OF LAND OF STATUTORY AGRICULTURISTS.

*1847. **Sayad Mubarik Ali Shah :** Will the Honourable Revenue Member please state—

(1) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to a resolution recently submitted by the zamindars of Jhang district in regard to the sale by auction of the land of a statutory agriculturist in insolvency proceedings initiated by a receiver ;

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[1] Pages 81—2 *ante*.
[2] Page 82 *ante*.
[3] Vol XI, pages 402-405.
[4] Pages 222-223 *ante*.

(2) whether the Government is aware of the widespread dissatisfaction and resentment prevailing in the Jhang and other districts of the Punjab in consequence of the judicial pronouncements validating such sales;

(3) whether it is a fact that a large number of money-lending creditors have in several districts initiated insolvency proceedings against agriculturist debtors;

(4) if the replies to the above parts be in the affirmative, what steps if any, the Government intends to take in the matter?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: (1) and (2). Yes; there appears to be some dissatisfaction among members of agricultural tribes in the matter.

(3) Government has no information.

(4) Does not arise.

OFFICIAL RECEIVER, JHANG.

*1848. **Sayad Mubarik Ali Shah:** In continuation of my starred question No. 1523,[1] and the answer thereto put in the last session of the Council, will the Honourable Finance Member be pleased to state what action the Government has taken or proposes to take in regard to the appointment of a qualified Muslim as an Official Receiver for the Jhang district?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow: The question of the appointment of an official Receiver at Jhang is at present under the consideration of Government, and is expected to be decided shortly.

HAVELI PROJECT.

*1849. **Sayad Mubarik Ali Shah:** In continuation of my starred question No. 1527,[2] and the answer thereto, will the Honourable Revenue Member be pleased to state what further action the Government has taken to start operations in connection with the Haveli Project?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: The reply to starred question No. 1527[2] still holds, the surveys of the tract by the Survey of India are nearly completed, but the sanction to the withdrawals of water for the Project has not been obtained from the Government of India.

DISTRICT BOARD SCHOOL, LALIAN.

*1850. **Sayad Mubarik Ali Shah:** Will the Honourable Minister for Education kindly state—

(*a*) what is the total number of provincialised high schools in the Jhang district; and

(*b*) what action the Government has taken or proposes to take in regard to the proposal for provincialising the district board school at Lalian in the Chiniot tahsil?

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[1] Page 97 *ante*.
[2] Page 98 *ante*.

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal: (*a*) One.

(*b*) The question was duly considered this year, but the claims of Lalian were not considered this year as urgent as those of other localities. The proposal is kept pending under consideration.

JAGADHARI MUNICIPAL BYE-LAWS.

***1851. Rai Bahadur Lala Mohan Lal:** (1) Will the Honourable Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state whether his attention has been drawn to a letter published in the *Tribune* of the 11th July 1928, under the heading, "Local Self-Government Farce—Jagadhari Municipal Bye-laws require annulment";

(2) if the reply to the above be in the affirmative will the Government be pleased to state what action has been taken in this matter?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon: (1) Government have now seen the letter in question.

(2) It is for the municipal committee to take steps to amend its business bye-laws, and the attention of the committee will be drawn to the matter.

L. JAGADISH PARSHAD, JOINT SECRETARY, CONGRESS COMMITTEE, JAGADHRI.

***1852. Rai Bahadur Lala Mohan Lal:** (1) Will the Honourable Member for Finance be pleased to state—

(1) whether it is a fact that the name of Lala Jagadish Parshad Joint Secretary, Congress Committee, Jagadhari, was put on register No. 10 in October 1928;

(2) if the reply to the above be in the affirmative, will the Government be pleased to state the reasons which led to this action being taken against Lala Jagadish Parshad?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow: All records connected with Police surveillance are confidential, and Government therefore regrets that it is unable to give the information required by the honourable member.

SCHOOL MASTERS AND POSTAL ALLOWANCES.

***1853. Chaudhri Duli Chand:** Will the Honourable Minister for Education kindly state—

(*a*) the names of schools in the Karnal district where school masters receive postal allowances;

(*b*) the names of schools among them where school masters in charge of postal branch offices have postmen to distribute letters?

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal: Enquiries are being made and the information will be supplied to the honourable member when available.

STAFF GRANTS UNDER THE GRANT-IN-AID RULES.

*1854. **Chaudhri Duli Chand :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education kindly state whether staff grants are admissible on account of Munshi Fazils under section 20 of the grant-in-aid rules.

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal : Yes, provided they hold certificates awarded by the Department.

GRANT-IN-AID.

*1855. **Chaudhri Duli Chand :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education kindly state—

(a) whether under section 3 of the grant-in-aid rules, Government has a right to the distribution of grants to schools not already on grant-in-aid list, taking into account the claims of backward areas and communities ;

(b) the names of schools in whose cases this right has been exercised since January 1927 ?

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal : Yes; Government right to place schools on the grant-in-aid list is in part defined by section 3 of chapter III of the Punjab Education Code.

(b) In making their recommendations for placing new schools on the grant-in-aid list the Inspectors bear in consideration the circumstances mentioned in the section. Orders on the Inspectors' recommendations for the year 1928-29 have not yet been passed finally, but if the honourable member desires the list of new schools placed on the grant-in-aid list for the year 1927-28 it can be prepared.

LIST OF OFFICERS IN THE SUBORDINATE EDUCATION SERVICE.

*1856. **Chaudhri Duli Chand :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education kindly state—

(a) whether it is a fact that according to the list of officers in the Subordinate Educational Service, Part I, A.-V. Section, corrected up to 1st April 1927, the incumbents bearing the following serial numbers do not belong to statutory agricultural tribes :—

Class I, 17 and 54.

Class II, 8, 12, 44, 56, 101, 118, 125 and 135.

Class III, 27, 41, 44, 45 and 67.

Class IV, 10, 21, 25, 31, 51, 57, 59, 77, 84, 116, 125, 139 and 165.

Class V, 16, 29, 31, 38, 40, 43, 61, 67, 81 and 104 ;

(b) if so, why they have been shown as agriculturists in the list ;

(c) whether corrections have been made in the new list ?

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal : (*a*) The honourable member is correct in the majority of the cases that he quotes.

(*b*) The practice of stating in our registers whether an officer is an agriculturist or not dates from 1925 ; and at that time an officer was considered an agriculturist if he was a member of a notified agricultural tribe or a hereditary proprietor or a tenure holder of agricultural land, provided that he was mainly dependent thereon and resided in a rural area ; actual cultivators were also included. In accordance with these conditions all officers who produced satisfactory evidence of their being agriculturists, were shown in the registers as such. At a subsequent date, Government decided that the object of this census was to classify Government servants on the basis of their belonging or not belonging to notified agricultural tribes. The information required in these revised orders was not received when the register of the Subordinate Educational Service corrected up to the 1st April, 1927, was sent to the press.

(*c*) The necessary corrections have been made in the new register which is now in the press.

LALA BHANA RAM OF THE SUBORDINATE EDUCATION SERVICE.

***1857. Chaudhri Duli Chand :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education kindly state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that according to the list of officers in the Subordinate Educational Service, Part I, A.-V. Section, Lala Bhana Ram belongs to the tribe of Aroras ;

(*b*) if so, why he has been shown as an agriculturist in the list ;

(*c*) whether he was considered as an agriculturist for appointment as District Inspector ;

(*d*) if so, why ?

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal : (*a*) and (*b*). The list to which the honourable member evidently refers is not officially published, but is compiled for office use.

(*c*) No.

(*d*) Does not arise.

SCALE OF SCHOOL AND BOARDING HOUSE CONTINGENCIES.

***1858. Chaudhri Duli Chand :** With reference to my question No. 617,[1] asked on the 13th March 1928, will the Honourable Minister for Education kindly state—

(*a*) whether the rules regarding the scale of school and boarding house contingencies have been followed in the Ambala division ;

(*b*) if so, the year from which they have been followed ?

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal : The Inspector has been addressed and the information will be supplied as soon as it is received from him.

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[1]Volume XI, pages 650-51.

LOCATION OF PRIMARY SCHOOLS IN VILLAGE CHAUPALS.

*1859. **Chaudhri Duli Chand :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education kindly state the names of villages in the Karnal district where primary schools are located in village chaupals ?

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal : Information is being collected and will be supplied to the honourable member when it is available.

POLICE OFFICIALS AND CORRUPTION IN THE KARNAL DISTRICT.

*1860. **Chaudhri Duli Chand :** Will the Honourable Member for Finance kindly state the names of police officials punished in the Karnal district, and the nature of punishments inflicted upon them for proved or suspected corruption during the year 1928-29 ?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow : Two head constables and two foot constables were punished in the Karnal district for corruption during the year 1928-29. Both the head constables were dismissed from the force but were reinstated by the Deputy Inspector-General of Police, Eastern Range, on appeal, one as head constable and the other as foot constable.

The two foot constables were convicted and sentenced under sections 385/511, Indian Penal Code to three months rigorous imprisonment with a fine of Rs. 50 each, but were acquitted on appeal by the Sessions Judge, Karnal.

DIVISIONAL CANAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

*1861. **Chaudhri Duli Chand :** Will the Honourable Member for Revenue kindly state—

(*a*) whether any Divisional Canal Advisory Committees exist in the following Canal Divisions :—

(*i*) Karnal, (*ii*) Delhi, (*iii*) Hissar, and (*iv*) Rohtak ;

(*b*) if so, what are the names of the members ; and

(*c*) how many meetings have been held during the year 1928-29 ?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Names of non-official members are :—

Karnal Division—

(1) Nawab M. Ibrahim Ali Khan of Kunjpura.
(2) Chaudhri Bansgopal, Senior Vice-Chairman, Karnal District.
(3) Chaudhri Abdul Hassan, Zaildar of village Khizrabad.
(4) Chaudhri Bhiku Ram, a member of District Board and resident of village Ismailpur.
(5) Deputy Director of Agriculture, Hansi.
(6) Extra Assistant Director of Agriculture, Karnal.

Delhi Division—

(1) Captain Gugan Singh of Rithal.
(2) Chaudhri Jawahar Singh, Zaildar, Badli.
(3) Chaudhri Fateh Singh, Sufaidposh, Kakroi.
(4) Chaudhri Bhola Singh, Zaildar, Baoli.

[Hon'ble Sir Fazl-i-Husain.]

(5) Mir Meharban Ali Khan of Kharkhanda.
(6) Khan Sahib Chaudhri Shafi Ali Khan of Gohana.
(7) Deputy Director of Agriculture, Hansi.

Rohtak Division—

(1) L. Jai Dev, Rais of Hissar.
(2) M. Abdul Ghaffar Beg of Hansi.
(3) Chaudhri Narang Singh, Ror of village Ahar.
(4) Chaudhri Gopal Singh of Bahu Akbarpur.
(5) Risaldar Salig Ram of Maham.
(6) Khan Sahib Chaudhri Muhammad Shafi Ali Khan of Gohana.
(7) Rai Sahib Chaudhri Darya Singh of Mokhra.

Hissar Division—

(1) Lala Atma Ram, Rais, Sirsa.
(2) Khan Bahadur Yakin-ud-din Khan, Sirsa.
(3) Chaudhri Bhagwan Das.
(4) Chaudhri Pars Ram, Sufaid Posh of Ahun village.
(5) Chaudhri Chanchal Singh, Zaildar, Rajaund.
(6) Chaudhri Samand Khan, Lambardar of Dusuin village.
(7) Deputy Director of Agriculture, Hansi.

(c) Number of meetings held during 1928-29 :—

Karnal Division	..	..	..	Nil.
Delhi Division	..	..	..	One meeting.
Rohtak Division	..	..	..	Two meetings.
Hissar Division	..	..	..	One meeting.

RESOLUTIONS.

RESOLUTION *re.* CONSTRUCTION OF THE BHAKRA DAM—*continued.*

Mr. President : The Council will now resume debate on the resolution of Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram.

Chaudhri Zafrullah Khan : Sir, I move that the question be now put, as there is no other member who is anxious to speak.

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang [North-West Towns (Non-Muhammadan), Urban] : Sir, I wish to speak. I rise to speak under a great handicap, because it is like replying to the arguments of the opposing counsel without having heard him.

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : No opposing counsel has spoken.

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : Then I want to add to what has already been said before you something from my point of view. There were certain things said, and I wish to speak subject to correction, in which certain insinuations were made by one of the honourable speakers, the representative of south-east, Rohtak, one of the ex-Ministers. So far as this resolution is concerned you know, Sir, that I had also sent up a resolution to the effect that the Bhakra Dam Scheme be taken in hand by the Government immediately. Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram who moved the present resolution went a little further and wanted that certain specific amount be set aside for

the purpose and I think that that resolution was, if anything, an improvement upon my resolution and, therefore, I gladly support it. This resolution, the subject matter of this resolution, as you know, Sir, has interested the members of this House for many years. In 1924, for the first time, if I am not mistaken, this resolution came up before this House and the honourable member from south-east Rohtak himself was the mover of it. But unfortunately this Bhakra Dam Scheme has not had a very cordial reception at the hands of the Government. And I think the Government cannot be entirely blamed for this purpose, as unfortunately the mover of the resolution, the honourable member from south-east Rohtak in his speech tied it up with another scheme which the Government was then unable to take in hand. It referred to the Thal Project. Naturally being a representative of a party wihch was very deeply interested in the Thal Project, he could not urge upon the Government the claims of the people of Rohtak and Hissar districts in preference to the claims of the people who expect to be benefitted by the Thal Project. The result was that, as we have in the proverb, the cat and the camel were to be sold together and as a certain price which could not be paid was fixed for the cat, even the camel could not be sold. The Government could not take in hand the Thal Project and therefore, this Bhakra Dam Scheme had also to be abandoned. In 1927 again, the matter was taken up and a number of speeches were made in connection with the one rupee cut with respect to the budget and then some of the members of this House had an opportunity to express their opinions on it. Again, however, the honourable speaker on the cut, Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram, unfortunately tacked it up with the Thal Project, the result being that his efforts again came to nothing. The blame which he has sought to lay at the door of the party sitting on this side of the House that they have been lukewarm in their attitude towards this question, I must respectfully submit, has not been fully substantiated. The proceedings of that debate are fully reported in the official reports and it would appear from them that several members of this party from the very beginning have been supporting this scheme and I am afraid that but for the lukewarm attitude adopted by the honourable member from south-east Rohtak himself, the Government perhaps would have made some headway towards this. To his resolution an amendment was proposed with respect to the Thal Project which he had to adopt. Then the Government imposed certain conditions that the opinion of the expert may be taken on the matter and it may be taken up when money is available. These conditions were accepted by our friend and therefore, the resolution had to be abandoned. Last year again, in 1928, I find from Volume XI, No. 9 of the reports that Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram, the honourable member from south-east Rohtak, Non-Muhammadan, moved a cut that the total grant be reduced by one rupee and he brought up the subject again. Then the Honourable Revenue Member made a certain speech in which some sort of promise of sympathetic consideration was held out. . . . . .

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : Not a definite promise.

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : Thereupon the honourable mover of the cut again withdrew his proposition so that this has been the fate of this resolution. I may submit that even before the honourable Chaudhri

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Baldeo Singh came to this Council the members of our party had been lending support to this proposition but since Chaudhri Baldeo Singh's acquisition to this Council members of this party have received much more enlightenment from him and their support to this project has become even greater and they have been evincing greater interest. I would, therefore, submit that the insinuation that the people sitting on this side of the House were resorting to it only as an election dodge came with very ill grace from the representative of south-east Rohtak, Chaudhri Chhotu Ram. We are not personally interested in the election and I am told the learned representative of south-east Rohtak went even so far as to.....

Chaudhri Zafrullah Khan: Is the honourable member relevant? Is he speaking to the motion or is he discussing election propaganda of the parties?

Mr. President: If the honourable member from south-east Rohtak was in order in starting a discussion on the election propaganda, the learned Doctor, who is replying to the debate, is fully entitled to discuss that propaganda.

Dr. Gokul Chand Narang: That is exactly what I was going to tell my learned friend that he ought to have been here to raise the objection to those irrelevant talks which were indulged in by the redoubtable representative of south-east Rohtak. I assure you, Sir, that we have not been instrumental in persuading Chaudhri Baldeo Singh to take up this matter but it is the inherent affection that Chaudhri Baldeo Singh has for his own people who are in a bad way that is responsible for this resolution and I submit in all sincerity, and my learned friend should take my word for it, that it was at the instance of Chaudhri Baldeo Singh himself that I sent up my resolution. In fact, he drew up the resolution, he circulated its copies to various members in order that a better chance might be obtained at the ballot and it was a copy received from him that I signed and sent up to the Secretary to the Council. Therefore, the urban members of this Council to whom reference was obviously made by the honourable member from south-east Rohtak have not been playing any dodges. They have every sympathy with the people of Hissar, with the people of Karnal, Rohtak, Gurgaon and in fact, with the people of every district. It is certain other people only who make their sympathies and affections so limited that they are confined only to a certain class of people and they cannot even tolerate, to a very great extent, the members of certain other classes. Even now, I would submit that the amendments that Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram was pleased to send up to my resolution, far from strengthening my hands were intended to weaken the effect of my resolution, and to give a handle to the Government to delay the taking up of the scheme as much as possible. The amendment extends over two lengthy paragraphs which could serve no other purpose than facilitating the tactics of delay which the department, if it wanted to do so, could adopt. In fact, if the *bona fides* of our party are to be considered, well, here is an amendment of Pandit Nanak Chand to my resolution. It says:

> "That this Council recommends to the Government to take the Bhakra Dam Scheme in hand and to give it precedence over every other scheme including the Thal Project."

Now I would submit respectfully that in the face of these facts which are borne out by the official report of this Council, it cannot be said that the

Hindu members of the urban party are indulging in any tactics in order to make the election of Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram more difficult or in any way difficult. That was not at all, so far as I am concerned, that was not at all my object. I shall be very pleased to see Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram in the Council not only sitting on the other side but sitting among the Government members on this side. Only I expect that his sympathies would be wider and not restricted to a certain class of His Majesty's subjects.

Now with respect to the merits of the resolution itself, Sir, I would submit that so far as I understand, the Thal Project has been abandoned. Therefore, that dead weight which by the agreement of Chaudhri Chhotu Ram had been added on to this resolution drops off and therefore, there should be no difficulty in the way of the Government to taking up this scheme. Up to this time the Government has contented itself with obtaining the report of experts which I understand was received in January 1928, as I find from an answer of the Revenue Member given to a question put by Lala Jyoti Parshad. If that report has been there since January 1928, it was really time for some action to have been taken upon it. I know that the Government mills like the mills of God move very slowly, but the difference is that whereas the mills of God grind very small, sometimes the Government mills do not grind at all. That report I understand is very favourable to the scheme and although the original project was that that dam might be about 300 feet deep the expert has declared that that dam can be made 500 deep with safety. If that is so then the only difficulty that remains is the question of funds.

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: That is due to the honourable member's absence. The difficulty is somewhere else.

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang: I come to that also. I know the reply that the Honourable Member gave to certain questions, but I do not consider it a difficulty. That difficulty is really no difficulty. I was referring, Sir, to the difficulty, the only difficulty, in my opinion, which lies in the way of the fulfilment of this scheme and this is the monetary difficulty. As this House may remember, Sir, in 1927, this question came up and the same difficulty of money was raised and even then, I ventured to submit that that difficulty would be overcome easily by floating a loan expressly for the purpose of carrying out the Bhakra Dam Scheme and I have not the slightest doubt that if a loan, say, of Rs. 50 lakhs was floated, or as much as the completion of the scheme required, the loan would be easily subscribed. There are very big men in the Hissar district. There are some in the Karnal district and there are some also in the Rohtak district. The Rohtak and the Hissar districts are expected to benefit by this scheme and I have not the slightest doubt that not only these districts but members of other districts also would gladly subscribe to that loan. So that difficulty should not really be thrown in the face of the supporters of this scheme. You will see Sir, that whereas the Karnal district has the advantage of canal irrigation, the Hissar and Rohtak districts have no canal irrigation at all or if at all anything, not much to speak of. It is therefore, absolutely necessary that it should also have the same facilities as the people of the rest of the Punjab and the

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people, the poor agriculturists who are always claiming such a large corner in the hearts of the members of this House whether they live on this side of the Chenab or on the other side of the Chenab or the Sutlej deserve the same sympathy as the rest of the poor agriculturists, agriculturists of Rohtak and Hissar who, if anything, are poorer than the agriculturists living in other parts of India except perhaps the Muzaffargarh district which is really a very unfortunate part of the Punjab.

Therefore, Sir, as the expert has recommended that a dam of 500 feet depth can be constructed with safety and as the only difficulty is that of money and that difficulty can be overcome by raising a loan, I do not see any reason why Government should lose any further time in taking this scheme in hand.

When I was referring to this difficulty, the Honourable Revenue Member was pleased to refer to another difficulty and that difficulty was the negotiations with the Government of India. The Bombay Government has been raising some difficulty so far as the Thal Scheme is concerned on the ground that it would affect the Sukkur Barrage Scheme. That goes out. Now the Bombay Government has no direct concern or material concern with the Bahkra Dam Scheme. If they were permitted, then it would mean that no part of the waters of the Punjab rivers should be used in the Punjab because all the rivers ultimately fall into the Indus and the Indus ultimately passes through the territory of the Bombay Government. Charity begins at home, and the Bombay Government, if at all, is entitled only to the surplus water that might be spared from the requirment of our own province, and on that ground also, I am not an expert but so far as my instructions go, the Bombay Government need have no apprehension because the scheme with respect to the Bhakra Dam, as I have been able to understand it, is this, that the surplus water which is available in enormous quantities during the rainy season may be chained up in the big dam and may be released in the winter months. That water can be easily spared, and I think the people of the rest of the Punjab and the Bombay Government should be thankful that the excessive water would be thus chained up and would not result in ruinous floods and would not injure the crops and carry away homes and hamlets on the banks of the rivers. I therefore submit that to my mind there is no serious difficulty in the way of taking up this scheme. Unfortunately the movers of it have perhaps not brought sufficient pressure upon the members of Government, and Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram when he was a Member of Government lost a golden opportunity of doing good to his district and to the people of the neighbouring districts in not successfully bringing sufficient pressure to bear upon Government to take up the scheme. With these remarks I support the resolution.

Mr. E. Maya Das [Nominated, Non-official]: Sir, I beg to move an amendment. The reason why I move the amendment is that without the sanction of the Government of India and the Secretary of State no further action can be taken. I therefore move this amendment:

"That the following be substituted for the original resolution:—

"This Council recommends to the Government that earnest and vigorous efforts should be made to obtain the sanction of the Government of India and the Secretary of State to the execution of the Bhakra Dam Project and the construction should be taken in hand without any avoidable delay as soon as the requisite sanction has been obtained"."

Pandit Nanak Chand : Sir, we have received no notice of this amendment. I want to know whether the amendment is in order.

Mr. President : An amendment is in order until a debate is closed provided that it is not objected to by any member of this House, and as no one has objected to the amendment I take it to be in order.

Pandit Nanak Chand : No, Sir, I object to it.

Mr. President : An amendment, the object of which may be simply to add, insert, omit or substitute some words in a resolution may be moved at any stage before the votes are collected and unless it is open to some serious objection, the Chair will allow it. But an amendment the object of which is to replace the whole resolution, especially a resolution which has been under discussion for several hours, shall be too late, and the Chair will seriously consider the propriety of allowing such an amend ment. I think, if Mr. Maya Das desired to move such a drastic amendment he should have moved it at an earlier stage, but on this occasion I suspend the article and allow the amendment on the understanding that this ruling shall not be taken as a precedent for the future.

Pandit Nanak Chand : Sir, may I draw your attention to one fact ? This is the very amendment notice of which was given by Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram but he did not move it. Now the amendment is being moved by Mr. Maya Das. Since you have permitted it, I have nothing further to say, but the amendment was already there and if the Chaudhri Sahib wanted to move it, he could have moved it ; it is an amendment which frustrates the object of the resolution.

Mr. President : An amendment which requires notice can be moved as a rule only by the person who tables it and no other member is entitled to move it. But in this case, Mr. Maya Das is not moving an amendment tabled by another member. He is moving an amendment tabled by himself and there can be no objection to this. The resolution moved was :

> "That this Council recommends to the Government to start at once the construction of the Bhakra Dam, and to provide for this purpose a sum of rupees fifty lakhs in the coming budget to meet the initial expenses."

since which an amendment has been moved to substitute the following for the original resolution:

> "That this Council recommends to the Government that earnest and vigorous efforts should be made to obtain the sanction of the Government of India and the Secretary of State to the execution of the Bhakra Dam Project and the construction should be taken in hand without any avoidable delay as soon as the requisite sanction has been obtained."

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : (Revenue Member): I feel some difficulty, Sir, in speaking on this amendment or the resolution itself. My trouble is this, that I am entirely at one with the mover of this resolution and with the mover of the amendment and with every other speaker who has spoken on the subject, in so far as their desire is to see that the Bhakra Dam Scheme should proceed as soon as possible, that there should be no delay in commencing it, and further that no efforts should be spared to secure from the Government of India the requisite assent without which no further action can be taken by the Punjab Government. One would have thought that if the matter were so very simple as I have ventured to state it, where is the occasion for this protracted debate, where is the occasion for some rather unfair allegations made against Government,

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some to the effect that the Hariana tract is far, far away from the headquarters of Government that Government is not sufficiently interested in it and therefore Government is delaying, another one from our colleagues to the right to the effect that the Government seldom acts unless somebody in their good books brings pressure to bear on the Government, and therefore, unless some one who has influence with the Government interests himself in the scheme and brings that pleasant pressure to bear on the Government which the Government so much loves to receive and reciprocate, no scheme has a good chance of being taken up. I can assure the honourable members that since I have been in office, that pleasant pressure has been brought to bear on me by more friends than one, members in the Council and friends outside the Council, and I have always assured them that it is hardly necessary for me to have this pleasant pressure brought to bear upon me because I am already for the scheme and Government already is for it. Therefore, these usual railleries against Government by members, whether friends or opponents, whether supporters or critics, to the effect that Government is not either interested in the Hariana tract or is not being pressed by influential members, both these criticisms are altogether incorrect and unjustified. I can assure the Council that during the last three years in which I have held this office, I have been not only the recipient of that pleasant pressure but also the unfortunate recipient of most annoying wigging from my colleague in the Council and from my erstwhile colleague as Minister, Chaudhri Chhotu Ram who has been, I should say here, unpleasantly persisting, knowing that I was already for the scheme, and I could not possibly understand how a gentleman with the amount of sense that I know he possesses was so very persistent in annoying us in this way knowing perfectly well that Government is for the scheme. And I actually asked him 'What is the reason for the persistent annoyance to which you are subjecting me?' He assured me that ordinarily he would never have committed these petty tyrannies on me because he knows perfectly well that Government is already committed to the scheme. But he said there was an excuse for his conduct which he wanted me to rightly consider, and it was—that there were some people in his constituency who were intending to stand for election next time and who were making out that he did not go in for sufficiently exercising his influence with the Government. He therefore wanted to assure them that they had no ground for making that allegation. (*A voice*: So, that was another election dodge?). Yes, it was an election dodge on his part in order to counteract another election dodge on the part of somebody else. I assure you, Sir, so far as I am concerned, I am ready to agree to any good scheme whether it comes from a friend, an admirer or a critic. What we have to look at is, as Government, whether the scheme is a good one or a bad one. If it is a good one, it is our duty to proceed with it not only in the interests of the tract but also in the interests of Government, because it is a remunerative scheme and by its execution the finances of the province are going to benefit. It would be a short-sighted policy if the Government were to delay any remunerative scheme. And therefore, there should be no occasion whatsoever for any suspicion, however slight, as regards Government that any delay which is avoidable is taking place. But, Sir, let me assure those who

entertain the slightest suspicion on the point that the Punjab Government is after all, whatever we may think about ourselves the fact remains, a very, very subordinate Government and cannot move in matters of such great schemes as the Bhakra Dam Scheme undoubtedly is, without the Government of India's sanction and the sanction of the Secretary of State. I have no doubt the honourable member to my right (*referring to Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang*) who said that Bombay had really no legs to stand upon is right and I entirely agree with him and that is exactly what I have told the Government of India. But he knows perfectly well that if a man has put in an appeal in the High Court in a case which is absolutely weak for the appellant, still it takes the necessary time before notice is served on the respondent, a date is fixed for its hearing in order that the adjudication on that appeal may be obtained. (*Interruption*: There is such a thing as urgent application.) I assure you that I also know a few devices of that sort and have used them to the fullest extent. The only good, I say, of all this discussion at this stage in regard to the Bhakra Dam is that it enables me to approach the Government of India once more and ask them to hurry up the case that I have sent them already. Otherwise, if I were an irresponsible Member, I might have said that the time taken up by this debate is almost wasted. I see this much use in what might appear to a stranger as really useless. However, the fact remains that in this matter the Government is absolutely committed to the scheme. The attempt to import Thal or any other scheme into it is really puerile. For, there is no other scheme at present which is in conflict with the Bhakra Dam Scheme; at the moment, Government is not considering whether this scheme or that scheme should be taken up. I value the suggestion made by the honourable member on my right to the effect that a loan for this scheme be floated and he like a wise financier suggested that most of the money is likely to come from the Hariana tract. It may be that there are very rich people who could subscribe two crores and three crores in that tract. I do not know. There may be. But it would be wrong on the part of Government in the case of the Bhakra Dam Scheme that this should be executed only in case a loan floated were fully subscribed. The Punjab Government has got good credit and there would be no difficulty in raising money for the carrying out of remunerative schemes. I assure the House that it is not on the ground of financial stringency, because after all the scheme is not going to be financed out of revenues, that there has been delay. The difficulty is not such a slight one as you make out here. Although the justification for our opponent's objection is altogether weak in fact there is no justification that we can see yet, they, having entered a protest and the decision resting as it does with the Government of India, what can we do but submit to it? It is not a matter where we can do what perhaps would have been possible in the Punjab of a hundred years ago, to proceed with the work and let the Moghul Emperor come and stop it. We cannot do that. It would be wrong on our part to try to march with the police to protect us in case the Central Government comes to prohibit us. (*An honourable member*: I did not mean, Sir, that the project should be taken up without the sanction of the Government of India, when I said that this Government should take the law into their own hands.) Well, then, Sir, I have said how we feel in the

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matter and my speech with the proceedings as reported will go to the Government of India. (*An honourable member*: That is passive; be active.) I am afraid I do not understand the honourable member. How can a Revenue Member be active against the Government of India especially when he is non-violent by creed? I can only write most polite official letters requesting them that as we have got an extremely strong case and those who protest or object have no case whatever, no legs to stand upon, the matter should be expedited, and that in this belief our Legislative Council is unanimously with us and that we do not understand why this delay has taken place and that we do back up the wishes of the House in this matter. (*An honourable member*: Has the Honourable Member sent reminders?) Certainly. (*An honourable member*: When their reply was not received, the reminder should have been sent with a red flag, or whatever flag indicates urgency, and with the necessary dockets. For, there are various stages of urgency, I believe.) I can assure the honourable member that I am up to all the dodges and that the case of the Punjab will never suffer because of my having failed to have recourse to any of them. Now, I am glad to say that the Council has arrived at an agreement, and what is that agreement? It is, that this Council as well as the Punjab Government is definitely committed to the Bhakra Dam Scheme and that the Council, at all events, honourable members to my right, do not wish me to commit the indiscretion of not proceeding with the scheme till the Government of India has given its approval. That is all, Sir, that we can do, and I do not believe that there is any single dissentient on the matter. And I have very great pleasure in accepting the amendment which has been moved by the honourable member, Mr. Maya Das.

Mr. President: The resolution moved was:

> "That this Council recommends to the Government to start at once the construction of the Bhakra Dam, and to provide for this purpose a sum of rupees fifty lakhs in the coming budget to meet the initial expenses."

Since which an amendment has been moved to substitute the following for the original resolution:

> "This Council recommends to the Government that earnest and vigorous efforts should be made to obtain the sanction of the Government of India and the Secretary of State to the execution of the Bhakra Dam Project and the construction should be taken in hand without any avoidable delay as soon as the requisite sanction has been obtained."

The question is that this amendment be adopted.

The motion was carried.

The question is:

> "This Council recommends to the Government that earnest and vigorous efforts should be made to obtain the sanction of the Government of India and the Secretary of State to the execution of the Bhakra Dam Project and the construction should be taken in hand without any avoidable delay as soon as the requisite sanction has been obtained."

The motion was carried.

RESOLUTION *re*: ODES AS A CRIMINAL TRIBE.

Sardar Sahib Sardar Fateh Singh: [Ferozepore (Sikh) Rural] (Urdu): Sir, I submit that the Odes must be declared a Criminal Tribe. In this Province failure of crops is a very usual thing and perchance if any year brings good crops the Odes will not

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let the zamindars profit by them. It is a nomadic tribe and keeps large herds of sheep, goats and other animals. They move from place to place and where ever they go their herds spoil the crops. Many a time it was found necessary to institute legal proceedings against them, for example, at Liko, Mogha, Jalianwali, etc. Even Lambardars and other influential people are unable to deal with them. There are nearly two groups of them and they all wander from place to place destroying crops and often committing murders. If no steps are taken to declare them a Criminal tribe like Baureas and Sansies the condition of the poor zamindars will become more hopeless. I request the House and the Government to favourably consider this resolution.

Mr. President: Chaudhri Chhotu Ram.

Pandit Nanak Chand: On a point of order, Sir. No resolution has been proposed from the Chair.

Mr. President: The honourable member for Ferozepur did not commence his speech by a formal motion in the terms of his resolution, nor did he read it in the course or at the end of his speech. Thus, no resolution is moved, and therefore, there is no resolution to be proposed from the Chair.

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang: (Urdu) Sir, the Sardar Sahib against whose name this resolution stands has perhaps never moved a resolution up to this time and therefore, ignorant of the real procedure he did not read out his resolution. Under these circumstances, if he himself is not willing to drop the matter I request the resolution may be proposed from the Chair.

Mr. President: Had I any discretion in the matter, I should have exercised it in the honourable member's favour and proposed the resolution from the Chair. But the Standing Order on the point reads as follows:—

> "A member in whose name a resolution stands on the list of business *shall*, when called on,
>
> (I am omitting the irrelevant portion)
>
> move the resolution, in which case he shall commence his speech by a formal motion in the terms appearing on the list of business."

It is regrettable that I have no discretion in the matter. The Standing Order appears to be imperative. I proceed, therefore, to call upon Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram, to move his resolution.

Mr. E. Maya Das: May I say Sir, that the honourable member did not move his resolution in English?

Mr. President: He did not move it even in vernacular which the President understands. So the imputation is incorrect and should be withdrawn.

Mr. E. Maya Das: I beg your pardon, Sir, and withdraw.

RESOLUTION *RE*: AMENDMENT OF THE PUNJAB ALIENATION OF LAND ACT.

Rana Firoz-ud-Din Khan [South-East towns (Muhammadan), Urban] (Urdu): Sir, I beg to move my resolution which runs as follows:—

> "That this Council recommends to the Government to amend the Punjab Alienation of Land Act so as to protect the land of members of agricultural tribes who are adjudicated insolvents, from sale in insolvency proceedings."

Sir, the underlying intention of this resolution is to protect the lands of such zamindars from sale who have been adjudicated insolvents. The very wording of the resolution shows that the lands of zamindars are insecure and are open to the hostile attacks of other non-agriculturist communities

[Rana Firoz-ud-Din Khan.]

Before I draw your attention to other matters let me first lay before you the circumstances that made it necessary for me to move this resolution.

The Land Alienation Act was passed in 1900 and was enforced in 1901. It has been in force for the last 28 years. Under section 16 of the Land Alienation Act the lands of the zamindars were protected from being sold in execution of a decree or order of Civil or Revenue courts. During this interval, the Provincial Insolvency Act was passed but in no case the lands of the zamindars were sold in accordance with its provisions and section 16 of the Land Alienation Act remained unviolated. But now the Honourable Justice Dalip Singh has held that lands of an insolvent zamindar can be sold to another zamindar. The lands of a certain zamindar were sold by the Receiver. Thereupon he appealed against it to the High Court, and Mr. Justice Dalip Singh upheld the decision of the District Court. This was a new interpretation prior to which no Judge or Court had ever given such a ruling.

By this ruling of the High Court a great apprehension has been caused and the zamindars regard it an evasion of the provisions of the Land Alienation Act. In regarding it as such they are quite justified; for those rights of which they were so proud and for which they were so very grateful to the Government, now in the presence of this decision remain safe no longer. This decision was given in 1927, and was published in All India Reporter 1928, Lahore at page 784. It would have been better if it had not been published; for in that case there would have been no agitation among the zamindar classes.

Now let us see, Sir, whether this decision is in accordance with the law that is in force at present?

Pandit Nanak Chand: What is your opinion on it?

Rana Firoz-ud-Din Khan: It is absolutely wrong. Sir, I have already mentioned section 16 of the Land Alienation Act. Under this section lands of the Agriculturists are protected from being sold in execution of the decrees or orders of a Civil or a Revenue court. The property of an insolvent vests in the Receiver but he sells it under the authority of a Court and as the sale in the present case was carried on by the authority of a Civil Court in contravention of section 16 of the Land Alienation Act, therefore the ruling was wrong. Sir, no Judge has the authority to contravene the provisions of an existing law. It may be urged in support of the decision in question that the Land Alienation Act had been passed prior to the Provincial Insolvency Act in which there was no provision for the protection of the lands of the agriculturists and the Court was not bound to follow an old law in preference to a later one. But the Insolvency Act is an all India measure having only an indirect application, while the Land Alienation Act is special to the Punjab and was enacted in consideration of the special conditions prevalent in this province. Therefore, it must have preference over the Insolvency Act.

The learned Judge has relied on section 28, sub-section 5 of the Provincial Insolvency Act which runs as follows:—

> "The property of the insolvent for the purposes of the Section shall not include any property (not being books of accounts) which is exempted by the Civil Procedure Code, 1908, or by any other enactment for the time being in force from liability to attachment and sale in execution of a decree."

Apparently the learned Judge has taken advantage of the presence of the word "and" between attachment and sale and ruled that although the property of an agriculturist cannot be sold still it is open to attachment, and therefore is not protected under Section 28 (5).

But my contention is that the word "and" is used in sub-section (5) in the sense of "or". But even if this contention be wrong, section 28 (5) of the Provincial Insolvency Act cannot override the principles of the Land Alienation Act. At the most, it may be urged that the phraseology of section 16 of the Land Alienation Act is capable of this interpretation. Now, Sir, if the wording of section 16 is ambiguous then it is advisable to make it more explicit in order to remove the possibility of any future misinterpretation. It has come to my notice that the Law Member is also of my way of thinking. It can be corrected in two ways. The first is by filing an appeal to the High Court and then getting a favourable decision from a Division Bench. But it is possible that another Division Bench may arrive at a different conclusion. As a result, the law on the point will continue to be unsettled, and will entail a great deal of inconvenience both to the Government and the public.

The second method is to approach the legislature and to request the Government to amend the law. This latter method is better inasmuch as it will make the law more clear and certain. By approaching the legislature the controversy will be settled once for all. In this connection it may be urged that times have changed and the circumstances do not require that the provisions of the Land Alienation Act should be strictly enforced.

Now we are to see whether the same conditions still prevail which necessitated the enactment of the Land Alienation Act in 1900. If they do then the same law must be maintained, otherwise there is no reason to retain it on the Statute Book. As regards education the zamindars are as backward as they were thirty years ago. As regards their economic condition it is even worse. It cannot be denied that their lands were protected by the Land Alienation Act, and they profited by it. But they are heavily in debt and have made no improvement in that respect. The reasons which necessitated the passage of the Act in 1900 still exist.

Even the Land Alienation Act has been attacked indirectly by overt acts like *benami*, etc. Sir, the zamindars pay more debts than land revenue. The Government has left them on the rack neither dead nor alive. It ought to have taken care to relieve them of their debts. Sometime back the Regulation of Accounts Bill was introduced but still no steps have been taken to make it a law. This, however, is a passing remark. To revert to the topic under discussion it is certain that if the Land Alienation Act be annulled then 80 per cent. of the land in their possession will pass out of their hands in not more than five years. This shows that their economic condition is also bad.

Let us now consider their position from the political point of view. It is thirty years since the Land Alienation Act was passed. Since then, the political condition of the Province has undergone an important change. Their position should be observed in the light of the altered conditions which have followed the present political awakening. They constitute 75 per cent., of the total population of the Province and 63 per cent., of the revenue of the

[Rana Firoz-ud-Din Khan.]

Province comes from their pockets. A community whose importance is thus established and who have for the past thirty years believed that the Government took an interest in their welfare, should not be disappointed in its sanguine hopes. Such a course would lead to a general discontent among them which would in no way be good for the Government or the public.

Considering the above-mentioned facts it follows that the Law should be retained as it is. It may be said that under the Provincial Insolvency Act only a few zamindars have been adjudicated insolvents and that zamindars need not resort to it. But creditors also can apply for the adjudication of a debtor as insolvent. If this ruling remains untouched, then the creditors who cannot otherwise have the lands of agriculturists sold in execution of their decrees, rush to insolvency courts and have the debtors declared insolvents, which under the law, they can very easily do, by having previously attached their property or getting them arrested and by this device would deprive the agriculturists of their lands. If the Government hold the some policy in relation to zamindars then it should readily accept my resolution.

Sardar Hira Singh [Lahore (Sikh) Rural], (Urdu): Sir, I support the resolution moved by my honourable friend, the Rana Sahib. The underlying purpose of this resolution is to protect the lands of those agriculturists who are often compelled to borrow money from the *sahukars*. Because of the failures of their crops these poor people cannot repay their debts at the proper time. The money-lenders charge very high rates of interest and also use various deceptive methods to entangle the zamindars. For example, when a zamindar comes to a *sahukar* to repay his debts the *sahukar* takes out his account book and says: "You borrowed Rs. 50, and the interest on that sum is only Rs. 15, which means that you owe me Rs. 75. As a personal favour I remit Rs. 5, and you may pay the remaining sum of Rs. 80." The poor zamindar ignorant of any calculation pays and goes his way well satisfied and feels obliged to the crooked money lender for Rs. 5 !

Moreover, these crafty money lenders evade the provisions of the Land Alienation Act in many ways. They mortgage the lands of their debtors to other zamindars on agreement that they should pay the money advanced in fixed instalments. Those zamindars also, in their turn, fail to pay the instalments at the fixed time whereupon the Insolvency Courts come to the help of the money lenders and the land is attached and sold. The condition of the zamindars is pitiable. Three consecutive crops have failed. The non-agriculturists are wise and cunning. And on the top of all this, comes the ruling given by Mr. Justice Dalip Singh, which is sure to prove very disastrous in its results.

It may be said that this decision has opened the door for the wealthier zamindars and not for the money-lenders inasmuch as the lands can only be sold to the zamindars. But I submit, Sir, that the big zamindar will prefer to purchase lands in the canal colonies, rather than expropriate their poor neighbours. With these few remarks, I support the resolution.

Rai Bahadur Lala Mohan Lal [North East Towns (Non-Muhammadan), (Urdu): Sir, I want to make a few observations on this resolution. My honourable friend, the mover of the resolution, has criticised the judgment of the Honourable Mr. Justice Dalip Singh and says that it is

wrong. My honourable friend is a practising lawyer, while I practised only for some years, and now not an actual practitioner. But, for the information of my friend, I may point out that the judgment of the Honourable Mr. Justice Dalip Singh is absolutely correct. Under the Civil Procedure Code, the sale of immoveable property of an agriculturist is excluded in execution of a decree.

Under sections 16 and 28 of the Provincial Insolvency Act, the property of the insolvent vests in the Receiver, who is a creature of the law. He disposes of the property of the insolvent in accordance with the provisions of the Insolvency Act, and the powers vested in him, under that Act. The sale made by the Receiver is not in execution of a decree, but under special powers conferred on him by the Insolvency Act.

The judgment of the Honourable Mr. Justice Dalip Singh allowed the sale of the land from one agriculturist to another. This is permissible under the provisions of the Land Alienation Act. I fail to understand the objection of my honourable friend to this. Had the Honourable Mr. Justice Dalip Singh decided that land belonging to an agriculturist could be sold to a non-agriculturist, perhaps there would have been a cause for grievance on behalf of the honourable mover of the resolution.

If the land of an agriculturist is not allowed to be sold to another agriculturist in insolvency proceedings, the result would be that the sahukars would be deprived of their decree money, and the debtor would be safe in spite of his owing money. Under the provisions of the Insolvency Act, the land of one agriculturist passes into the hands of another agriculturist, under the judgment of the Honourable Mr. Justice Dalip Singh. It is only the money, or consideration for sale of such land which instead of going into the hands of an agriculturist goes into the hands of sahukars in payment of the debt. Is there anything wrong in this? The land of the agriculturist will remain with an agriculturist. The adoption of the resolution would mean that the decree holders would be deprived of their money which they will be able to get under the provisions of the Insolvency Act, as interpreted by the Honourable Mr. Justice Dalip Singh. My honourable friend, the mover of the resolution has not produced statistics to show how many agriculturists have sought the protection of the Insolvency Act, and have been deprived of their lands under the provisions of that Act. It is a false apprehension in the mind of my honourable friend that if the judgment of the Honourable Mr. Justice Dalip Singh is allowed to remain, the creditors would apply under the provisions of the Insolvency Act, and get the lands of the agriculturists sold.

I remember that a resolution in this Council was moved by honourable member for Montgomery under which he wanted a special tribunal to be created with an Insolvency Judge to examine the debts of the agriculturists. The Government did not give effect to that resolution, because it was considered to be impracticable.

I do not contend that all the *sahukars* are saints or that the agriculturists are budmashes. Exception proves the rule, and there are black sheep amongst both. There are sahukars who may swell their accounts by false entries, but there are agriculturists also who will like to burn the account books of *sahukars* and commit thefts and robberies. My honourable

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friend Sardar Hira Singh has said that the sahukars use dishonest means to fabricate accounts. But my honourable friend ignores the fact that those accounts are gone into by the courts whenever suits are filed.

Sir, I am of opinion that if the Government or my friends devise means for payments of agriculturists' debts the sahukars will be glad to receive annas 8 in the rupee, or even less. I draw the attention of my friends of the agriculturists party to the fact that it is the duty of the majority party to safeguard the interests of the minorities. The majority party should not misuse its powers and do anything which would harm the interests of the minorities.

With these remarks I oppose the resolution.

Sardar Buta Singh [Multan Division and Sheikhupura (Sikh-Rural)], (Urdu): Sir, the resolution moved by my honourable friend Rana Firoz-ud-Din is quite harmless, but some honourable members of the House have regarded it as an unjustified interference with their rights. Under this impression they have started an unnecessary controversy. As has been sufficiently elucidated by the honourable mover of the resolution, section 16 of the Land Alienation Act protects the land of the agriculturists from attachment and sale. To evade the provisions of the Land Alienation Act by any means is not justified and the opponents ought to have realised the spirit of the Act. If by some change in the circumstances a change in the law was felt necessary, they ought to have taken the right course and tried to get the law amended or annulled. The circumstances that necessitated the enactment of this law are still there and therefore, it is expedient to maintain the law as it is.

Sir, the honourable member from Simla, has stated in his speech that according to the ruling given by Mr. Justice Dalip Singh the money lender only receives back the loan advanced and the land continues to remain in the possession of the zamindars. Apparently this statement is very simple and very convincing, but its consequences are laden with two grave defects from the zamindar's point of view. First, this decision will, as it has done, embolden the money lenders to advance loans to the zamindars who are already in the habit of borrowing. They may or may not have fodder but they will readily accept an elephant if lent.

Then, as has been pointed out by my friend Sardar Hira Singh, the lawyers are aware of the fact that according to the inheritance theory the land does not belong to the zamindar but it is the property of his children. If the land of a zamindar is attached and sold in consequence of an insolvency decree, it will be the children's right that will be interfered with.

My honourable friends have not quoted any instance to illustrate how the money lenders evade the provisions of the Land Alienation Act. They, for example, buy land in the name of an agriculturist as has been done in the district of Sheikhupura. There, one Jai Ram has bought land in the name of a person Khushal Singh of village Kokar. [*A voice*: Why are you being upset? Proceed with the matter legally, otherwise talking like that is absolutely useless. Better deliver speeches in opposition].

To revert to our topic my friend Chaudhri Zafrullah Khan will tell you how by paying compound interest the zamindars are led to their ruin.

Then my friend from Simla has said that it is the duty of the majority to take care of the interests and to respect the rights of the minority. Our present misfortunes are due to too much of such care. In the villages the wily Sahukar by servility and flattery always befools the simple zamindar. He accosts him as a great Chaudhri, son of the illustrious Lambardar, professes friendship and offers him a loan. Then years flit by and the money lender continues to be oblivious of the sum advanced until by multiplication and remultiplication the sum reaches some three or four thousands. Then he will begin to demand it from the zamindar. Bitter words pass on both sides; and then one day the poor zamindar is summoned before a court and declared insolvent. This completes his ruin. Sir, with these remarks I support the resolution and request the House to adopt it.

Pandit Nanak Chand [Hoshiarpur (Non-Muhammadan), Rural]: After hearing the two speeches which have been delivered by the two Sardars, I can only say this, that nobody can give wisdom where there exists none. You may pass any number of restrictive laws, wise men shall always rule. Therefore, I submit, Sir, that the various dodges that are adopted to defeat the claims of creditors will not succeed in any way. I want to explain, Sir, what is meant by a zamindar. When a man says that a zamindar's land should be protected, that his agricultural land should not be dealt with by the Insolvency courts and that it should be protected from the repayment of first debts, the House should know who a zamindar is. Ordinarily we know that a zamindar means an owner of land, but this is not the meaning of the mover of the resolution. According to him, and according to those who support him a zamindar means a person not necessarily cultivating land, not necessarily carrying on agricultural occupation, but a person notified as a zamindar under the Land Alienation Act. There are unfortunately these divisions created by this Act which have set the Punjab into two hostile camps. There are certain tribes, certain castes which are declared to have certain privileges and certain disabilities have been cast on the other castes and they are suffering on account of this Act. Now, the intention of the mover of this resolution is that these disabilities should be further strengthened, that injustice should be further perpetuated, and that those who have lent their money should have no facility for the recovery of their money. With your permission, I wish to invite the attention of the House to a judgment of Mr. Justice Addison who said what the object of the Land Alienation Act was and what was not its object. I refer to page 952 of the Indian Law Report, Lahore, 1928.

> "It is not," SAYS THE LEARNED JUDGE, "the object of the Alienation of Land Act to prevent a non-agriculturist from recovering money due to him from an agriculturist by any legal means. Where, therefore, such a person induces an agriculturist to pay off a debt due from the debtor agriculturist and take a mortgage on land from him as security for himself there is nothing in law to prevent such a course."

Now, it is quite clear that this Act was not passed with the intention of making it difficult for the creditors to realise the money from the debtors, but with the object of, if I understand it rightly, keeping the land of the agriculturist tribes within the agricultural tribes themselves. That was the object of the Act. My learned and honourable friend, the mover of the resolution, wishes to give further

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opportunities to the various debtors going about the country who take loans on every occasion without any rhyme or reason. He wishes to give them further opportunities not to pay off these just debts. I will give an instance. Supposing there is a land-holder who is a member of a notified agricultural tribe. He borrows Rs. 50,000 with the object of purchasing certain squares of land from the Government. Considering that he is a respectable man, money is advanced to him by some friend of his or by a person who does not doubt his reliability. He purchases the squares of land. Then when the time comes for the payment of the debt, this gentleman says: I will not pay you anything, I am unable to pay. The creditor goes to a court, takes a decree for Rs. 50,000 and certain interest. This gentleman comes to an insolvency court and says: I am insolvent. The insolvency court, if this resolution is passed, says: we cannot touch your agricultural land: you are the owner of so many squares of land but we will not touch you and we will declare you insolvent. I submit, Sir, is that a proposition which would appeal to any fair minded person? And that is exactly what my honourable friend who has moved the resolution, wishes the House to adopt. He wants to give protection to those who do not like to pay their debts. It has been pointed out by my friend Lala Mohan Lal that it has been distinctly stated in the judgment of the Honourable Mr. Justice Dalip Singh that the land is to be sold not to a member of a non-agricultural tribe but to a member of an agricultural tribe, and there is, therefore, no danger of that land passing from the hands of a member of an agricultural tribe to those of a member of a non-agricultural tribe. The object of the Act, therefore, is not defeated. If these gentlemen want the so-called zamindars not to be entangled in the meshes of the money lender, the proper thing would be for them to insist on Government giving them compulsory education so that they may have some sort of sense to realise why it is that they should not go to a money lender and why they should refrain from borrowing. But to adopt methods like those which are suggested in this resolution, I submit, would be the highest injustice. If any protection were to be granted to any really poor agriculturist, that should not be withheld if it is demanded in a reasonable manner. But the Alienation of Land Act does not define an "agriculturist" at all. The Act definitely says that the power of declaring a certain tribe or a caste to be an agricultural tribe or caste rests with the executive Government. It is open to the executive Government to declare an agricultural tribe to be a non agricultural tribe and it is open to the executive Government to declare a non-agricultural tribe to be an agricultural tribe. Many depressed castes such as Meghs, Dooms and Chamars, who are, in every sense of the term agriculturists are not declared agricultural tribes. I would have had absolutely no hesitation in extending my sympathy to my learned friends had there been a change in the definition of "agriculturist." Had that term been defined as an agriculturist being one who tills land with his own hand and has no other means of livelihood, there would have been some reason for supporting them. It is a shame that the Punjab should be the only province in the world where people are divided into privileged castes on the one hand and non-privileged castes on the other. I think it is a shame in the twentieth century for these gentlemen who are clamouring for Swaraj or independence or whatever

you call it, to insist that they should have these rights based upon birth. Acts meant to give relief to the agriculturist exist elsewhere also but there is a definition of "agriculturist" given in the Deccan Agriculturists Relief Act which could have been adopted here also, and then there would have been some sense in lending support to this resolution. This Act defines the term "Agriculturist" to mean a person who by himself or by his servants or by his tenants earns his livelihood wholly or partly by agriculture carried on within the limits of the district or part of the district to which this Act may for the time being extend, or who ordinarily engages himself personally in agricultural labour within the district. Recently the Government has adopted the definition of the term in its natural meaning for the purpose of selection of candidates to the judicial posts under the High Court. Similarly, the term can be defined as to mean and include those depending on agriculture, or those who carry on cultivation as a profession. But here, we have a Member of the Government having nothing to do with agriculture being called an agriculturist with all the benefits which are conferred upon the agriculturists as a class. The Member of Government by virtue of his being termed an agriculturist is given the right, if he so chooses to act, to intimidate, to annoy persons and take possession by force or fraud, of land belonging to any person who unhappily is not in a fortunate position. (*An honourable member*: But you have been complaining that you have not got that right.) I do not complain of any such thing. I want equality, justice and fair play.

4 P.M.

My learned friend waxed eloquent in saying that so far as land is concerned, it has been preserved to the agriculturists and that otherwise, they are as they were some time ago, before the passing of the Act. For his information, I wish to read a passage from an article written by Mr. Kodanda Rao, M.A., a member of the Servants of India Society. With regard to this Land Alienation Act, he says:

> "It must be remembered that most of the transactions by way of sale or mortgage are now as between agriculturists to whom the Land Alienation Act does not apply. The agriculturist money-lender is unfettered by the Act and has besides a virtual monopoly of money-lending. Even as early as 1903 the Report on the Land Alienation Act noted that 'one of the dangers foreseen in passing the Act, *viz.*, the rich zamindar turning money-lender with the sole object of enriching himself, has begun to appear' (paragraph 15) and that 'the Jat zamindar money-lender was reported to be more exacting than the ordinary bania (paragraphs 15 and 29). Mr. Darling considers that the agriculturist money-lender 'is, if anything, worse than his professional rival' (page 228), that because the Land Alienation Act does not apply to him, 'he is, therefore, in the stronger position of the two; and ultimately he is the more formidable, for his object is the land and to obtain it he will press a client till he is compelled to sell' (page 230). Mr. Darling quotes a zamindar who said to him that "if the Land Alienation Act has rescued the sheep from the wolf, it has only been to hand him over to the butcher' (page 230). We have thus all the elements necessary to stimulate the expropriation of the poorer agriculturists: the needy and improvident landholder is there; his credit with the agriculturist money-lender is unimpaired, and the large holders, with surplus to sell, have profited by the high prices and have money to lend and are as anxious as the most land-grabbing professional money-lender to lend money and grab the land, and the Land Alienation Act gives no protection to the poorer agriculturist as against the more rich and powerful ones. Under these circumstances it would be very surprising if, contrary to the anticipations of Sir Charles Rivaz, the Act did not 'encourage the growth of large properties at the expense of the small proprietor.'" As Mr. Calvert remarks, the repugnance of Muhammadans to invest money in interest-bearing securities is an additional force driving them into the purchase of land. The result of this is best seen in the Western Punjab, where the big landlords, according to Mr. Darling, have in the last twenty years, since the Land Alienation Act gave the chance, sometimes doubled their acres (page 113)."

[Pandit Nanak Chand.]

That is the danger, if we pass this resolution now and if this resolution is acted upon by Government. The result would be that money would be coming from the pockets of the money lender, the poor persons will fall a prey to the rich zamindar who after having borrowed money from the money lenders would prey upon the poor zamindars and go to the insolvency court finally. In the first place, he will not pay the debt which he should have paid, and in the next place, taking advantage of his position, he would be taking possession of the lands of the poorer landholders and poorer agriculturists. Such a state of affairs, I submit, Sir, should be prevented. It is no use saying that the zamindar is much in the same position as he was before the Act was passed. That is entirely a misreading of the situation. To-day, the zamindars as notified under the Land Alienation Act are 50 per cent. of the total population and this 50 per cent. have put in the Council consisting of 71 members, as many as 50 members. That is to say, one section of the population though equal in numbers has the monopoly of power and rules the minority with a strong hand. They are in a majority here though they would be in a minority or in an equality outside the House. And they are taking advantage of that dominant position and insist on all sorts of concessions and all sorts of privileges for themselves. They have succeeded in wringing out of the Government who wishes to perpetuate this class distinction by making use of this Act as a bone of contention between them. Not only have we here the Hindu-Muslim problem, the Sikh problem, but we have got further this caste problem which is getting accentuated but which every nationalist, every true lover of this country will try to see disappear. Unfortunately I find, Sir, that it is from the so-called Nationalist benches whose attempt it is to see that equality is done between man and man, between one class and another, that it is from the Nationalist benches that this resolution has emanated because, they too belong to the privileged class. It is not a question of an agriculturist *versus* a non-agriculturist. But these gentlemen are born in the privileged caste and even God Himself in his Omnipotence cannot take away any of those rights which they at present enjoy due to their birth. That I submit, Sir, is a state of affairs which should not be tolerated and to which the House should not be a party by passing this resolution.

Chaudhri Duli Chand [Karnal (Non-Muhammadan), Rural] (Urdu): Sir, I may say at the very outset that I will be very brief in what I have to say with regard to this resolution. Sir, this resolution will test the *bona fides* of the members who are never tired of saying that they are here to help the poor. In order to make it clear that the Land Alienation Act has been opposed by the *sahukars* since it was introduced I will have to briefly go into the history of this legislation. In 1900 when this Bill was referred to the Select Committee, it was Raja Sir Harnam Singh, one of the members of that committee, who offered opposition to the Bill. He was the only member who did so.....

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang: On a point of order, Sir. The honourable member has begun discussing the history of the legislation beginning with 1900 and the part played by Sir Harnam Singh. My submission is that that is not at all relevant to the present resolution which only aims at one

of the amendments of the Act with respect to one particular point arising from the judgment of the High Court here.

Mr. President : I think the honourable member shall be well advised if he discussed the resolution from the legal or economic point of view and does not from the communal point of view.

Chaudhri Duli Chand : I bow to your ruling, Sir, and I will discuss it from the economic point of view. Now let us see how the recent ruling of the High Court will affect the people in the Province and in order to arrive at the right conclusion it is necessary to go into the history of the legislation.

Mr. President : The honourable member has already taken 4 minutes.

Chaudhri Duli Chand : It is not my fault. I am interrupted at every step. I was saying, Sir, that it was only Sir Harnam Singh who opposed this measure in the Select Committee and among the others of money-lending class who opposed this legislation was Bakhshi Sohan Lal who sent a representation protesting against this measure. The Indian National Congress also passed a resolution against this Bill because at that time it consisted of a majority of the members belonging to the money-lending class. Sir, we have been advised in season and out of season not to insist on the retention of this Act because it has proved harmful to the interests of the petty zamindars. We have been not unoften warned that with the help of this Act, big zamindars will grow fat at the expense of petty zamindars and that the time is fast approaching when only the big zamindars will become masters of all lands and the petty zamindars will be turned into mere tenants. It is, therefore, time that this danger should be avoided. In the beginning the Punjab Land Alienation Act was opposed on the ground that it was intended to benefit the Muhammadan community. But when we Hindu zamindars raised our voice in favour of this Act and proclaimed that not only Muhammadans were benefited by it, but that Hindus including Rajputs, Gujars, Ahirs and Jats, will also be saved from falling victims to the highhandedness of money lenders, the ground was shifted. The money-lending classes then thought that it was no use decrying this Act on that ground and then they began to say that this Act refused to grant even the elementary rights of citizenship. Pandit Nanak Chand has repeated this argument several times. I wonder why he should oppose this Act being the representative of the zamindars. I can understand the opposition by Dr. Gokul Chand because he is a representative of the money-lenders, but what I fail to understand is the attitude of Pandit Nanak Chand. As a representative of the zamindars he should have supported this Act. I will say nothing more than that this resolution will test the *bona fides* of some of the members of the Council. With these few words, I support the resolution before the House.

Lala Bodh Raj [Punjab West Towns (Non-Muhammadan), Urban], (Urdu) : Sir, as is clear from the resolution the honourable mover wants that the Punjab Alienation of Land Act be so amended as to protect the land of members of agricultural tribes, who are adjudicated insolvents, from sale in insolvency proceedings. In other words, the object of the resolution is that the right of the members of agricultural tribes to sell their land to another member of their tribe, which they have now got, under the existing

[L. Bodh Raj.]

law be curtailed. If the honourable mover had asked for the protection of the land of petty zamindars, there would have been some sense in it and it is possible we might have extended our support to him. But I do not understand why he should require all the zamindars to be protected like that. As my friend Chaudhri Duli Chand just now said, the big fish are already swallowing the small ones. Does the honourable mover wish to give another facility to the big landlords to buy all the lands in the possession of petty zamindars for nominal sums? There is another serious objection to the proposed resolution and it is this, that those who have lent money or will lend money to the zamindars in future for the purchase of land or for the development of agriculture, will not be able to recover that money in case this resolution is passed and acted upon. I do not think that the honourable mover wishes to create such an unpleasant state of affairs by creating obstacles in the way of agricultural development. Under the present Insolvency Act a person, who has been adjudicated insolvent, is discharged of all liabilities after 6 or 9 months and if the proposed amendment is introduced, it will become very easy for the zamindars to loot the money-lending classes. A zamindar will go and borrow money from a *bania* one day and the next day he would apply for being adjudicated insolvent because he will have no fear of his lands being sold and thus the *bania* concerned will be ruined. After getting a discharge he would make another *sahukar* his victim as there will be no law to check him. This is certainly a very undesirable thing.

Speaker after speaker has risen to support this resolution and all of them have repeated at least one argument and it is this, that the *banias* are very cruel and that they have brought ruin on the zamindars. If they realise all this, I wonder why should they borrow money at all from the *banias*? Why is it that they do not stop borrowing from him and borrow from another class of people or society? Fortunately for them Government has now established co-operative banks almost in all villages in the Punjab and the zamindars should apply for loan to these banks if they must borrow. I think they should cease dealing with the *banias*. But if they cannot help borrowing from the *banias*, they should not avoid paying back to them their money. It will be the height of injustice to ask for a legislation which will make it impossible for the *banias* to recover their money.

My friend Chaudhri Duli Chand has said that this resolution will test the *bona fides* of members who claim to be supporters of the poor. But he should know that this resolution is not intended to help the poor, otherwise we would have gladly supported it. We are not prepared to give our support to proposals like these. I know that if the zamindars were to take into their heads to carry resolutions like these, they can do so without our support as they are in a majority in the Council. But they should not forget that there is already a good deal of agitation going on in the Province against the Punjab Land Alienation Act and that many conferences have already been held which have protested against this measure. Perhaps it is to silence the agitators that this resolution has been brought forward. Otherwise it does not conform to the principles of justice, equity and good conscience. The money-lending classes have already suffered much on account of this Act and if you were to look at the number of those Sahukars

who have since been adjudicated insolvents simply because they could not recover their money from the zamindars, you will be wonderstruck. The conditions of zamindars have improved during these last 28 years, and the Sahukars have been ruined because of the Act during this interval. Now, Government should help the money-lending classes rather than it should take any step to help the zamindars who have gained much with the help of this Act. My friend Chaudhri Duli Chand said that this Act was useful alike for the Muhammadans, Hindus and Sikhs who belong to the agricultural tribes. I admit that it is so, but he should also, in fairness, admit that non-agricultural Muhammadans, Hindus and Sikhs have got the right to have their grievances removed. The zamindars have already got enough concessions and if Government is going to grant them more concessions, our suspicion will be confirmed that Government wants to prolong the communal struggle going on in the Province. With these words, I oppose this resolution.

Sayad Muhammad Husain [Montgomery (Muhammadan), Rural] (Urdu): Sir, when in the time of Lord Curzon, the question of the necessity of passing this Act was under the consideration of Government, I was then a student. I happened to travel by rail once in those days and I heard all the zamindars, who were sitting in the compartment which I was occupying, unanimously saying that they would soon be ruined if this Act was not passed. Government also was of the same opinion in those days and it wanted to defend the inarticulate zamindars. After so many years I realise that every word that they and the Government said at that time was only too true. Those who opposed that measure at that time were in the wrong. If this Act had not been passed at that time, we must have become by this time destitute and would have been reduced to the position of mere slaves of Lala Mohan Lal or other members of his class. Lord Curzon, at that time, said :—

> "It is not a disloyal peasantry that we apprehend. It is a despondent, debt-ridden expropriated and impoverished land-owning class, particularly a class recruited from the stable and conservative elements so forcibly described by the Honourable Mr. Tupper which would be both a source of weakness to the Province and of alarm to the State."

Sir, Lord Curzon did the right thing. It was his keen intellect that saved us from ruin. But for him we must have been seen to-day begging for a morsel of food and forced to say 'Pandit Nanak Chand *ki jai* and Pandit Jawahar Lal *ki jai*.' Not only that. We, in that case, would have been compelled to join the ranks of Bolsheviks. On the same occasion Lord Curzon further said :—

> "The zamindar will still require money and the *bania* will continue to provide it. But it is the Shylock who insists upon his pound of flesh and who under the existing system is in the habit of taking it in land, because it is the one security which his debtor can furnish, at whom we aim."

It was to save us from the Shylocks that this Act was passed. I am inclined to think that the present Act has not served in full the purpose that the framers of it had in view. Before it was passed, it was referred to the Judges for eliciting their opinion and Mr. Kanadi, who was then a Sessions Judge, opined that in the Act a provision should be made by which all the lands, which the money lenders had acquired from the zamindars even before the passing of the Act, could be taken back from them to be given over to the zamindars. I wish such a provision had been introduced.

[Sayad Muhammad Husain]

Then this Act would have been a real blessing although, to be grateful, it has done much good even now. It is this Act that won for us victory in the Great War. It is due to this Act that we got the Reforms and that we are to-day occupying these seats. But it is a pity that efforts are now being made to clip its wings so that the Act may be shorn of all its usefulness. The first attempt made in this direction was by Sir Shadi Lal, who ruled that the land of an agriculturist could be alienated temporarily for 20 years. Now 20 years is a pretty long time and it covers the lives of two generations. Should the children of the agriculturists starve during this period ?

Mr. President : Will the honourable member give particulars of the judgment ?

Sayad Muhammad Husain : I am afraid, I cannot give it, Sir.

Mr. President : He is requested, therefore, not to discuss the legal aspect of the matter. If he refers to any judgment of the High Court, he would please give its particulars ; or leave the discussion of the legal aspect to some lawyer member of the House.

Sayad Muhammad Husain : Very well, Sir. I shall discuss only the economic aspect of the matter. According to the recent ruling of the High Court on which this resolution is based, the land of a member of agricultural tribes can be sold in insolvency proceedings. Now if his land could be sold what will remain with him ? Land is such a form of property which cannot be concealed anywhere. I understand that the *sahukars* in Lahore and Amritsar, when they suffer some heavy loss, they keep somewhere concealed the money that they have got with them and then go to an insolvency court to be declared insolvent. Thus they become richer every time they are adjudicated insolvent. But the zamindars cannot do that. They can apply for being adjudicated insolvent. Even the Revenue Member could do that if he wanted, but if he did, his service will go and now according to the recent ruling of the High Court, his land will also be sold to pay off his debts. It is clear, therefore, that economically this ruling will adversely affect the interests of the zamindars. Further, the land sold will fetch very low price, not more than two annas in the rupee as the number of purchasers will be very limited. Will it not be a great loss to the zamindars ?

We have been advised to press for compulsory primary education and it is said that that is the only way which can save us from ruin. Admitted that it is so, but according to the Persian proverb—

تا ترياق از عراق آورده شود مار گزيده مرده شود

we will have disposed of all our lands and will be completely ruined before we become all educated.

Mr. C. A. H. Townsend : I love to listen to the honourable member but I have never in my life heard him speak so fast.

Mr. President : He is imitating perhaps the honourable member, Mr. Townsend himself (*laughter*).

Sayad Muhammad Husain : I may also point out that if this demand, which is very reasonable, is not met, very unpleasant results are likely to follow. It is not necessary for me to say that the strength and stability of a Government depends on the prosperity of the masses and if the masses and, for the matter of that, zamindars are not going to be saved, there is a fear of the stability of the Government being shaken. I hope Government will take into consideration all these points and will accept the resolution. With these words I support the motion before the House.

Lala Kesho Ram, Sekhri [Amritsar city (Non-Mahammadan), Urban] (Urdu) : Sir, the honourable mover of the resolution and its supporters have not cared to give us an idea of the amount of property or the number of squares which have been sold in insolvency proceedings. Unless we have the facts before us, how is it possible for us to decide one way or the other? However, one thing is clear and that is that those who claim to be the supporters of the cause of zamindars, have not, during the last 28 or 29 years, cared to relieve their poor brethren of the burden of debt which they owe to the money lenders. If they are so anxious about the welfare of their voters, they should have arranged to pay off their debts from their own pockets. But that they will never do. They will and can do them good at the cost of others. May I ask whether it is justice and fair play to refuse to pay back the money which you borrowed at the time of need ? I do not understand why the zamindars should agitate over the recent ruling of the High Court. The land that will be sold in insolvency proceedings will not go to any member of the non-agricultural tribes. Why, then, should they fear ? These big landlords are already taking the place of *sahukars* and they are proving even more dangerous to the petty zamindars. The *sahukars* were not so cruel. They let the zamindars live so that they may earn for themselves as well as for the *sahukar*. But the big landlords do not even let them live.

Sir, there is only one legal question involved in the proposal before the House and that is about section 16 of the Land Alienation Act which provides that land belonging to an agriculturist shall not be sold in execution of a decree of a civil court or any order of a civil or revenue court. The recent ruling of the High Court, over which so much fuss has been created, is in no way against this provision of the Land Alienation Act. The official receiver, in whom the property of an insolvent vests as soon as the adjudication order is made, will be able to sell the land of an agriculturist to liquidate the debts of the insolvent. Do the honourable members, who are supporting this resolution, wish that money should not be realised from an agriculturist simply because he is an agriculturist ? So far as the mortgage banks are concerned, I know that they at once take possession of the land of zamindars if the latter have failed to pay back the money advanced to them. These banks can do everything to realise their money. Why is it that the *sahukar* should be handicapped to realise his money which he advanced at the time of urgent need? Instead of giving a lead to the zamindars to become *beiman*, it would be better if they are advised to give up the bad habit of borrowing.

Sayad Muhammad Husain : I protest against the word '*beiman*' being used.

Lala Kesho Ram, Sekhri : I may warn the zamindar members that they are spoiling the credit of the zamindars. I, as a lawyer, know that even banks are not now prepared to advance money to the agriculturists because they know that it will be very difficult to realise money from them. The *sahukars* also advance money to these agriculturists hesitatingly and the result has been that the poor zamindars are now being victimised by the big landlords. There being no competition the latter charge a very high rate of interest and I know of zamindars who advance loan only if the borrower is prepared to pay interest at the rate of 24 per cent.....

Chaudhri Zafrullah Khan : Will the honourable member give the name of any one of them ?

Lala Kesho Ram, Sekhri : The name of one of them is Baghela Singh.

Mr. President : Order, order. The honourable member is repeating his own arguments.

Lala Kesho Ram, Sekhri : One of the members of the Council said that *sahukars* were not fair in their dealings with the zamindars. I wonder how they can be charged with unfair dealings when, as was admitted just now, they go to the extent of getting the property of their debtors registered in the name of some other zamindar. It is the height of ingratitude. The Land Alienation Act has already restricted the rights of an individual selling his land to another individual according to his own choice, but by this resolution it is intended to place restriction on the compulsory sale of land of the zamindar for liquidating his debts. In other words, another injustice is sought to be done to the non-agriculturists and particularly to the money-lending classes. The ruling of the High Court contained in the judgment pronounced by Mr. Justice Dalip Singh does not in any way go against the provisions of the Land Alienation Act and it does not give power to the receiver to sell the land of an agriculturist declared insolvent to anyone he liked. Therefore I do not see that any valid objection can be raised against that ruling. With these words, I oppose the resolution.

Malik Nawab Major Talib Mehdi Khan [Jhelum (Muhammadan Rural) (Urdu) : Sir I think that, in connection with this resolution, it is desirable to discuss the relative position of the two parties who are primarily affected by the Land Alienation Act. On one side is the zamindar who is generally poor, resourceless, uneducated, helpless and hungry. It is not unoften that his crops fail and his cattle die. He has to pay land-revenue to Government and when the tahsil chaprasi comes with a warrant to realise it, he has, perforce to go to the money-lender to borrow money because otherwise he must be sent to jail. Knowing how badly the zamindar needs money, the *sahukar* dictates his terms which the zamindar cannot but accept. It is an open secret that in most cases 25 per cent. if not more is deducted at the very outset and a very heavy rate of interest is charged. Added to it is the disadvantage from which the zamindar suffers. The produce of his land which he offers for sale is purchased at half rate. This has been the position practically ever since the advent of British Government and ever since the money lenders have been sucking the blood of the zamindars. A time came, and it had to come, when the position became alarming and called for an immediate and

drastic action on the part of the Government. We are grateful to the Government that it rose to the occasion and passed the Act called the Land Alienation Act. It did not aim at giving undue advantage to zamindars, nor was it intended to do injustice to the money-lending classes. As one section of His Majesty's subjects was being trampled under foot and was being rendered homeless and destitute, it was the duty of the Government to pass this Act, which was necessary in the interests of peace and order. It was imperative to maintain the balance between the two sections of the population whose monetary interests clashed with each other. It is said that the unsettled condition of the country during the great war was due to religious fanaticism. I do not think so. In 1915 the district of Jhang was the scene of unprecedented and widespread conflagration and unusual clash between Muslims and Hindus. An enquiry as to its cause was held and it was discovered that it was due to the poverty of the zamindars, who were denied all the necessaries of life. I was posted to that district later on and had ample opportunities of studying the economic conditions of the place. I found that sectional, religious or communal differences had nothing to do with these riots, they were due to economic unsettlement.

Sir, we do not want any concessions. We do not make any appeals for mercy. We only want that we should be left to ourselves. We only want that what is ours should remain with us and should not be taken by others. We want justice, equity and good conscience and nothing more, nothing less. It is not an extravagant demand. It is a very simple request. I wonder why my friends on the opposite benches refuse to grant it and why do they insist on having their own way? If you were to look into the history of the last 20 years, you will find that there is a very large number of persons who, having made money in the villages, have shifted to the big towns and have invested their savings on setting up factories and other big concerns. My friends ought to know that we are not mean, unscrupulous or even dishonest. We know more than others know it, how to love and help one another. But we must be treated fairly. If we had not possessed these qualities, how would it have been possible for the sahukars to live in the villages where the zamindars are in a majority. We allot the best sites for them to build their houses on. We have always more jealously guarded the honour of their daughters than that of our own daughters. In spite of all our sacrifices the money lenders go so far as to keep the debt hanging for years together so that it may accumulate and grow into a fat sum when insolvency proceedings are set in motion. One of the devices that these money lending classes often resort to frustrate the object of the Land Alienation Act is that they may make *benami* purchases and get a pronote written from the *benamidar* of the value of the three or four times the price of the land. In some cases they sue the *benamidar* also on the strength of the pronote if the price of the land is smaller. These and so many other devices are being perpetuated by the money lending class, and if the Government is anxious to keep peace and order, it should take immediate steps to keep intact the only source of livelihood of the zamindars. Things are drifting again to the old ways and the condition of the zamindars is again getting worse. For the sake of God do not reduce the zamindars to the position of beggars because it is feared that from beggars they would turn dacoits and

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cut-throats. I hope the Government will not fail to do its duty again towards the zamindars. With these remarks I support the resolution.

Pandit Mehr Chand [Jullundar-*cum*-Ludhiana, Non-Muhammadan, Rural],(Urdu) : Sir, I will say only a few words with regard to the resolution under discussion. I really do not understand why so much heat has been introduced into this discussion. I wonder why should the zamindars say that the money lenders are sucking their blood. Why should we suck their blood ? Are they not our brethren and are we not to live here again together in this country for ever as we have been living together in the past? We cannot afford to fall out with each other. I do not see any reason why the zamindars should refuse to pay back the money to the *sahukars*. One honourable member said that the zamindars were prepared to clear off their debts , and I am sure the *sahukars* will never hesitate to welcome this offer. We all wish that our relations should continue to be as pleasant as they were before. I know that in some villages it had become very difficult for the mahajans to live during the past one or two years, but that tension does not exist now and once again the same pleasant relations have been restored. The one thing that I have concluded from to-day's debate is that we mistrust one another. We should not do so because the contagion spreads throughout the province and makes the atmosphere unhealthy. It is also our moral duty to safeguard each other's interests. One of the honourable members challenged the *bona fides* of the Hindus. I can assure him that the Hindus do not mean to snatch the land of the agriculturists. They will be glad on the other hand to see them prosperous and happy. Any way I do not see any reason for this fight that has been going on to-day. With these words I resume my seat.

Chaudhri Zafrullah Khan [Sialkot, Muhammadan), (Rural)] : Sir, before I proceed to discuss the situation which has been created as the result of the latest pronouncement of the Lahore High Court with regard to the interpretation to be placed upon the language of section 16 of the Punjab Alienation of Land Act, I wish to beg the indulgence of the House to give in some little detail a historical retrospect of the question which is now before the House. Section 16 of the Alienation of Land Act, as has been submitted by several honourable members of this House, provides that land belonging to an agriculturist, to put it plainly without going into legal technicalities, shall not be sold in execution of a decree of a civil court or revenue court or any order of a civil or revenue court. I shall not enter into the history of the Land Alienation Act itself, why its enactment was necessary and why its retention on the statute book is still necessary. Suffice is to say that at the time when this statute was enacted it was considered necessary for various reasons that this restriction upon the sale of immoveable property belonging to a member of an agricultural tribe in execution of a decree or any order of a civil or revenue court should be enacted and it was so enacted. It was very early laid down by certain rulings of the Punjab Chief Court, one of them is reported as 4 Punjab Record 1908, that as this section prohibits only a sale of land belonging to an agriculturist and does not prohibit either attachment of such land or a temporary alienation of such land, therefore in execution of a decree against an agriculturist his land could be attached and a temporary alienation of it could be effected. There has been and there

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is no cavil on the part of agriculturists to this interpretation of the statute. There was a dissent from this series of rulings in one of the rulings of the Honourable the Financial Commissioner which is reported as 8 Punjab Record 17 Revenue, in which it was held by the Honourable the Financial Commissioner that although land belonging to an agriculturist could be attached in execution of a decree it could not be alienated even temporarily in execution of a decree. This conflict between the rulings of the Chief Court and of the Financial Commissioner was set at rest in a ruling of the Lahore High Court which is a Full Bench ruling and is reported as I.L.R. 1 Lahore 192. In that ruling a Full Bench of three Judges of the Lahore High Court confirmed the previous ruling of the Chief Court and laid down finally so far as the High Court is concerned that land belonging to an agriculturist is attachable in execution of a decree and can also be temporarily alienated in such execution. Nobody has any quarrel with that ruling. So far there was no trouble. In the following year the matter again came up before a Division Bench of the Lahore High Court consisting, I believe, of the Honourable Mr. Justice Shadi Lal (as he then was) and the Honourable Mr. Justice Wilberforce. In that ruling a step further was taken and I believe it was at that time that the trouble really started. What had happened was that during certain insolvency proceedings in which the insolvent was a member of an agricultural tribe the receiver under the orders of the District Judge proposed to mortgage agricultural land belonging to the insolvent to a member of an agricultural tribe. Against this an appeal was carried to the High Court and the matter was heard by a Division Bench. The Division Bench took into consideration the provisions of section 28 sub-section (5) of the Provincial Insolvency Act for the purpose of deciding the question before it. Section 28 (5) of the Provincial Insolvency Act defines property which should vest in a receiver on insolvency, and it provides that the property of the insolvent for the purpose of the section shall not include any property (not being books of account) which is exempted by the Code of Civil Procedure 1908 or by any other enactment for the time being in force from liability to attachment and sale in execution of a decree. The first question that the Bench had to decide was whether land belonging to an agriculturist insolvent would on his insolvency under the provisions of this section, at all vest in the receiver or not. The prohibtion was that no property which is exempt from liability to attachment and sale in execution of a decree shall vest in the receiver. The Bench took the view that land belonging to an agriculturist is no doubt exempt from liability to sale under section 16 of the Land Alienation Act, but it is not exempt from liability to attachment, and that therefore it is not property which is exempt from liability to attachment and sale, and consequently it vests in the receiver. The whole question here was the interpretation of the last few words of sub-section (5) of section 28 of the Provincial Insolvency Act and the expression "exemption from liability to attachment and sale" was interpreted as meaning that the land must be exempt from liability to attachment and must also be exempt from liability to sale, and if it is liable either to attachment or to sale then it shall vest in the receiver. That decision is reported in Indian Law Reports 2 Lahore, page 78. Having decided that land belonging to an agriculturist does vest in the receiver upon the insolvency of an agriculturist inasmuch as it is property which although exempt from liability to sale is not exempt from liabilty to attachment, the Bench took

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up the question whether the receiver could or could not affect a mortgage of such property in favour of another member of an agricultural tribe, and the Bench held that there was nothing in the law to prevent the receiver from effecting such an alienation. Having arrived at that conclusion the Bench held that technically at any rate the order of the District Judge confirming the proposal of the receiver to effect a mortgage of the insolvent's land in favour of another member of an agricultural tribe was perfectly legal. They then proceeded to dispose of another contention which was raised on behalf of the insolvent and that contention was this. It was argued that if you sanction this mortgage it really would work great hardship upon the insolvent inasmuch as he was previously only liable for unsecured debts and now you want to pay off these unsecured debts by giving a permanent mortgage of this land, with the result that his insolvency affords him no relief at all. The object underlying the law of insolvency is that a person who has become hopelessly involved should by going through the process of insolvency and by placing all his available assets at the disposal of the Insolvency Court be able to obtain his discharge after a reasonable time. This is how the judgment reads :—

> "Mr. Jagan Nath's last objection to the order under appeal is that as a result thereof his client's land will probably remain permanently under mortgage and that the effect of this arrangement will be to substitute a probably permanent secured debt for unsecured debts. We think that there is force in this objection, as the underlying principle of the law of insolvency is that an insolvent shall be free from his indebtedness and shall obtain a discharge within a reasonable period. It is also clear to us that a Court or a Receiver proceeding under the insolvency Act should proceed as far as possible on the same line as a Court acting in execution of a decree. That this is the intention of the Legislature is indicated by the provisions of section 21 (2) of the Provincial Insolvency Act. Now in execution of decrees against the land of indebted members of an agricultural tribe, who are often actually or practically insolvent, it has always been the practice sanctioned by this Court, that the debt should be liquidated by a farm terminable after a reasonable period, and the maximum period for which a farm has been permitted is 20 years. By the arrangement of such a farm or a mortgage which is automatically redeemed by the profits, the debt is automatically extinguished. We do not think that ordinarily different or harsher measures should be taken against a person who becomes an insolvent under the provisions of the law."

This ruling creates a double situation. So far as the effect of this ruling upon the actual case before the Bench is concerned, I have no quarrel with it. But the mischief of this ruling is that the latter part of the ruling is merely by way of grace. It does not lay down that the law would not permit anything more than a farm or a usufructuary mortage of land belonging to an agriculturist insolvent. The law is that you can alienate the land but in order to make insolvency practice conform to the practice prevailing in execution of decrees you should limit the exercise of the right which you have got to granting only a lease or a usufructuary mortgage. That is the effect of this ruling and I think that the next ruling to which I shall presently advert, is merely the logical result of 2 Lahore, 78. The next ruling is that of the Honourable Mr. Justice Jai Lal and is reported as 1929 Punjab Law Reporter, page 606. This judicial pronouncement was made in 1926 although it is reported in various Law Reports in 1928 and 1929. In that ruling the Honourable Mr. Justice Jai Lal followed the Bench ruling of 2 Lahore, 78, wherein the Bench had said that it would be desirable to lease out the land instead of effecting a permanent mortage of it, but they held that a

permanent mortgage would be perfectly valid. The Honourable Mr. Justice Jai Lal observed—

> "In this case, I do not see any circumstances why I should direct that there should be a lease or a usufructuary mortgage automatically terminating after a term of years, and I therefore hold that the mortgage proposed by the receiver being perfectly legal and valid, should be upheld."

This decision has followed only the legal aspect of the previous case and carrying the matter a step further, it lays down that you can create a permanent mortgage of an agriculturist insolvent's property.

Then, Sir, the final ruling which has gone a step still further is that reported in All-India Reporter, Lahore, 1928, page 784. That is a decision of the Honourable Mr. Justice Dalip Singh. Here the District Judge had not confined himself to directing that a mortgage of the insolvent's land could be made to another agriculturist but directed that the land could be sold by the receiver to another agriculturist. The matter came up to the High Court in appeal on behalf of the insolvent. The official receiver was not made a party to the appeal and the first part of the learned Judge's judgment is concerned with the question whether there was or was not a proper appeal before him inasmuch as the receiver had not been made a party. After discussing that question, the Honourable Judge came to the conclusion that on that ground alone he should dismiss the appeal. He says :

> "I, therefore, consider that the preliminary objection has force, and I see no reason to exercise the powers given under O. 41, R.20, Civil Procedure Code. The appeal should, therefore, fail on this ground."

And with all respect to the learned Judge, it would have been better if the Honourable Judge had directed that the appeal should fail on that ground and had not gone on to deliver another dictum which has created all this trouble and which admittedly was not at all necessary for the purposes of that case. The appeal being incompetent could have been dismissed on the ground that it was not properly filed and it was not necessary to decide whether on the merits the order of the District Judge should or should not be upheld. But the learned Judge goes on to say :

> "On the merits, however, I also think the appeal should fail because under section 28 (5), Provincial Insolvency Act, the property of insolvent which does not vest in the Receiver must be not liable to attachment and sale. Under section 16, Punjab Land Alienation Act, the property of an insolvent is not liable to sale. Nothing is said about its being not liable to attachment. Therefore, following the case of *Manji* v. *Girdhari Lal* I hold that the property does vest in the Receiver"

Very good, it does vest in the receiver. But the learned Judge proceeds to say :

> "The receiver, *therefore*, would be entitled to sell the property."

The Honourable Judge does not say how that '*therefore*' arises. The property so vests but he does not give the reasons for holding that the receiver would be entitled to sell it. The effect of these decisions is that not only does the immoveable property of an insolvent agriculturist, vest in the receiver under the Insolvency Act but the receiver can proceed to grant a farm or a lease of it, which as I have said is perfectly valid, but also a permanent mortgage over it which, it is our contention, would be objectionable and against the spirit of the provisions of the Land Alienation Act. Further, the receiver could also proceed to sell it, which as I shall show

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presently, he cannot possibly do even on the interpretation of the section a laid down in 2 Lahore 78.

Before I go further, I may submit one point with regard to the ruling in 2 Lahore 78. I have already explained the reasons on which this Bench decision of the Lahore High Court is based. But that is not the only decision on the point that we have got. I do not know whether non-official honourable members are aware, but I am sure official members must be aware that there is an enactment which is in operation in Bundelkhand which is identical with the Punjab Land Alienation Act. Section 16 of the Bundelkhand Alienation of Land Act is in identical terms with section 16 of our Act and the question which came up before a Division Bench of the Allahabad High Court, which related to the interpretation of section 16 of the Bundelkhand Act, was similar to that decided in 2 Lahore 78 and the learned Judges after considering the decision in 2 Lahore 78 came to the conclusion that that decision was not correct. The Allahabad judgment is reported as Indian Law Report 47 Allahabad, 952.

In one passage, one of the learned judges says :—

> "I would like to point out that the conjunction 'and' is not always used in its cumulative sense. The words that it joins need not always be taken together but may also be taken individually; for example, the sentence, 'sales and gifts of occupancy holdings are prohibited', does not mean that sales and gifts are to be taken together but it means either of them individually. The sentence is a perfect equivalent of "sales or gifts, &c., are prohibited."

The Honourable Judges go on to hold that as land belonging to an agriculturist is not liable to sale in execution of a decree it cannot be said that it is liable to attachment and sale and not being liable to attachment and sale it does not vest in the receiver by virtue of sub-section (5) of section 28 of the Provincial Insolvency Act. The decision in 2 Lahore 78 thus does not stand by itself. The decision of a Bench of the Allahabad High Court reported in the authorised reports and passed subsequently to 2 Lah. 78 in which the latter judgment was considered dissents from the view taken by the learned judges of the Lahore High Court. With regard to the ruling given by the Honourable Mr. Justice Dalip Singh, even supposing that 2 Lah. 78 is correct for the sake of argument, it does not support the later ruling. Conceding for a moment that under section 28 (5) of the Provincial Insolvency Act read with section 16 of the Punjab Land Alienation Act the property of an agriculturist insolvent does vest in the receiver the question arises whether it is competent for the receiver to proceed to sell it. And for this purpose curiously enough, the provisions of the Insolvency Act have been altogether ignored. Section 60 (2) of that Act reads :

> "(2) Nothing in this Act shall be deemed to affect any provisions of any enactment for the time being in force prohibiting or restricting the execution of decrees or orders against immoveable property; and any such provisions shall be deemed to apply to the enforcement of an order of adjudication made under this Act as if it were such a decree or order."

This section lays down that an adjudication order has to be taken as a decree. And if in enforcement of an adjudication order a court or a receiver proposes to sell an agriculturist's land it or he is proposing to sell the land in execution of a decree or order not permitted under section 16 of the Punjab Land Alienation Act. Therefore, so far as the correctness of the ruling is concerned, I submit that this section was not taken into

consideration by the learned Judge, was probably not placed before him for I am sure if it had been placed before him he would have been compelled to arrive at the conclusion that this section applied and that the land could not be so sold. At any rate, that ruling is there. As I have said, the honourable Judge has not himself given any reasons in support of his finding that because the property vests in the receiver, therefore he could proceed to sell it. But one honourable member, Lala Mohan Lal, proceeded to give reasons which lay behind the learned Judge's decision. How he became cognisant of these reasons I do not know, but he informed this House that the Honourable Judge held that the receiver could proceed to sell not because the property was that of the debtor who was an agriculturist but because the receiver not being trammelled by any consideration of being an agriculturist or non-agriculturist had unlimited powers and could proceed to sell it. The honourable Judge himself does not say it but the honourable member, Lala Mohan Lal, says so. But if that reasoning is correct, it then follows that a receiver is not bound to sell the land to an agriculturist but is at liberty to sell it to a non-agriculturist also. As I have said, the honourable Judge himself does not give any reasons either for holding that a receiver can sell such property or for holding that he can sell only to an agriculturist. As a matter of fact the learned Judge does not say that he can sell only to an agriculturist. All that the learned Judge says is that in the case before him the sale was to an agriculturist but even if it had been to a non-agriculturist, in his opinion, the sale could not have been open to objection. The situation created is this, that whereas the policy of the Land Alienation Act, its spirit and its object are to see that agriculturists should not be expropriated from their holdings, in execution of decrees or orders of civil courts or revenue courts this series of rulings culminating in 1928 Lahore 734, has nullified that protection given to them. That is the legal position as it exists to-day. The Land Alienation Act is still on the statute book and its continuation is deemed necessary. It is not proposed to repeal it and therefore if you want to retain it and if its retention is necessary, it is also necessary that its provisions should continue intact as they are and should not be defeated by judicial interpretations which take away from the spirit of the statute itself. Even supposing that all these judicial interpretations are perfectly correct, the situation arises, that the Act so construed does not completely achieve its object and that it should be amended. There could be no doubt about that.

Honourable members have tried to show that by putting forward this resolution, the agriculturists want some sort of protection which they do not at present enjoy. That is not correct. This is the first time that it has been held that in insolvency proceedings the property of an agriculturist could be sold. This was never said before and there was no right of sale. Consequently we are not seeking any further protection than was already given by the Land Alienation Act.

Another argument which has been repeated by a number of speakers on this resolution is that the object underlying this resolution is a dishonest one and that if this resolution is accepted the result will be that an agriculturist will be enabled to borrow money for necessary purposes which he need not pay back and it would become impossible to recover it by sale of his property in insolvency proceedings. That argument is fallacious.

[Chaudhri Zafrullah Khan.]

A money lender when he lends money to an agriculturist knows full well that he is advancing money only on the security of the moveable property and also on the chance of having the immoveable property of the debtor leased or farmed out. It is on that consideration that he lends money. Even supposing that up till now the moneylenders have been under the impression that they can sell up lands belonging to agriculturists for recovery of their debts and any amendment on the lines of this resolution will disable them from doing so, even then there is no injustice or hardship. There is no dishonesty on our part for the moneylenders would know perfectly well that the available assets of an agricultural judgment debtor have been cut down to his moveable property and in the case of immoveable property, to leasing or farming it out. If they are not willing to lend money on that security, they need not do so. So, Sir, there is no hardship or injustice on the one hand or dishonesty on the other.

Then a curious argument was put forward, after dealing with which, I shall resume my seat. It was said that this Land Alienation Act was a piece of iniquitous legislation and that its continuance is entirely unjustified on two grounds, first, that it has failed to achieve its object, that the small landholders have not been protected but have been exposed to the rapacity of agriculturist moneyholders and secondly, some of the speakers have gone on to say in the same breath that they do not want this Act because the small landholders for whose benefit it was passed have become prosperous and the Act is therefore no longer necessary. We were told, Sir, that wisdom cannot be given or endowed but that it must be possessed. And though as I have often said, all the available fund of wisdom has been conferred upon the honourable members on the other side of the House, yet with the very little wisdom or reason that I have I fail to appreciate the logic behind their argument.

It has been urged that if the resolution confines its protection to small landholders honourable members on the other side of the House would be willing to support it. This shows that honourable members feel the need for such a resolution because they think that small landholders have to be protected both from urban moneylenders and from the bigger landholders.

Mr. President: Will the honourable member finish please? He has spoken for more than half an hour.

Chaudhri Zafrullah Khan: Yes, with this sentence, Sir. I said, Sir, that honourable members were feeling that the small landholder should be protected from the urban moneylenders as well as the bigger landholders by securing that in execution of a decree or in insolvency proceedings, the land of an agriculturist should not be sold either to an agriculturist or a non-agriculturist but should be allowed to continue their ownership of the lands which should not be allowed to pass as the result of insolvency proceedings either to agriculturists or to non-agriculturists. (*Cheers*).

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang [North-West Towns (Non-Muhammadan) Urban]: Sir, when I found this resolution on the Agenda, I had in my mind a pre-vision of what I thought was coming in this Province. We know that the gentlemen whose representatives sent in this resolution are in a

majority in this Council and I feel it was that consciousness of strength that prompted the sending up in this Council of this resolution. I feel that if this consciousness of strength were not there, a resolution like this would not have been sent to this Council. Now, Sir, this resolution has several aspects which have been discussed by various speakers before me. One is the legal aspect and the other is the economic aspect of the resolution, and then there are general considerations which have been also advanced by some of the speakers. So far as the legal position is concerned, my learned friend, who has just preceded me has attempted to discuss it. I shall just for the enlightenment of those members who are not conversent with the law refer to the legal aspect of the question first. Now to begin with I would say that anybody who has read section 28 of the Insolvency Act would know that the property of the insolvent vests in the receiver as soon as adjudication order is made. This means in other words that the receiver, who as a general rule is the official receiver, an officer of the Government steps into the shoes of the insolvent and is vested with the rights and liabilities of the insolvent himself. In the eyes of the law no difference thereafter remains between the receiver and the insolvent which means that the receiver can do those things which the insolvent himself could do. Now the insolvent is the proprietor of the land and when he is adjudicated insolvent an official receiver steps into his shoes which means that for that purpose the receiver becomes the proprietor of the land and he is under the law entitled to exercise the rights which the proprietor of the land himself could. And even the greatest and the most zealous protagonists of this Act would not deny that the proprietor of the land can sell his land if he likes to an agriculturist. About that there can be no two opinions. If the proprietor can sell his land for the liquidation of his debts to an agriculturist under this Land Alienation Act, there is no reason to suppose that the person who under the operation of the law steps into his shoes and is clothed with all the rights and liabilities of the proprietor himself, cannot sell that land for the liquidation of his debts within the provisions of the Land Alienation Act. Those gentlemen who had not read the rulings of the Honourable Mr. Justice Kunwar Dalip Singh must bear in mind that the Honourable Judge has not decided that the land would be sold to everybody whether he is entitled under the Act to purchase the land or not. That is a fundamental and most essential thing to be borne in mind when considering this resolution. If he had stepped out of these bounds and had said that the receiver was entitled to sell the land to anybody he liked, certainly his ruling would have been against the law and would have offended against the provisions of the Land Alienation Act, but that is what he has not done, and therefore I cannot see any valid reason for the opposition which has been offered to this ruling and there is no justification for the amendment in the Insolvency law or the Land Alienation Act for meeting this situation. You will see, Sir, that this aspect of the law is not a new one. This interpretation of the law has not been given by Honourable Mr. Justice Kunwar Dalip Singh for the first time. Things have been moving in this direction and various Judges of that High Court where the Land Alienation Act is in force in the form in which it is here have been holding that Land Alienation Act does not prohibit attachment and sale of the property but only prohibited

[Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang.]

the sale of property and courts are not precluded under certain circumstances from arranging for the liquidation of the debts under a decree by either a mortgage or a temporary alienation of the property. The rulings have already been referred to by my learned friend and the ball was set rolling, if I may so call it, as long ago as 26 years back in 4 P. R. 1908. After that a Full Bench of this High Court sat and delivered the judgment which has been reported in 1 Lahore 292, which consisted of three Judges, two of whom were Englishmen. They decided that even in execution of a degree a temporary alienation of the land could take place and that was irrespective of the person in whose favour that alienation was to take place. Then, Sir, in 2 Lahore 78, which has also been referred to, it was laid down that in insolvency proceedings the Court could order a temporary alienation without any distinction of person in whose favour it was to be alienated, whether he was a member of an agricultural tribe or not, it does not make the slightest difference. And after that in 29 P. L. R. 768 it was held by an Honourable Judge of the High Court that mortgage could take place of the land. A *pacca Rahn* could take place in favour of an agriculturist and in following these principles, the Honourable Mr. Justice Kunwar Dalip Singh has held that the receiver being in the shoes of the original proprietor himself can exercise these rights and can sell his land for the time being in the capacity of an official receiver exercising the rights of the original proprietor, who can sell his land to an agriculturist without offending against the provision of the Land Alienation Act. The only criticism which has been levelled against this judgment is the interpretation of section 28, sub-section (5) of the Insolvency Act, on which so much emphasis was laid by my learned friend Chaudhri Zafrullah Khan. If he had read that provision carefully, more carefully, he would have found that in that sub-section the words are, I will read the whole sub-section. The sub-section runs thus:

> "The property of the insolvent for the purposes of this section shall not include any property (not being books of account) which is exempted by the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908, or by any other enactment for the time being in force from liability to attachment *and* sale in execution of a decree."

My learned friend seems to have read it as if it laid down "attachment or sale" and that is the ground which was taken up in 2 Lahore 78 and regarding which, in spite of a very learned argument addressed to the Bench, the Bench arrived at the conclusion that there was a great difference between "attachment or sale" and "attachment and sale." They, therefore, held that the provision of the Land Alienation Act does not stand in the way of the property vesting in the receiver and then the receiver exercising his right as receiver to liquidate the debts to sell such of the property as would be necessary for the liquidation of the debt so that sub-section (5) of section 28 of the Insolvency Act cannot be relied upon by my learned friend. Then, Sir, my learned friend said, "supposing it vested in him, is there any law which will enable him to sell the land?" This question is an ordinary one. The receiver is appointed under the law to dispose of the property to liquidate the debts of the insolvent and if any objection

is to be taken to the exercising of his power, those who take the objection must point out under what law his powers are restricted. The only law under which his powers are restricted is the Land Alienation Act. That has been interpreted to mean that it applies only to property which cannot be attached and sold. Whether that distinction is right or wrong Honourable Mr. Justice Kunwar Dalip Singh is not to be blamed, because he has followed the Division Bench Ruling reported in 2 Lahore 78, which again is based on the Full Bench in 1 Lahore 292. These gentlemen know that Mr. Justice Dalip Singh in another judgment which is reported in 92 Indian Cases 949 also arrived at a similar result though that dealt with a mortgage and not with a sale. Now, Sir, the further criticism which is levelled against it is that the basis on which Honourable Mr. Justice Kunwar Dalip Singh relied, namely, 2, Lahore 78, was not correctly decided because, of two reasons. First, because some Judges of the Allahabad High Court say that they do not agree with the decision of the Lahore Bench reported in 2 Lahore 78 and secondly, that section 60 of the Insolvency Act has not been considered by the Honourable Judges in that ruling. With great respect to the first, Sir, I would submit that the law which was concerned in 47 Allahabad on which my learned friend has placed so much reliance is not exactly the same as the Punjab Land Alienation Act. The whole thing depends upon the interpretation to be put upon the words "attachment and sale." Whether they are to be interpreted as "attachment or sale" or interpreted as they are in 2 Lahore 78 : If the learned Judges of the Allahabad High Court had taken a different view with respect to section, it may not be said that the judgment of the Lahore High Court is wrong. Secondly I would submit that my learned friend was entirely wrong when he said that section 60 of the Insolvency Act was not kept in mind by the Honourable Bench which delivered the judgment in 2 Lahore 78. Honourable Mr. Justice Kunwar Dalip Singh was not there to reproduce every ruling which has been relied upon, but the provisions of the law which had been referred to in 2 Lahore 78 he has quoted and it means that 2 Lahore 78 is practically to be read as part of his judgment.

And in 2 Lahore 78 there is a reference to the provision embodied in section 60 of the Provincial Insolvency Act. The learned Bench that delivered the judgment said that it was not necessary that the sale should be through the collector, because the collector was only a ministerial officer. It is an order of the court that is to be carried out.

It cannot be said that the Honourable Mr. Justice Dalip Singh when he delivered the judgment was not cognisant of the provision in section 60 of the Provincial Insolvency Act. He fully knew that 2 Lahore 78 contained a reference to this. Naturally when he delivered the judgment he based his judgment on the authorities which he was bound to follow. This is the legal aspect of the question. Such being the case, I ask, which is the court that is going to sit in judgment upon the judgment of Mr. Justice Dalip Singh? These gentlemen? Are they going to correct the judgment of Mr. Justice Dalip Singh? If it is wrong the proper authority to correct that judgment is a full bench of the High Court. Why, I am not sure whether a letters patent appeal

[Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang.]

was not filed from that judgment. It was the judgment of a single judge. And if a letters patent appeal has been filed the matter will be decided by a division bench of the High Court. Then that will be an authoritative judgment. If the division bench decides that the judgment of Mr. Justice Dalip Singh was wrong, then my honourable friends will be satisfied. If the division bench decides that the judgment was right, and if a full bench of three judges of the High Court hold the same view as the division bench, the bottom would be knocked out of the arguments which have been put before the House by the various honourable members on the other side of the House. Then, Sir, the real question is this.

Mr. President, may I know whether I can go on for a few minutes more?

Mr. President: The honourable member may take half an hour in all.

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang: Does it mean that we will sit after 6 o'clock?

Mr. President: Perhaps.

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: There is a private agreement between us that the speaker would leave me ten minutes.

Mr. President: The Chair is not cognisant of any such agreement; nor is it prepared to recognise it.

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang: Sir, I appreciated very much the tone in which the Nawab Major Talib Mehdi Khan delivered his speech. I wish every member of this House who has a *turra* in his turban and vast acres of land in this province shows the same spirit. They should have some regard for people who live practically under their shelter in their villages. But even he failed to recognise one great difficulty which his argument on to-day's resolution has raised. None of the honourable speakers including the redoubtable protagonist and lawyer member of the other party, not one of them has met this difficulty: how are the debts of an insolvent to be paid? Let us see what the result is. None has given any explanation as to how these debts are to be paid. They do not want the debts to be paid; they want somehow to escape their liabilities. From the most ancient times sanctity has been attached to debts. Among the Hindus it is the pious duty of the son to pay even his father's debts. It is the pious duty of every honest man to meet his obligations and pay his debts. If I am not mistaken, the great Prophet of Arabia when he was about to leave this world called upon his followers and friends and told them: "For Heaven's sake tell me if I owe anything to anybody; because I do not want to go to the next world with any debt hanging against me." That was the spirit that prevailed in ancient times. All holy persons have recognised the sanctity of debts. How are these debts to be paid? Supposing a *poor* agriculturist owning ten villages like the Pir Sahib is pursued by a creditor and a decree is passed against him. He cannot pay and he is put before the Insolvency court. There are two alternatives. Suppose after his moveables are taken hold of there is still a large debt outstanding against him. What is to be done? The creditor knows that if the Pir Sahib is sufficiently

pressed he would no doubt pay his debts. The only course is to send the Pir Sahib to jail. He either goes to jail or arranges for the payment of debts. If an official receiver is appointed, and if he cannot sell the land there is no alternative to the Pir Sahib. He must go to jail. But Pir Sahib is a big man and his friends would come forward to help him to save him from the ignominy and trouble of going to jail. On the other hand, there is a really poor agriculturist who has nothing but his land to pay his debts. The big landholders want that he should go to jail and that the land should not be sold by the official receiver and the Damocles' sword of jails should be hanging over his head so that he may be forced to approach his bigger neighbours to sell his land to them at cheaper rates. If the land were auctioned it would fetch a better price. I do not mean to say that the Rana Sahib was not absolutely honest and sincere in bringing forward this resolution. I may tell him however that it does have the look of a dishonest attempt on the part of certain people to escape liabilities. It is open to the Insolvency court to go into the nature and validity of the debts and declare that instead of Rs. 1,000 only Rs. 100 is due and Rs. 100 only will be realised. I do not want to go into other details, because we have to hear the Honourable the Revenue Member speak. I would only finish by appealing to these gentlemen not to abuse their powers; greater powers and responsibilities are perhaps going to be theirs in the near future. I would appeal to the Government also not to permit this abuse of power. I would ask them to remember the story of a well-known prophet's animal. When they wax fat they are sure to kick without sparing either the representatives of the Government or us poor people. With these remarks I strongly oppose the resolution.

Chaudhri Zafrullah Khan: Sir, on a point of personal explanation. I want to say that my honourable friend has completely misrepresented my argument and has made a mis-statement purposely....

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: That is no personal explanation.

Chaudhri Zafrullah Khan: Sir, I never said that 2 Lahore 78 had not taken section 60 of the Provincial Insolvency Act into consideration. What I said was that the Honourable Mr. Justice Dalip Singh's judgment did not do so. In the second place my learned friend has stated that section 60 of the Provincial Insolvency Act was taken into consideration in 2 Lahore 78, which is entirely wrong. Section 60 of the Provincial Insolvency Act was not so much as mentioned in that ruling. My honourable friend has deliberately made a misrepresentation.

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang: I still adhere to what I said. The statement now made by my honourable friend is a deliberate attempt to mislead the House.

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain (Revenue Member): Sir, there is no need for wrangling about this. As a matter of fact this debate reminds me of the good old days when I was at the bar and had a very easy brief on behalf of some one who was not seriously affected by the decision of the court of appeal and heard the counsel on both sides arguing their respective cases with great warmth and ability.

[Hon'ble Sir Fazl-i-Husain.]

To turn now to the resolution, Sir. It has been discussed at great length. There is very little time before us, even if you, Sir, allow us to sit after 6 o'clock. The position is this. The policy of the Government which was responsible for the legislation which resulted in the Land Alienation Act of 1900 is a policy which the Government has not abandoned; but it is not a policy which the Government is prepared to extend either. Therefore any effort made in the year 1929 to persuade the Government to extend it cannot but be met with determined opposition from Government. On the other hand Government has not decided to resile from the policy. Therefore however much one would like to enter into very interesting arguments as to the advisability or otherwise of this legislation had we been in the year 1900 or 1901, to-day, Government is not prepared to go back. So, as I see it, as the Punjab Government sees it, the position is this: Government will neither move backward nor move forward, but stand where it is. And with that object in view and with that policy before it as its settled policy, if there is any measure taken or any interpretation put on the Act which goes contrary to the position that Government has adopted, it will no doubt, after having consulted all its officers and taken the public into confidence, and consulting the Legislative Council or the Standing Committee proceed with legislation, if legislation is called for. As a matter of fact during the course of the debate we have heard some people saying that the ruling was right and some people saying that it was wrong. After all the ruling that is objected to is the ruling of a single judge; and the ruling of a single judge after all is only a ruling of a single judge subject to revision by a division bench or a full bench. If the honourable members who said that the ruling was wrong are correct in their statement, surely, they cannot expect Government to proceed with legislation. It is logic; it is obvious. It is only when they hold that the ruling is right, that a case can be made out for legislation, in case it is established that that ruling goes contrary to the policy of the Government. This again is a matter of a fair amount of difficulty, on which you cannot expect me although I know a little bit of law just to lay down the policy of Government and say what should be done. An agitation was started against this view of the law in 1928. As has been pointed out this ruling was given in 1926. Before that a number of people had drawn the attention of His Excellency the Governor in 1927 to this view of the matter and action was taken by the Government in 1927 itself.

Rana Firoz-ud-Din Khan: What action?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: I am not to give away all the secrets. But I may tell the honourable member enough to satisfy him that the action did not consist in lip sympathy merely. It consisted in enquiring from our Commissioners who in their turn enquired from their Deputy Commissioners and they wanted to find out from others—whether as a matter of fact there were a number of instances occurring in which similar action was being taken by lower courts. We wanted this information for two reasons; firstly with the object of gauging the extent of this occurrence, I would not call it good or evil. In the second place we wanted to know, if there was a good case in the lower courts whether it would not be well if that case went up to the High Court, to the division bench and to

the full bench in order to have an authoritative decision in the matter. The advice we took in this matter—and there was nothing confidential about it—was conflicting. Therefore Government felt the need for further investigation in the matter in 1928. I assure you we have not been leaving the matter to rest where it is. We have been constantly at work with it; our Financial Commissioners and we ourselves have given the most careful consideration to it. Having once said that it is our settled policy at the moment neither to go forward nor to go backward.....

Mr. President: Order, order. The Council will now adjourn till 2 P. M. on the 4th March 1929.

The Council accordingly adjourned till 2 P. M. on Monday, the 4th March 1929.

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PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

3RD SESSION OF THE 3RD PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Monday, the 4th March 1929.

The Council met at the Council Chamber at two of the clock. Mr. President in the Chair.

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

HINDUS AND JIRGAS.

***1862. Shaikh Faiz Muhammad:** Will the Honourable Member for Finance kindly state—

(*a*) whether Government have issued any instructions that cases whether civil or criminal of Hindus should not be referred to jirga in districts in which the Frontier Crimes Regulation is applicable unless such Hindus are complainants or plaintiffs;

(*b*) if answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative what are the reasons for issuing these instructions;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that Hindus are allowed to sit as members of jirgas in Dera Ghazi Khan district in cases in which parties are Mussalmans;

(*d*) if answer to (*c*) is in the affirmative what are the reasons for extending this right to the Hindus?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow: (*a*) The honourable member's attention is invited to answer to part (*a*) of unstarred Council question No. 735.[1]

(*b*) The instructions were issued in pursuance of the policy enunciated in sub-section (4) of section 1 of the Frontier Crimes Resolution, 1901.

(*c*) No. The names of Hindus have been excluded from the list of Jirga Elders in the Dera Ghazi Khan district.

(*d*) Does not arise.

DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENTS OF JAILS.

***1863. Dr. Gopi Chand, Bhargava:** Will the Honourable Member for Finance please state—

(*a*) how many direct Deputy Superintendents of Jails have been appointed on probation in the Punjab Jail Department;

(*b*) whether any Sikh has been included in them;

(*c*) if not what was the reason?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow: (*a*) 5.

(*b*) No.

(*c*) Because none of the five candidates who were considered best qualified from among those whose names were submitted by the Selection Board was a Sikh.

[1]Page 41 *ante.*

EMPLOYMENT OF GRADUATES IN THE JAIL DEPARTMENT.

*1864. **Dr. Gopi Chand, Bhargava:** Will the Honourable Member for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Punjab Jail Enquiry Committee recommended that preference should be given to the employment of graduates in the Jail department;

(*b*) if so, whether Government have taken any steps to carry out those recommendations;

(*c*) how many graduates have been offered appointments in the department?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Yes. It has been expressly laid down that candidates for direct appointment to the post of Deputy Superintendent must be graduates.

(*c*) Five graduates directly recruited have been appointed on probation as Deputy Superintendents.

EMPLOYMENT OF GRADUATES IN THE JAIL DEPARTMENT.

*1865. **Dr. Gopi Chand, Bhargava:** Will the Honourable Member for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that Government intended to wipe off the old staff of the Jail Department and to appoint graduates in their places;

(*b*) if so, why has the scheme been delayed and if there have been any modifications in the details of the scheme since it was originally prepared by Sir John Maynard what are the reasons in justification of the change?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow: (*a*) The policy of Government is stated in paragraph 10 of Resolution No. 15619, dated the 28th May 1926, which was published in *Punjab Gazette* of the 4th June 1926. The attention of the honourable member is also directed to part (*a*) of the reply to Council question No. 1764.[1]

(*b*) The attention of the honourable member is invited to the reply to part (*b*) of Council question No. 1764. The scheme of reorganization is proceeding and further appointments of suitable candidates, partly by promotion and partly by direct recruitment are under consideration.

DEPUTY AND ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENTS OF JAILS.

*1866. **Dr. Gopi Chand, Bhargava:** Will the Honourable Member for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) what is the number of appointments of Deputy and Assistant Superintendents of Jails which the Government proposes to fill by direct appointment;

(*b*) how many such appointments have been made so far;

(*c*) what has been the criterion of selection for such appointments;

(*d*) whether sons of Jailors and other members of the staff are given preference over persons who have no such claims;

[1]Page 402 *ante*.

(*e*) if the answer to part (*d*) be in the negative, why they are not given preference;

(*f*) whether the sons of the police officials are given preference in the Police department in the matter of recruitment;

(*g*) if so, what is the reason for differentiation in this respect in the Jail department?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow: (*a*) This has not been decided.

(*b*) Five appointments have been made on probation to the post of Deputy Superintendent.

(*c*) The honourable member's attention is invited to the answer to part (*b*) of Council question No. 1864[1].

The five appointments mentioned above were made after examination of the recommendations of a select committee appointed to consider applications. This committee, besides paying attention to intelligence and literary and academic qualifications, had also to bear in mind indications of character, grit and stamina and antecedents of the candidates.

(*d*) and (*f*) Preference is not given to candidates who happen to be the sons of jail or police officials, but where the services of the father have been specially meritorious, the son's claims for consideration are enhanced.

(*e*) and (*g*) Do not arise.

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENTS OF JAILS.

*1867. **Dr. Gopi Chand, Bhargava:** Will the Honourable Member for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) what pay has been fixed for the Assistant Superintendents for the Punjab Jail Department?

(*b*) whether there is any intention of increasing the pay?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow: (*a*) Rs. 80—7½—200.

(*b*) No.

ADMISSION OF WOMEN STUDENTS IN THE KING EDWARD MEDICAL COLLEGE, LAHORE.

*1868. **Dr. Gopi Chand, Bhargava:** Will the Honourable Minister for Local Self-Government please state—

(*a*) whether there has been any correspondence with reference to the admission of women students in the King Edward Medical College, Lahore;

(*b*) if so, whether the gist of the correspondence will kindly be laid on the table;

(*c*) whether he is aware that the King Edward Medical College of Lahore is the only medical institution in India where women students who have passed the F.Sc. Examination of the Punjab University are not admitted?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon: (*a*) Certain petitions from ladies desirous of entering the King Edward Medical College have been received by Government.

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[1]Page 586 *ante*.

[Hon'ble Malik Firoz Khan Noon.]

(*b*) The subject matter of the petitions was a simple request for the admission of women students to the college. The matter has received the attention of Government and it is proposed to allow women students to join the college on certain conditions which are under consideration.

(*c*) No.

POLICE OFFICERS IN THE HOSHIARPUR DISTRICT.

*1869. **Chaudhri Ram Singh :** Will the Honourable Finance Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the Superintendent of Police, Hoshiarpur and his subordinates, the Deputy Superintendent of Police, Court Inspector, District Headquarters Inspector, Reader to the Superintendent of Police, Head Clerk of the office of the Superintendent of Police, Assistant Reader, Pay Officer, Bill Clerk and orderly sergeant, all belong to the Muhammadan community ;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that Hindus form a majority of the population of the Hoshiarpur district ;

(*c*) if the answer to the above be in the affirmative, what steps the Government intends to take to increase the proportion of Hindu police officers at the headquarters of the district ?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow : (*a*) Yes, with the exception of the District Headquarters Inspector who is a Hindu.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) More Hindu officers will be posted as opportunities permit.

KANGRA VALLEY RAILWAY LEVEL CROSSINGS.

*1870. **Chaudhri Ram Singh :** Will the Honourable Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that there are two thoroughfares between mile No. 44/4 and 44/5 and between 44/7 and 44/8 on the Kangra Valley Railway line which have been used by the villagers from time immemorial ;

(*b*) that no level crossings have so far been built there for the convenience of the foot passengers ;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that people of this part of the province have made complaints to the Government in regard to this matter ;

(*d*) if so, what steps, if any, have already been taken or are intended to be taken for removing this complaint of the public ?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : (*a*) There are, at the places mentioned, two footpaths fit for foot passengers and cattle but unsuitable for wheeled traffic.

(*b*) Level crossings have been built for both these footpaths.

The first was built at the exact site where the footpath crossed the railway alignment.

The second footpath crossed the alignment at a place where there is now a railway cutting 12 feet deep. A level crossing at this site would have

had its approaches in cutting and in the opinion of the North-Western Railway this would have been dangerous. The footpath was, therefore, diverted and a level crossing provided. The distance of the level crossing is less than 90 yards from the place where the footpath originally went.

(*c*) The substance of the complaints received regarding the second footpath was not that there had been a failure to provide a level crossing, but that an overbridge was wanted.

(*d*) The North-Western Railway does not consider that the provision of a level crossing is inadequate in the circumstances.

PROMOTION OF MUSLIMS TO THE PROVINCIAL EDUCATIONAL SERVICE.

***1871. Shaikh Faiz Muhammad:** Will the Honourable Minister for Education kindly state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that no Muslim District Inspector of Schools or Headmaster in the Multan division has been promoted to the Provincial Educational Service since October 1925;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that at present one Muslim District Inspector and three or four Muslim Headmasters are serving in Rs. 200—10—250 grade;

(*c*) whether Government intend to give due consideration to the claims of Muslims as vacancies in the Provincial Educational Service occur from time to time?

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) In making promotions to the Provincial Educational Service due consideration is always given to the claims referred to by the honourable member, as also to several other necessary circumstances.

MUSLIM ASSISTANT DISTRICT INSPECTORS OF SCHOOLS.

***1872. Shaikh Faiz Muhammad:** Will the Honourable Minister for Education kindly state the number of Muslim Assistant District Inspectors of Schools who are still serving in Rs. 80—4—100?

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal: 15.

PROMOTION OF MUSLIM HEADMASTERS IN MULTAN DIVISION.

***1873. Shaikh Faiz Muhammad:** Will the Honourable Minister for Education be pleased to state if any Muslim Headmaster in the Multan division was promoted to Rs. 200—10—250 grade during 1928?

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal: There are at present three Muslim Headmasters in the Multan division in this grade. They were all promoted to this grade prior to 1928, two in 1926, and one in 1927.

TUITION FEES IN VERNACULAR MIDDLE SCHOOLS.

***1874. Shaikh Faiz Muhammad:** Will the Honourable Minister for Education kindly state—

(*a*) whether he is aware that the District Board of Dera Ghazi Khan resolved two years ago to exempt the sons of poor agriculturists from the payment of tuition fees in its vernacular middle schools;

[Shaikh Faiz Muhammad.]

(*b*) whether the matter was referred to Government for sanction;

(*c*) what orders have been passed by Government in this connection?

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) and (*c*) The matter is under consideration.

PROVINCIAL EDUCATIONAL SERVICE.

***1875. Shaikh Faiz Muhammad:** With reference to answers to starred questions Nos. [1]1668 and [2]1682 asked on the 3rd December 1928, will the Honourable Minister for Education kindly state the number of appointments and promotions made to the Provincial Educational Service since 1st January 1927 up to date and the number of these appointments given to the Muslims?

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal: A statement giving the requisite information is laid on the table.

STATEMENT SHOWING THE NUMBER OF APPOINTMENTS AND PROMOTIONS MADE TO THE PUNJAB EDUCATIONAL SERVICE SINCE THE 1ST JANUARY 1927, UP TO DATE AND THE NUMBER OF THESE APPOINTMENTS GIVEN TO MUSLIMS.

1	2	3	4	5
Total number of permanent appointments made to the Punjab Educational Service by direct recruitment from 1st January, 1927, up to date.	Total number of Muslims permanently appointed by direct recruitment to the Punjab Educational Service from 1st January, 1927, up to date.	Total number of permanent promotions made to the Punjab Educational Service from 1st January, 1927, up to date.	Total number of Muslims permanently promoted to the Punjab Educational Service from 1st January, 1927, up to date.	REMARKS.
10	3	17	4	

Note 1.—Since 1st January, 1927, up to date, three Hindus retired from service, two went on long leave and one was permitted to take up employment outside the Province. Three Sikhs have retired, one Indian Christian was removed from service, one Sikh and three Christian Indian Educational Service officers retired and two Christian Indian Educational Service officers went on long leave. No Muslim retired or otherwise left service.

Note 2.—Three Muslim officers are now officiating in the Provincial Educational Service in long vacancies. These have not been included in column 4 of the statement above.

Note 3.—Out of the ten officers recruited directly, *vide* column 1 of the statement above the following three officers held temporary appointments for the periods noted against their names;—

A. Dr. Gulshan Lal Chopra, from the 24th February 1926, to 30th April 1927.

B. M. Chiragh-ud-Din, from the 27th September 1926, to the 30th April 1927.

C. L. Mohan Lal Sethi, from the 1st June 1925, to the 30th April 1928.

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[1]Page 256 *ante*.
[2]Page 260 *ante*.

HIGHER EDUCATIONAL SERVICES.

*1876. **Shaikh Faiz Muhammad:** With reference to answer to starred question No. 1670[1] asked on the 3rd December 1928, will the Honourable Minister for Education kindly state what action he has taken or proposes to take to remove the complaints of the Muslims in the matter of appointments, promotions and transfers made in the Higher Educational Services during the years 1927-28?

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal: If the honourable member will be good enough to specify the complaints referred to, the matter will be considered.

MUSLIM DIVISIONAL INSPECTORS.

*1877. **Shaikh Faiz Muhammad:** With reference to the answer to the starred question No. 1491,[2] asked on the 29th November 1928, will the Honourable Minister for Education kindly state the reasons which led to a reduction in number of Muslim Divisional Inspectors from 2 to 1 and an increase in the number of Hindu Inspectors from 1 to 2 during 1927?

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal: There has been no increase in the number of Hindu Inspectors, but one Muslim Divisional Inspector was promoted to Inspectorship of Training Institutions in place of the present officiating Director of Public Instruction—this arrangement was due both to administrative convenience, and the desire of the Muslim Divisional Inspector for the promotion.

MUSLIM DISTRICT INSPECTORS OF SCHOOLS.

*1878. **Shaikh Faiz Muhammad:** With reference to the answer to starred question No. 1492[3] asked on the 29th November 1928, will the Honourable Minister for Education kindly state the circumstances which led to a reduction in the number of Muslim District Inspectors of Schools and an increase in the number of Hindu and Sikh District Inspectors during 1927 and 1928?

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal: Officials in the teaching line and in the inspection line, both in the Subordinate Educational Service and in the Provincial Educational Service, are borne on a joint cadre and transfers from the teaching line to the inspection line and *vice versa* are made in the interest of public service and for administrative convenience.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION.

*1879. **Shaikh Faiz Muhammad:** Will the Honourable Minister for Education kindly state whether Government intends to appoint an Indian as Assistant Director of Public Instruction?

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal: The honourable member's attention is invited to the answer to Council question No. 1519[3] of 1925.

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[1]Page 253 *ante*. [2]Page 80 *ante*.

[3]Vol. VIII-A, page 348.

REGISTRAR OF DEPARTMENTAL EXAMINATIONS.

*1880. **Shaikh Faiz Muhammad:** Will the Honourable Minister for Education kindly state—

(a) whether the present Hindu Registrar of Departmental Examinations is shortly to retire from service;

(b) whether Government have any intention of appointing a Muslim to that post?

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal: (a) Yes.

(b) The appointment will be made in due course after taking all relevant circumstances into consideration.

DIVISIONAL INSPECTOR OF SCHOOLS, MULTAN DIVISION.

*1881. **Shaikh Faiz Muhammad:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister for Education kindly state whether the present Muslim Divisional Inspector of Schools of the Multan division is due to retire in June next;

(b) whether Government have made up their mind whom to appoint in his place?

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal: (a) Yes.

(b) No.

INSPECTOR OF SCHOOLS, LAHORE DIVISION.

*1882. **Shaikh Faiz Muhammad:** Will the Honourable Minister for Education kindly state—

(a) whether the present officiating Inspector of Schools of the Lahore division is to retire from the service in April next?

(b) whether it is intended to appoint a Muslim as his successor?

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal: (a) Yes.

(b) The appointment will be made in due course after taking all relevant circumstances into consideration.

RESOLUTION OF THE PUNJAB MUSLIM EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE.

*1883. **Shaikh Faiz Muhammad:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister for Education kindly state if the following resolutions passed by the executive council of the Punjab Muslim Educational Conference have been brought to his notice—

(i) "In the opinion of the committee the Departmental Examination Board at present consisting of three officials only should in future have two non-officials also as its members, at least one official and one non-official being Muslims."

(ii) "In view of the fact that the Muslims form the majority of the population in the province and are backward in education this committee considers it essential that out of the five Divisional Inspectors in the province at least two should be Muslims and that in Divisions which have non-Muslim Inspectors the Deputy Inspectors should be Muslims."

(*iii*) "This Committee considers the appointment of a Hindu Inspector in the Rawalpindi Division as highly detrimental to the interest of the Muslims who form a preponderating majority of the population and are extremely backward in education."

(*iv*) "This committee is of opinion that in the districts where the Muslims are in a majority the District Inspectors should be Muslims and the number of Muslim Assistant District Inspectors should be substantially increased."

(*v*) "This committee views with alarm the fact that almost all educational officers of the Lahore division posted at headquarters are non-Muslims and trust that the matter will receive due consideration of the authorities."

(*b*) What action does the Honourable Minister propose to take on these resolutions.

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal: (*a*) I have received a copy of the resolution referred to by the honourable member.

(*b*) The resolution is under consideration by Government.

QASBA SUKHO CHAK MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE.

***1884. Dr. Sir Muhammad Iqbal:** Will the Honourable Minister for Local Self-Government please state—

(*a*) whether the Qasba Sukho Chak, tahsil Shakargarh, district Gurdaspur, has a municipality;

(*b*) if the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, whether it is a fact that there is no Muslim representative on the committee;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that half the population of the Qasba is Muslim;

(*d*) if the answers to (*a*), (*b*) and (*c*) are in the affirmative, what steps Government proposes to take in order to correct this injustice?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon: (*a*) No, but there is a panchayat in the village.

(*b*) There is no Muslim *panch* on it.

(*c*) The Muslim population is a little less than half the total population.

(*d*) *Panches* are elected by the residents in the village and Government has no powers of nomination.

CHAUDHRI KHARAK SINGH, HONORARY MAGISTRATE.

***1885. Khan Bahadur Sardar Habib Ullah:** Will the Honourable Finance Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that Chaudhri Kharak Singh, Honorary Magistrate, I Class, holds his court at Narot Jaimal Singh, district

[K. B. Sardar Habib-Ullah.]

Gurdaspur, and is entrusted with I Class criminal work of police stations Narot Jaimal Singh (tahsil Pathankot) and police station Chhamal (tahsil Shakargarh);

(*b*) whether it is a fact that Narot Jaimal Singh is more than 15 miles distant from Gurdaspur, Pathankot or Shakargarh and several *nalas* which are impassable in the rainy season intervene in the way;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that representations have been made to the High Court and the Government by the Bar Association, Gurdaspur, and the litigant public against the inconvenience caused to them by his not holding the court at the headquarters of the district;

(*d*) if the replies to the above parts be in the affirmative what steps Government intends to take in the matter of the removal of these grievances?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow: (*a*) and (*b*) Yes.

(*c*) A representation was made by the Gurdaspur Bar Association.

(*d*) The Deputy Commissioner, Gurdaspur, has requested Chaudhri Kharak Singh to hold his court at Dinanagar and he is arranging to do so.

REWARI MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE.

*1886. **Rana Firoz-ud-Din Khan:** Will the Honourable Minister for Local Self-Government please state—

(*a*) the number of elected members in the Rewari Municipal Committee belonging to each community under the old constitution as well as under the revised constitution;

(*b*) if it is a fact that under the new constitution in addition to elected element, Tahsildar and Assistant Surgeon are two nominated *ex-officio* members on the committee;

(*c*) if it is a fact that since the introduction of new constitution both the offices have generally been held by Hindu gentlemen;

(*d*) how does the Government propose to mend this state of affairs?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon:

	Muslims.	*Hindus and others.*
(*a*) Old constitution	4	4
Revised constitution	4	6

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) The post of Assistant Surgeon has been held by Hindus throughout the period in question and of Tehsildar by Hindus as well as Muslims.

(*d*) It is not practicable to take into account the community of *ex-officio* members in determining the number of seats to be assigned to the various communities.

DR. CHANDAR BANSI, ASSISTANT SURGEON, REWARI.

*1887. **Rana Firoz-ud-Din Khan:** Will the Honourable Minister for Local Self-Government please state—

(a) how long Dr. Chandar Bansi, Assistant Surgeon, has been posted at Rewari;

(b) if any representations were made to him and Mr. Latifi, Commissioner, Ambala division, by leading Muslims of Rewari complaining that Dr. Chandar Bansi was taking active part in local intrigues;

(c) if any resolutions were addressed to authorities by the Muslim Association, Rewari, requesting the transfer of Dr. Chandar Bansi;

(d) if Government has taken any action on the written and verbal complaints made from time to time; if not, whether Government intends to take any action?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon: (a) Dr. Chandar Bansi has been on duty at Rewari from the 25th March 1925, except for a break of three months from 26th June to 25th September 1928, when he was on leave.

(b) A copy of a representation addressed to the Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals was received by the Government and a copy appears to have been sent also to the Commissioner.

(c) A copy of such a resolution was received by Government.

(d) The representatio n was sent to Government just before Dr. Chandar Bansi was to return from leave and it asked Government to allow the Assistant Surgeon who was then working in Rewari to stay on and not to allow the re-posting of Dr. Chandar Bansi to Rewari. No action was or is considered necessary, as the allegations made did not appear to be correct and inspecting officers have always commented favourably on this Assistant Surgeon's work. It is due to Dr. Chandar Bansi's efforts that Rewari has now two lady health visitors and 32 trained nurse dais working there, and its maternity work received a prominent position in the British Empire Competition in Health work.

AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE, LYALLPUR.

*1888. **Rana Firoz-ud-Din Khan:** Will the Honourable Minister for Agriculture please state—

(a) the number of students community-wise admitted in the Agricultural College, Lyallpur, in the years 1926, 1927 and 1928 and also the number of agriculturists therein;

(b) the principle followed in determining the number of students of various communities;

[Rana Firoz-ud-Din Khan.]

(c) the number of students community-wise admitted in III year class in Lyallpur Agricultural College in the years 1927 and 1928;

(d) the number of Sikh students who joined the Lyallpur College in III year in 1927 and 1928 having passed F. Sc. (Ag.) examination from Khalsa College, Amritsar.

(e) the number of students reading in F. Sc. (Ag.) 2nd year class in Khalsa College, Amritsar, this year;

(f) the proportion of students of various communities in the III year class in Lyallpur Agricultural College in 1928;

(g) what steps the Honourable Minister for Agriculture intends to take to effect equitable representation of all communities in B.Sc. (Ag.) classes in Lyallpur Agricultural College?

The Honourable Sardar Sir Jogendra Singh: (a) A statement showing the number of students community-wise admitted to the Agricultural College, Lyallpur, in the years 1926, 1927 and 1928, and also the number of agriculturists therein is laid on the table.

(b) The standard aimed at is a proportion of 50 per cent. Muhammadans, 30 per cent. Hindus and 20 per cent. Sikhs and others. This communal proportion cannot be strictly adhered to, as in making selections several other important considerations have to be kept in view, such as—

(1) Representation of divisions and districts.

(2) Agricultural parentage, possession or cultivation of land, preference being given to agriculturists.

(3) Educational qualifications, matriculation marks, or any other higher examination passed (Preference given to those having knowledge of agriculture and sciences connected with agriculture).

(4) Physical fitness.

(5) Results of the entrance examination, and especially intelligence, general ability etc., displayed during the oral examination.

The claims of the various communities to representation have always been carefully considered at the time of admission and the students are selected by the Principal in close collaboration with heads of the various sections of the College and Deputy Directors of Agriculture.

(c) A statement giving the required information is laid on the table.

(d) Three and twelve in 1927 and 1928, respectively.

(e) 42.

(f) The honourable member is referred to the statement laid on the table.

(g) The honourable member is referred to the reply to part (b) of this question.

STATEMENT SHOWING THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS COMMUNITY-WISE ADMITTED IN THE PUNJAB AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE, LYALLPUR, IN THE YEARS 1926—1928 AND ALSO THE NUMBER OF AGRICULTURISTS THEREIN.

A—Agriculturists.
N.-A—Non-Agriculturists.
T—Total.

	Hindus.			Sikhs.			Muhammadans.			Others.			Total.		
	A.	N.-A.	T.	A.	N.-A.	T.	A.	N.-A.	T.	A.	N.-A.	T.	A.	N.-A.	T.
1926.															
I year	18	7	20	14	5	19	30	2	32	..	3	3	57	17	74
III Year	..	..	..	2	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	2
V Year	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total ..	13	7	20	16	5	21	30	2	32	..	3	3	59	17	76
1927.															
I Year	8	16	24	24	6	30	31	..	31	..	1	1	63	23	86
III Year	..	1	1	3	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	1	4
V Year	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
Total ..	8	17	25	28	6	34	31	..	31	..	1	1	67	24	91
1928.															
I Year	10	13 (a)	23	10	6 (b)	16	28	..	28	..	2	2	48	21 (c)	69
III Year	..	..	..	11	1	12	..	..	..	..	..	..	11	1	12
V Year	1	2 (d)	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	2 (e)	3
Total ..	11	15	26	21	7	28	28	..	28	..	2	2	60	24	84

(a) Of these 11 are cultivators.
(b) Of these 6 are cultivators.
(c) Of these 17 are cultivators.
(d) and (e). Of these 1 is cultivator.

[Hon'ble Sir Jogendra Singh.]

STATEMENT SHOWING THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS COMMUNITY-WISE ADMITTED IN THE III YEAR CLASS IN PUNJAB AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE, LYALLPUR, IN 1927-28.

	Hindus.	Sikhs.	Muhammadans.	Others.	Total.
1927.					
F. Sc. of Punjab Agricultural College, Lyallpur ...	5	8	6	..	19
F. Sc. from Khalsa College, Amritsar ...	..	3	..	..	3
From other Colleges (B. Sc. in Botany and Chemistry) ...	1	..	..	..	1
Total ...	6	11	6	..	23
1928.					
F. Sc. of Punjab Agricultural College, Lyallpur ...	17	13	15	1	46
F. Sc. from Khalsa College, Amritsar ...	..	12	..	..	12
Total ...	17	25	15	1	58

JUVENILE SMOKING ACT.

*1889. **Rai Bahadur Lala Mohan Lal:** Will the Honourable Finance Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Juvenile Smoking Act is in operation in the Punjab;

(*b*) if the reply to the above be in the affirmative, the reasons for this Act becoming a dead letter;

(*c*) how many cases under this Act have been challaned since the Act was passed and with what result?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Offences under the Act are not cognizable by the police, its enforcement rests with the public and with local bodies.

(*c*) A statement is laid on the table.

	Number of Prosecutions.	*Number of convictions.*
1919	..	..
1920	2	..
1921	1	..
1922	4	3
1923	3	3
1924	12	..
1925	3	2
1926	1	..
1927	..	..
1928	Not available.	

EDUCATION OF THE DEPRESSED CLASSES.

*1890. **Mr. M. A. Ghani:** Will the Honourable Minister for Education be pleased to state what special steps have been taken in this province to further the education of the boys and girls of the depressed classes ever since the inauguration of the present Reforms?

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal: The honourable member is referred to my answer to part (*b*) of starred Council question No. 901.[1] The number of pupils of the depressed classes in all kinds of educational institutions has increased from 8,732 to 26,730, or by 616 per cent., since the coming of the Reforms in 1921. A senior Indian officer of the Education Department was recently placed on special duty for several months with a view to consider how best to ensure a rapid advance in the education of the depressed classes. That officer has now submitted his report and made various suggestions including *inter alia* the provision of scholarships. The recommendations made in the report will shortly be considered by Government.

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR DEPRESSED CLASS STUDENTS.

*1891. **Mr. M. A. Ghani:** Will the Honourable Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether any scholarships have been founded exclusively for the boys and girls of the depressed classes;

(*b*) if so, how many scholarships have been thus founded and of what amounts?

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal: (*a*) No, but the matter is under consideration.

(*b*) Does not arise.

LAW COURTS IN LAHORE.

*1892. **Mr. M. A. Ghani:** Will the Honourable Member for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether he is aware that the various law courts in Lahore other than the High Court are located at a considerable distance from each other;

(*b*) if so, whether he is aware that it is often difficult for the legal practitioners to appear in different courts situated at a distance from each other;

(*c*) what steps he intends to take to remove this difficulty?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow: (*a*) The distance between the various law courts in Lahore, other than the High Court, from each other is not considered by Government to be excessive.

(*b*) No.

(*c*) Does not arise.

DEPRESSED CLASSES IN THE PUBLIC SERVICES.

*1893. **Mr. M. A. Ghani:** Will the Honourable Member for Finance be pleased to state the number of the members of the depressed classes employed in the public services in the Punjab?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow: The honourable member is referred to the reply given to starred question no. 1628.[2]

[1]Vol. XI, page 6. [2]Page 241 *ante*.

REGISTRATION UNDER THE INDIAN TRADE UNIONS ACT.

*1894. **Mr. M. A. Ghani:** Will the Honourable Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) if any union of the (*i*) employees and (*ii*) employers has been refused registration under the Indian Trade Unions Act;

(*b*) if so, the name or names of such union or unions;

(*c*) the reasons for the refusal?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: (*a*) Only one union of employees has so far been refused registration.

(*b*) The All India Postal and R. M. S. Union (Provincial Branch), Peshawar.

(*c*) The sphere of activities of this union was outside the jurisdiction of the Registrar appointed under the Indian Trade Unions Act,—*vide* Punjab Government notification No. 3141-R., dated 22nd December 1926.

Mr. M. A. Ghani: At what places are their headquarters situated?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: I could not say.

CENTRAL WEAVING INSTITUTE, AMRITSAR AND DEMONSTRATION FACTORY, SHAHDARA.

*1895. **Mr. M. A. Ghani:** Will the Honourable Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(*a*) if it is a fact that the graduates of the Central Weaving Institute, Amritsar, are not admitted in the (A) Class of the Weaving Branch of the Demonstration Factory, Shahdara;

(*b*) if it is a fact that in the said factory a higher stipend is paid to an ordinary University graduate than to the graduate of the Central Weaving Institute, Amritsar;

(*c*) if so, will he kindly give reasons for (*a*) and (*b*)?

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal: (*a*) Students who pass the higher courses of the Central Weaving Institute, Amritsar, are granted certificates, but are not called graduates. These men are not at present eligible for admission into Class A at the Weaving Factory, Shahdara.

(*b*) Yes, a graduate is allowed a higher stipend than a non-graduate, who has only passed the higher course of the Central Weaving Institute, Amritsar.

(*c*) The matter is under the consideration of Government.

CENTRAL WEAVING INSTITUTE, AMRITSAR, AND DEMONSTRATION FACTORY, SHAHDARA.

*1896. **Mr. M. A. Ghani:** (1) Will the Honourable Minister for Education be pleased to state, how many students (A) weavers, (B) non-weavers, there are in the (*a*) higher and (*b*) artizan classes of the Central Weaving Institute, Amritsar and in the (A) and (B) classes of the Weaving Branch of the Demonstration Factory, Shahdara.

(2) What amount of stipend is paid to the students of each of the higher and lower classes of each of the two institutions?

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal :—

	Weavers.	Non-Weavers.
(1) *Central Weaving Institute, Amritsar.*—		
(*i*) Higher class	1	8
(*ii*) Artisan Class	88	20
Government Demonstration Weaving Factory, Shahdara.—		
(*i*) Class A.	*Nil.*	2
(*ii*) Class B.	*Nil.*	10

	Stipends.
(2) *Central Weaving Institute, Amritsar.*—	
Higher Class	From Rs. 10 per mensem to Rs. 15 per mensem.
Artisan Class	From Rs. 4 per mensem to Rs. 15 mensem.
Government Demonstration Weaving Factory, Shahdara.—	
Class A.	Rs. 80 per mensem.
Class B.	Rs. 15 per mensem.

TRADE UNIONS OF EMPLOYEES AND EMPLOYERS IN THE PUNJAB.

*1897. **Mr. M. A. Ghani :** Will the Honourable Member for Revenue be pleased to answer Council question[1] No. 117 (starred) put by me on the 15th March 1927 and again repeated by me as Council question[2] No. 364 (unstarred) on the 21st November 1927—bringing the answer to date ?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : The attention of the honourable member is drawn to the reply given to his question[3] No. 964, of which a copy is laid on the table.

Mr. M. A. Ghani : The question refers to unions which have been registered under the Indian Trade Unions Act, whereas this practically covers both registered and un-registered. I want the Honourable Member to reply to my question so far as un-registered unions are concerned.

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: As a matter of fact it is rather hard on Government in answering the question of the honourable member to undertake the survey of all unions registered or un-registered.

HAISAYAT TAX.

*1898. **Mr. M. A. Ghani :** Will the Honourable Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) in what districts of the Punjab has the Haisiyat tax been imposed ;

(*b*) what amount of the Haisiyat tax has been realised from—

(1) the skilled workers (*i*) weavers, (*ii*) blacksmiths, (*iii*) carpenters, (*iv*) goldsmiths, (*v*) shoe-makers, (*vi*) oilmen ;

(2) unskilled workers, in each of the districts of the Punjab ;

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[1]Vol. X-A, page 425. [2]Vol. X-B, page 1121.
[3]Pages 653-62 *infra*.

[Mr. M. A. Ghani.]

(c) whether any special representation is given to the (i) labouring, (ii) depressed classes in the Local Bodies in the Province ;

(d) if not, whether it is contemplated to do so ?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : (a) Haisiyat taxes had been imposed in several districts prior to 1927. These were held to have been illegal, and a special validating Act was passed making them valid up to the 15th November 1927, after which date all such taxes ceased to exist. Since that date no Haisiyat tax has so far been re-imposed in any district.

(b) No usefql purpose would be served by the collection of statistics for taxes which have ceased to exist.

(c) No special representation is given to any separate classes in Local Bodies in the Province.

(d) Persons belonging to the classes referred to are not debarred from becoming members of Local Bodies and Government do not consider it necessary to reserve seats for them.

WEAVING COTTAGE INDUSTRIES.

*1899. **Mr. M. A. Ghani :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) how many hand-looms are working in the weaving cottage industries in each of the districts of the Punjab ;

(b) how many of them are in (i) Amritsar, (ii) Ludhiana, (iii) Jullundur, (iv) Hoshiarpur, (v) Multan and (vi) Jalalpur-Jattan ;

(c) what steps have so far been taken to improve and modernise the industry ?

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal : (a) A statement is laid on the table.

(b)

Amritsar	1,267
Ludhiana	2,028
Jullundur including Bastis	1,314
Hoshiarpur	228
Multan	2,865
Jalalpur-Jattan	500

(c) Efforts are being made in the following directions with a view to developing the weaving industry—

(i) by means of training given in—

(a) the Central Weaving Institute at Amritsar which imparts both theoretical and practical training to artisans and educated students ;

(b) the weaving sections fitted with modern looms attached to six of the Industrial Schools ;

(ii) by the award of suitable stipends to weavers for receiving advanced training in these institutions ;

(iii) by practical demonstrations of improved methods of weaving given at most of the cattle fairs and through exhibitions arranged for the same purpose on the occasions of important social and educational conferences ;

(iv) through the Demonstration train on which special arrangements for practical training on improved methods of weaving have been made;

(v) by the grant of loans—loans amounting to Rs. 10,000 have been sanctioned, and another loan of Rs. 30,000 is being sanctioned to the weavers of Jalalpur-Jattan for the formation of a Joint Stock organization, which will in a few weeks' time establish an up-to-date factory fitted with Hattersley looms;

(vi) by practical advice and directions through the Textile Inspector;

(vii) by demonstration and education at the Government Weaving Factory, Shahdara.

STATEMENT SHOWING THE NUMBER OF VARIOUS TYPES OF HAND-LOOMS AT PRESENT BEING WORKED BY THE WEAVERS IN EACH DISTRICT.

No.	Name of district.	Primitive looms.	Fly shuttle looms.	Army Salvation looms.	Hattersley looms.	Mechanised engines.	Dobby machines.	Carpet looms.
1	Hissar	3,650	14	..	..	..	..	..
2	Rohtak	3,040	6	3	..	..	..	..
3	Gurgaon	2,700	..	..	..	..	..	..
4	Karnal	3,048	11	..	..	..	..	..
5	Ambala	6,930	2	..	..	..	..	..
6	Simla	71	..	..	..	..	..	..
7	Kangra	4,870	113	..	..	..	..	..
8	Hoshiarpur	13,024	30	..	..	..	..	..
9	Jullundur	11,304	43	..	..	..	..	..
10	Ludhiana	5,556	347	4	..	..	..	..
11	Ferozepore	6,088	7	..	..	..	..	..
12	Lahore	6,455	52	..	..	..	..	..
13	Amritsar	6,874	1,420	2	2	6	2	408
14	Gurdaspur	8,892	170	..	..	..	..	50
15	Sialkot	10,240	58	..	..	..	..	..
16	Gujranwala	6,423	11	..	..	..	..	..
17	Sheikhupura	4,442	89	..	..	..	..	..
18	Gujrat	7,934	491	..	..	1	..	..
19	Shahpur	6,828	..	..	..	..	..	..
20	Jhelum	4,843	2	..	..	..	..	..
21	Rawalpindi	2,932	17	..	..	..	..	..
22	Attock	6,924	5	..	..	..	..	..
23	Mianwali	2,504	21	..	..	..	..	..
24	Montgomery	5,193	48	..	..	..	..	6
25	Lyallpur	6,997	46	..	..	..	..	..
26	Jhang	7,972	2	..	..	..	..	..
27	Multan	8,836	30	..	..	..	..	40
28	Muzaffargarh	4,843	3	..	..	..	..	..
29	Dera Ghazi Khan	2,007	5	..	..	..	..	..
	Total ..	1,72,894	2,943	9	2	6	2	526

N.B.—It has not been possible to check the accuracy of the figures contained in the above table. It is, however, believed that these figures represent at least a partially truthful statement of the present situation.

PATWARIS AND *PATWARKHANAS*.

*1900. **Mr. M. A. Ghani :** Will the Honourable Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of (*i*) the revenue and (*ii*) the canal patwaris in the Punjab ;

(*b*) the number of the *patwarkhanas* built at Government expense for (*i*) the revenue and (*ii*) the canal patwaris in the Punjab ?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : (*a*) (*i*) 9,556, and (*ii*) 2,691.

(*b*) (*i*) 2,846, and (*ii*) 534.

BOARD OF ECONOMIC ENQUIRY—REPRESENTATION OF LABOUR AND DEPRESSED CLASSES.

*1901. **Mr. M. A. Ghani :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(*a*) who represents the labour and depressed classes on the Board of Economic Enquiry in the Punjab ;

(*b*) whether its publications are sent free to the honourable members of this Council ;

(*c*) if not, why not ?

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal : (*a*) Labour and depressed classes are not at present represented on the Board.

(*b*) No.

(*c*) The Board is a non-official body, and is at liberty to dispose of its publications as it thinks fit. But the honourable member's suggestion will be brought to its notice.

GENERAL DISCUSSION OF THE BUDGET.

Mr. President : To-day as well as to-morrow the Council is at liberty to discuss the budget as a whole or any questions of principle involved therein. As very many membes are likely to speak I prescribe a time limit of 15 minutes for each speaker.

Sardar Ujjal Singh (Sikh Urban) : Sir, it is not mere courtesy when I stand up to say that the Honourable Finance Member deserves the congratulations of this House for his first budget speech which in its lucidity and clearness of thought does not lag behind similar speeches of his predecessors. The Finance Secretary also deserves our sincere congratulations. The Budget, however, has no remarkable feature in it. It neither proposes to levy fresh taxation nor does it propose to give relief to the tax payer. It is a plain statement of accounts of the last year, the current year and the year to come. Sir, both last year and the current year have been bad years for crops with the result that revenue receipts in 1927-28 have been reduced by 23 lakhs from the budget figure and there is a reduction of about 56 lakhs in the revised estimates for 1928-29 from the budget income. On the expenditure side, though, the actual figure is less by 40 lakhs from the budget estimates.

for 1927-28 and 18 lakhs less than the revised estimates for 1928-29. There is, however, no cause for satisfaction from the savings. The chief surrenders have been in the beneficent departments. Education has surrendered 4 lakhs, Public Health 8 lakhs. In the revised estimates for 1928-29, there has been a surrender of about 17 lakhs in all the beneficent departments, Education having surrendered about 4 lakhs, Public Health 8 lakhs, Medical 1 lakh, Agriculture 1½ lakhs. On the other kand there has been an increased expenditure in the reserved departments, to the extent of 6 lakhs in the Revised Estimates for 1928-29. Civil Works shows an increased expenditure of 4 lakhs in 1927-28 from the Revised Estimates. In 1928-29 though the expenditure on Civil Works is estimated at 215 lakhs, that is, equal to the budgeted figure, yet the figure has been maintained at the expense of the Agricultural Department under which head there has been a lapse of 6½ lakhs. As clearly stated in the Finance Secretary's statement the proposal for an experimental farm has been abandoned, as also proposals for seed farms, for land for district farms, for office accommodation for Rawalpindi. But there has been an excess of 8 lakhs in the minor head Communications. Sir , this brings me to an important issue. How far are we justified in continuing to spend huge sums of money on roads every year? We spend about half a crore of rupees annually on new roads ; in the current year we have spent about 39½ lakhs. It costs, the engineers will tell better, roughly 25 to 28 thousands to metal a mile of road and to maintain a mile of road it costs Rs. 2,000 annually. At the same time we are spending about 46 lakhs annually on the repairs of these roads. Besides 11½ lakhs grant-in-aid is given by the Communications Board to district boards and 8 lakhs on purchase of tools and plants.

This annual expenditure on the maintenance charges continues to rise every year. It might reach a huge figure of one crore of rupees if we go on metalling at this pace. The total expenditure on 41—Civil Works which was 69 lakhs in 1924-25 now stands at the huge figure of 2,16 lakhs. The question is, can we afford to spend so much money when there is not enough money to be spent on the beneficent departments? I admit that roads are a necessity and they are quite useful for the opening up of the country and to bring them within easy reach of the towns. Sir, every development requires money. We should either be prepared to tax ourselves or if we are not prepared to do that, we must check this waste of money on roads and spend it on more useful purposes. It will be advisable to stop spending money on communications and spend it on education, on public health, medical relief, agriculture and industries, to make healthier citizens and better men. Sir, the revenue position of the province has not shown a regular increase in spite of the canal projects. Since 1925-26 the revenue instead of rising has been on the decrease. In spite of the remitted contribution which was meant to be spent exclusively on the beneficent departments, we have not been able to allot more money to beneficent departments. In the current year we have only provided 17 lakhs for the beneficent departments. In these circumstances can we ever hope to drive out ignorance, hunger and disease from the country if we go on spending money on purposes such as roads? We are spending money not only on roads but on certain Government buildings which do not give a return of more than 3 per cent. in the form of interest. I quite realise that in places like Lahore where there is a

[Sardar Ujjal Singh.]

dearth of houses Government should provide buildings for Government servants, but in district headquarters or in other places where buildings can be had at a very cheap rent, it is mere waste of money to provide Government buildings for Government servants. Sir, in my humble opinion if we are true to our professions and if the Government means to uplift the masses, no more money ought to be wasted on metalling any more roads, except those already taken in hand and the completion of which is an absolute necessity.

Sir, in the matter of education, we have not taken any bold step since the Reforms. I quite realise that this province has made a very fair progress in regard to secondary education, but so far as the problem of illiteracy goes, we have done precious little, I mean we have done nothing to educate the masses. Sir, elementary primary education is compulsory in almost every civilised country. In Germany it was made compulsory in 1770, in England in 1870, and in Japan in 1900. All civilised countries have made education free and compulsory. We have no doubt introduced the system known as voluntary compulsion which does not even touch the fringe of the problem. The Education Report clearly admits the wastage involved under the present system. Of about 4,40,000 scholars in the first primary class only 82,000 reach the fourth primary stage. Unless regular compulsion is introduced it is impossible to stop this colossal waste of money. We are going to get responsible government, I hope we will get it very soon (*hear, hear*), and this system of responsible government is quite incompatible with ignorant electors. If we are sincerely anxious to avail ourselves of democratic institutions, if the Government is sincere about granting us such institutions, the first step it should take should be towards making elementary education compulsory. More money no doubt needs to be spent in other departments. It may be usefully spent on public health, but ignorant massess cannot avail themselves of all the facilities provided in regard to medical relief and public health. Unless we have an intelligent public it is not possible to produce all the results for the money spent. I would strongly request the Honourable Minister for Education to take a bold step in this matter. It was in 1910 when Mr. Gokhale first put forward his resolution for compulsory primary education. Since then the Government has done practically nothing to meet the wishes of the country in this direction. I am sure if the Honourable Minister takes a step in that direction he will have the full support of this House. The policy of spending more money on Arts colleges and .....,

Mr. President: Order, order. The honourable member's time is up.

Dr. Sir Muhammad Iqbal [Lahore City (Muhammadan), Urban]: Sir, I am afraid the budget which has been presented to this Council presents a financial position which, in the words of the Honourable the Finance Member, even a confirmed optimist cannot regard, as entirely satisfactory. And the statement with which this budget is presented is so concise and so absolutely frank that its very frankness makes it extremely difficult for the reader to criticise it. (*Hear, hear*). However, there are certain points which must be noticed. One remarkable feature of this budget is, and this is the first budget that has this feature, that the contribution to the Government of India finds no place in it. But its most unfortunate feature

is that after five years' continuous prosperity we are for the first time confronting a deficit budget. The small increase in Excise and Stamps is no source of satisfaction, because it means an increase in drunkenness and litigation which reflects credit neither on the people nor on the Government. On the expenditure side of the budget for 1928-29 the only excess is under Irrigation and Jails. The increase under Irrigation is due to floods in August, and the increase under Jails is due to an increase in the number of prisoners and also to higher prices of food. Well, floods are a natural phenomena and cannot be prevented, but unless we are complete fatalists, crime is a preventible affair. If appropriate methods to prevent crime are adopted, it, to a very large extent, can be prevented. The present state of affairs is such that the man who steals cattle worth Rs. 10 is sent to jail for two years, and I think this is very largely responsible for the increase in the number of prisoners in the jails.

In the budget estimates of 1929-30 the first thing which I would like to note is education. Graph No. 4 in the Memorandum tells us that the amount allotted to education is 181.7. In the statement of the Honourable the Finance Member on page 6 we find it is 1,67. I was not able to understand these figures, because if 12 lakhs on new expenditure are added to 1,67, the sum is 1,79 and not 1,81. (*Mr. J. G. Beazley :* May I explain, Sir, that that figure includes expenditure on works, repairs and stationery ?) Very well, Sir. The state of things so far as education is concerned is very disappointing, I was going to say, awful. In 1922-23, 55 new schools in all came up for grants-in-aid out of which 16 were Islamia schools. The total amount of grants made to schools was Rs. 1,21,906, out of which a sum of Rs. 29,214 went to Muslim schools. In 1926-27, the total amount of grant to high schools was Rs. 1,22,287, and the same amount, namely, Rs. 29,214 went to Muslim schools *i.e.*, 23 per cent. of the total amount. In 1927-28, the total amount of grant was Rs. 10,13,154 and the share of Muslim schools was Rs. 2,04,330, that is to say, the population which is most backward in education and most indebted got only 2 lakhs out of 10. This is a state of affairs which cannot be regarded as satisfactory. Yet, we are told that there are savings in the beneficent departments which Mr. Penny describes as instances of overbudgeting. I am not at all opposed to spending large sums on education nor is it the purpose of this criticism to raise any such opposition ; but I should submit that the money spent on education must be spent carefully and must be distributed equally especially in places where people are backward and too poor to pay for education. However, I need not dwell on this point because I believe it will be taken up when the motions for cuts come up before the House.

I would now like to say a few words about capital expenditure. In 1928-29, the budgeted estimate for capital expenditure charged to revenue was 1,81 lakhs. It was later on raised to 1,89 and the revised estimate shows Rs. 2,12 lakhs. For 1929-30, the capital expenditure is expected to be Rs. 1,54 lakhs. Since extraordinary receipts will not amount to much it is proposed to borrow Rs. 1,40 lakhs from the Provincial Loans Fund. This is a very regrettable state of affairs. The province is already in debt. On pages 22-23 of the budget you will find the exact position of the province. It will be seen that the loans from the public amount to 8 crores while the loans

[Dr. Sir Muhammad Iqbal.]

from the Government of India prior to 31st March and the years subsequent thereto amount in the aggregate to about 26 crores. Of course, this sum does not include the loans which have been sanctioned from 1st March 1929. We are now compelled to borrow another sum of 1,40 lakhs in spite of what the Honourable the Finance Member says at page 4 of his statement which runs as follows :—

> "It has been found impossible to proceed with the full programme of building and roads, and it is contemplated that 48 lakhs less will be expended undr this head in 1929-30 than is shown in the revised estimate for 1928-29. It is also contemplated to reduce transfers to the Revenue Reserve Fund to 5 lakhs only instead of the 15 lakhs budgeted for 1928-29."

I think it was Charles Lamb who said that mankind are really divided into two classes, creditors and debtors. In so far as this province is concerned, if we drop the religious labels—Hindu and Muslim—and substitute the economic labels lenders and borrowers, Lamb's remark is perfectly true. But my fear is that this province, as a whole, may now be made a permanent member of the debtor class. Thus the present financial position is very disappointing and it is not an easy matter to discover new sources of revenue.

However, I venture to make a suggestion. In the first place, I should like the Government to move the Government of India to provincialise income-tax. That would improve our position to some extent. I may in the next place suggest the imposition of death duties as they have in England. (*The Honourable the Revenue Member*: Living duties would be more appropriate.) These would be living duties because it is the living who will have to pay them. Some limit such as those inheriting property to the value of Rs. 20,000 or 30,000 may be fixed. Next we should try reduction of high salaries, and purchase of our machinery from the cheapest markets.

Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan (Muhammadan Landholders): Sir, the Honourable the Finance Member deserves our sympathy as well as our congratulations, our sympathy because he has had the misfortune of preparing his very first budget at a time when the province is suffering from financial difficulties owing to the failure of three successive harvests, and our congratulations for his very lucid exposition of the financial position of the province as at present.

Sir, I made a suggestion last year about the explanatory note, requesting the Finance Department to try and make this note more precise and clear. I wish to thank the Finance Secretary and the Secretariat of his department for giving us a comparatively better explanatory note this year. I also stated last year that there was a general feeling amongst the zamindars that Government was indifferent to the troubles and feelings of that class. I am glad to be able to testify to the fact that Government have in view of that statement exhibited a real interest to the claims of this poor class in the past year, as indicated by the remission of large amounts of land revenue and abiana on account of the failure of wheat and cotton crops. Sometime back I moved a resolution in this Council suggesting to the Government that a sum of Rs. 50 lakhs should be ear-marked annually for ten years for the purpose of creating a fund with which relief may be granted to the zamindars in times of need. I take this opportunity to reiterate that suggestion and to add

that this sum funded for ten years with accumulated interest would amount to a sum in the neighbourhood of about 8 or 9 crores of rupees. This amount will yield a sufficient income to give relief to the zamindars in those areas where there is real distress. One advantage in adopting my scheme would be that the Government would thereby obviate the necessity of finding large sums of money at a moment's notice for the purpose of giving relief to the zamindars in cases of emergency such as happened during the last year owing to the failure of three successive harvests, and unprecedented floods which played havoc, in some parts of the province. I commend my suggestion to Government, for reconsideration because if adopted, it will stabilise the financial position of the province as the fund would be in the nature of a reserve and a far more reliable and stable reserve than the one we have at present for relief purposes.

Sir, I would like to say a few words about the Land Revenue Amendment Bill, as it closely affects the class to which I belong and whose interests I have been constantly pressing to the notice of the Government during the past few years. Sir, the acceptance of the Land Revenue Amendment Bill, and the assent of the Viceroy to this measure marks a landmark in the history of this province. I think that the Punjab can justifiably be proud of getting this measure through in spite of the fact that a very big change was made in some of the fundamental principles of this Bill. Sir, His Excellency the Viceroy, His Excellency the Governor and the Punjab Government deserve our congratulations and thanks ; above all, our present Revenue Member deserves our sincere gratitude for all that he has done in pushing through this Bill, and getting over all the difficulties here and in the Government of India. Sir, I am sure the name of Sir Fazl-i-Husain will be remembered as our ablest and most sympathetic Revenue member and his name will live for annals in the rural areas of this province. There is, however, one request which I have to make and that is that the Government should now fulfil without delay the promises and pledges given by the present Revenue Member and his predecessors, for giving retrospective effect to the provisions of the Land Revenue Amendment Bill, at the time it was passed in this Council.

Sir, when I made a speech with regard to the settlement of my own district, that is, Attock district, I pointed out the distress of the people on account of the heavy burden under which they had been placed on account of a heavy increase under re-assessment. In Talagang one third net assessment was taken ; while in other tahsils 64, 54 and 44 per cent. increase was made over the existing rates and in Chach alone an increase of 65 per cent. was recommended and was eventually reduced on my representation to 54 per cent. by the Government. Similarly in other tracts a small reduction was made when I pressed the matter in this Council and brought it to the notice of the Revenue Member and the Financial Commissioner. But, Sir, that small decrease did not have the desired effect of giving adequate relief to these people and.....

Mr. President : Order, order. May I ask what principle involved in the budget is the honourable member now discussing ?

Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan : The principle of land revenue. We have been assessed.... .

Mr. President: Is that a principle involved in the budget ?

Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan: I was just going to point out that the receipts of Government would be by many lakhs less in the present year and in succeeding years, by the passing of this Bill.

Mr. President: Does the honourable member mean that the Bill should not have been passed ?

Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan: No, Sir, I consider the budget will have to be revised in the light of this Bill, and these figures will have to be altered, especially on the receipts side.

I shall not dwell on this point longer, Sir, I will close my remarks so far as this point is concerned. In all the four tahsils of the district, Sir, considerable relief is required and I hope the promises given by the Government and the Honourable the Revenue Member will now be redeemed and an early announcement would be made whereby the people can be reassured that Government is not indifferent to their sad plight. I am sure that this announcement would act as a soothing balm to the lacerated feelings of the people who have suffered a good deal on account of the failure of the last three harvests, and the fourth one is not too promising either. This will necessitate the reduction on the receipts side but we hope that the next rabi would make it possible when the revised budget comes before us to find that the receipts are in excess of the figure budgeted for the current year.

Then one other point which I want to bring to the notice of the Government, Sir, is with regard to the special riot cess which has been imposed upon the residents of Rawalpindi City. Unfortunately on account of the riots in Rawalpindi considerable damage was done to the property and this damage could only be repaid by the usual practice of levying cesses on the people of that town. Unfortunately the extremely difficult financial position and the failure of successive harvests makes it difficult and almost impossible for the people to pay that cess, and consequently I understand, great difficulty has been felt, in realizing that cess. People have forgotten about those riots and the relations of the communities are most amicable and friendly at the present moment. I personally think that it would be a great pity to disturb them and to revive the memories of the riots. I, therefore, commend the suggestion to the Government that this compensation should be paid out of the provincial funds ; and I believe Government will find that there are precedents which will help them to come to a correct decision with regard to this suggestion.

I would just like to say one word, Sir, about roads. My friend Sardar Ujjal Singh, I understand, in my opinion, has criticised the road programme much too vehemently. I think that roads, good communications, are a necessity, which will help in the development of the resources of the province. But if we cannot afford to build too many pucca roads owing to the unfortunate financial stringency we should try to make up this deficiency by having good kucha roads. I understand that new mechanical graders were used in some places and have proved successful. I commend to the Honourable Minister for Agriculture my proposal to provide at least one grader for each district, so as to allow the kucha roads being prt in better order with a view to make up to some extent, for the paucity of pucca roads.

Mr. Din Muhammad [East and West Central Towns (Muhammadan) Urban]: Sir, I may be pardoned by the Honourable the Finance Member if I do not begin in the usual strain and neither sympathise with him on this adversity budget, nor congratulate him on the marvellous achievement of steering himself clear through this dangerous rock, for, I realize, this would not help the situation at all. It is, however, gratifying to note that although he has occupied this office comparatively for a very short period he has imbibed the true zamindar spirit and not hesitated to run to the Government of India for a very heavy loan, not only to provide for the necessities of administration but also to provide for our luxuries, not only to run the old administration, but also to incur new expenditure to the extent of 61 lakhs.

Sir, a budget is not an independent document. It is to be considered not only in its present light but one has also to see behind and one has also to look ahead. The honourable member who spoke first was pleased to remark that we should so frame our budget that the responsible Government that is expected to come in another two or three years might not see us ignorant and illiterate and that we should, therefore, spend on education as much as we can. I say, literate or illiterate, the responsible Government that is coming after two or three years, I am afraid, if we proceed at this pace, would find us altogether impecunious and insolvent and then it would be a very anxious concern of the future administrators to keep pace with the growing needs in connection with the development of the province as would be absolutely necessary to do. The Honourable the Finance Member has very candidly sounded a note of alarm. Though he says that for these problems he is not prepared at this moment to suggest a solution, yet he suggests that either of the two alternatives must be resorted to, either retrenchment or discovery of new sources of revenue. The honourable members know pretty well that the existing capacity of the province for fresh revenue is exhausted especially, as the honourable member from Attock suggests, so far as the rural population is concerned. And so far as the urban population is concerned, the remedy suggested by the honourable member for Lahore City is not very satisfactory. If the income-tax is provincialised, after all it would mean a cut in the Government of India finances and shall have to be made up somehow or other by the imposition of fresh taxation and that burden will again fall upon us. Similarly by the imposition of death duties you will be robbing the orphans of the little that they will inherit.

Dr. Sir Muhammad Iqbal: It is from the rich only.

Mr. Din Muhammad: Rich is a relative term and even if we impose this duty on the rich persons alone it would be a sort of direct taxation, which is always considered abominable. So the second best alternative is that of retrenchment. The observance of rigid economy would be the most suitable alternative to adopt. Sir, it is really very difficult to handle such an important and delicate matter in an off hand manner. I would, therefore, suggest that the Government should see its way to appoint a committee to go through this question most thoroughly and from both points of view, *viz.*, whether it is possible to exploit any new sources of revenue or whether we should have cuts and substantial cuts in the existing expensive administration. Of course I would submit that it would not be done at the cost of efficiency. Efficiency is a thing which we must keep in view at any cost. I would, therefore, put forward this proposition as a

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constructive proposal and would submit that the Honourable the Finance Member would be pleased to give it the consideration it deserves. Sir, it is really, very difficult in the short time allotted to handle these complicated figures properly and be able to object to any individual item that is contained therein intelligently. But it is.....

Mr. President: Discussion of individual items is not permissible at this stage.

Mr. Din Muhammad: That is the difficulty.

Mr. President: At this stage the honourable members are at liberty to discuss only the budget as a whole or any questions of principle involved therein but not any individual item or items.

Mr. Din Muhammad: I was remarking, Sir, that it was really very difficult to handle the figures of the budget in the short time allotted to the members for going through the budget and therefore it is useless to refer to the figures at all. But these figures can be referred to for the purpose of pointing out to the Government to amend its policy if needs be. In this connection, Sir, I would like to refer to the expenditure which is demanded for the police, and will bring to the notice of this House the extreme inefficiency that has been displayed by the investigation agency of the Police Department during the last two or three years. I do not mean to minimise the importance of the Police Department. I do not shut my eyes to the services which the police is rendering in the maintenance of law and order. But I must point out, that in this capital of the province three ghastly tragedies have been committed in broad day light, when innocent people have been killed and injured; I refer to the bombs that were thrown on the occasion of the Dusehra festival year before last and then again a second time on the last Dusehra festival and the Saunders and Chanan Singh murder that took place only recently, and our Police has absolutely failed to trace out the perpetrators of those horrible crimes.

This state of affairs is really most disappointing. If such broad daylight murders are left untraced, if such murders in which the whole of the Punjab, the whole of India and even the whole of the British Empire is interested are left undetected, what would be the fate of those cases in which poor people are murdered and have no influential support at their back to push the matter through? It is not enough if the police officials can work only on information supplied by persons who approach them with reports and then proceed on that material alone. It is not enough and I say that it does not speak well of the efficiency of the department. If the investigating agency lacks still in this direction they might be sent to England to be trained in the Scotland Yard or more efficient people may be imported who might be better able to trace and detect crime.

Coming now to the demand for education. Although the honourable member for Lahore has brought to the notice of the Honourable Minister for Education the extreme anxiety of the Muslim community in the matter of educational grants, I may be excused if I refer to the same topic once more simply to impress upon the Honourable Minister the seriousness of the situation, under which the Muslim community is smarting. They are

seriously believing that obstructions are being placed in their way intentionally. In spite of protests made both in the press and on the platform and in spite of the deputations that have waited upon the Honourable Minister for Education, nothing has been done to redress their grievances. This is a very distressing state of affairs.

If a reference is made to the Instrument of Instructions issued by His Imperial Majesty to the Governors of the Provinces, it will be found that it is enjoined on every Governor to see that backward communities which are in the same predicament in which my community is situated, get special facilities for education and general advancement. The Governors are specially called upon to see that no backward community is trampled upon by others in the way in which the Muslim community is being treated in the matter of education.

Again, Sir, coming to the department of Agriculture we find a similar state of affairs.

The Honourable Sardar Sir Jogendra Singh : Will the honourable member specify instances ?

Mr. Din Muhammad : In the matter of admission to the Maclagan Engineering College and the Rasul Engineering School the Muslim community has already made representations to the effect that justice is not being done to them and that artificial obstructions are being laid in their way of gaining admission in the proportion in which they deserve.

Similarly in the matter of appointments to the Subordinate Agricultural Service or Higher Agricultural Service, it is the complaint of the Muslim community that a just policy is not being followed so far as its members are concerned, and that their interests are not being safeguarded in the way in which they ought to be. If it is unfortunately true that the three Ministers were appointed on communal lines and posted there as mere sentinels to safeguard the interests of their respective communities, I must say that the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Education are functioning to the best of their ability. But that could not be the intention in appointing the three separate Ministers from three different communities.

Dr. Shaikh Muhammad Alam : Then what was the intention ?

[*A voice*—what about the third Minister ?]

Mr. Din Muhammad : So far as the third Minister is concerned, the honourable member would be pleased to know, that as far as I have been able to watch his administration, he is too weak, if I may be allowed to say so, to follow in the footsteps of his honourable colleagues. (*Interruption*) Well, whatever you might call it, had he been somewhat stronger in view of the bold action of his colleagues, he would have gained some credit.

Dr. Shaikh Muhammad Alam : Anyhow equally discreditable.

Mr. Din Muhammad : Well, he would then have been erring in good company and satisfying his own community at least.

These are some of the general observations which I wanted to make on this occasion. I would once more bring it to the notice of the House that the state of financial affairs is not very promising, that our financial policy

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requires some sort of revision and that we must cut our coat according to our cloth.

Chaudhri Afzal Haq [Hoshiarpur-*cum*-Ludhiana (Muhammadan), Rural], Urdu: Sir, the budget presented before the House is characterized by great lucidity and the Honourable the Finance Member and his Secretary deserve our best thanks on this achievement. But it reminds me of an anecdote concerning a friend of mine who would in his school days approach his father in a coaxing manner and say "Father, my examination is near and I have some books to buy and my eyes are also not very strong, and require to be fitted up with glasses. Besides, I stand in need of more nourishing diet because I have to study much harder than before in order to ensure success. In consideration of these facts please increase my monthly allowance." His father could not help acceding to his exorbitant demands couched in such pleasant words. But the worthy son always proved himself unworthy of his father's favours by failing in the examinations. The same is the case with our Government. After an experience of 5 years I can boldly assert that the Government has always taken our consent to the budget grants in an insidious manner, but it has never fulfilled its promises. I have stated so many times that the Government in order to carry on administration and push on the work of the beneficent departments realises so many crores of rupees every year from us by levying taxes. However the administration has been regularly deteriorating; dacoities have increased fourfold; cases of burglary and theft have also become commoner, and riots have become more frequent.

As regards the constructive side let us consider the Education Department. Last year Rs. 65 lakhs were granted for education out of which only 12 lakhs were spent rightly. The remaining huge sum was only squandered away. The British have been governing this country for a long period and it is high time that the whole population should have been educated, but the pace at which it has been progressing is not very hopeful.

In the last budget session the Honourable the Finance Member denied the charge brought against the Government that it did not abide by its promises given to the Council. It may be right with regard to individuals but from the standpoint of the nation as a whole, the promises given by the Government are never adhered to. For the last five years every party and every member of the Council has been complaining against corruption that has been prevalent in the Government Departments. May I ask the Honourable Revenue Member if he can think of any suitable measures for checking corruption? Police gets one crore monthly from the Government whereas it extorts fourteen crores from the public by unfair means. The only difference between a police officer and a dacoit is that the former holds a license to rob the public, while the latter is not armed with any such authority. Lest the feelings of the official members should be injured, I abstain from expressing myself in even stronger language. After all I belong to this country and cannot bear to see this state of affairs going on in the broad day light. Sir, it is the duty of a member of this House to inform the Government if its laws and administration are defective. If ever I have been in touch with the Government it was only through my brief service in the Police Department and, therefore, I know better than any

member on the Government benches how largely corruption prevails in the police ranks. To spend a sum of 1½ crores monthly on the Police Department is a sheer waste of public money. Sir, I submit before the House and the Government members my considered opinion that the disbandment of the entire police force would conduce to far greater tranquillity and security of the public than its maintenance in the present form does. Anglo-Indian papers are always pro-Government in their policy and the *Civil and Military Gazette* criticised us severely sometime ago for any attack on the police. I admit, Sir, that human nature is very frail and it cannot tolerate difference of opinion. If I am criticised it is natural that I should feel offended. Similarly, if I find fault with the Government, the Government members would naturally take it ill. But, Sir, truth must be out and it cannot be suppressed. Our Police Department is quite unfit for the discharge of the onerous duties entrusted to its care and the sooner it is ended or mended, the better it would be for all concerned.

I admit, Sir, that the previous Finance Member had honestly tried to prevent corruption in the Police Department. Not to acknowledge his sincere efforts in that direction would be unfair. But here I am again reminded of an anecdote about Majnun the great Arabian lover. It is stated that every morning he started to see his beloved Leila on a she-camel. This she camel had a babe whom Majnun always left behind in his house. Going a little distance on the right path Majnun used to get so much absorbed in his thoughts about his sweetheart and the dromedary used to go astray in quest of her babe. As a consequence they would wander far and wide the whole day and return fruitless home at night.

Similarly, Honourable Government Members under the temporary influence of the exhortations urged in the House would issue peremptory circulars expressly prohibiting the acceptance of bribes; and for the time being the officers also pay some regard to them but, as time passes other matters of greater importance absorb their attention and they cease to make earnest efforts in that direction. The subordinate officers taking the right cue from this waning interest of the higher officers again indulge in the corrupt practices. I admit, Sir, that the Government did try to put a restraint upon the mal-practices so common in the Jail and Police Departments, but before its efforts had borne fruit, the higher officers have again relaxed their efforts with the result that corruption and other mal-practices are again raging at their highest.

The other accusation against the Government is with regard to the Transferred Departments. I have no doubt concerning the personal abilities of the Ministers. They are very noble, I admit, but the Executive Government has put impediments in their way and does not allow them to use a free hand in managing their affairs. Their departments always suffer from paucity of funds and it is commonly seen that the effects of any financial stringency become first of all visible in their resources. Some honourable members have complained that the Ministers are more zealous to serve their own respective communities than the nation as a whole. The blame rests not with the Ministers but with the scheme which brought such a Ministry into existence against all traditions and conventions. Can such an irresponsible Ministry exist in any parliament in the world? To take one instance, in the British House of Commons

[Chaudhri Afzal Haq.]
the Cabinet must have at its back a strong majority ; and all the Ministers belong to the party in power.....

Mr. President: The honourable member's time is over.

Sayad Muhammad Husain [Montgomery (Muhammadan), Rural] : Sir, before proceeding with the discussion of the budget, I feel it my duty to congratulate the Honourable Finance Member and the Financial Secretary on their great achievement in the preparation of the budget. It is really a very straightforward and honest document. It does not conceal anything. I would state a Biblical story also narrated in the Holy Quran. It is about the dream of an Egyptian King who dreamt about the approaching signs of disaster in his country. The wise king and his Government started upon retrenchment after having that dream. They cut down their expenditure ; they accumulated their resources and their grain and put them down to meet the approaching famine. But Sir, we in our Government here not only have dreamt but have seen for the last four years crop after crop failing and not only have they not cut down their expenditure all along but they have gone on and embarked upon a scheme of development. When one goes outside this Chamber one notices put upon the walls big development schemes of the department of agriculture, showing their activities in the shape of so many circles and so many directorates. To one not living in the Punjab, to an outsider, say an American, these would show there must be a corresponding increase in the prosperity of the people. He will not notice that the people of this country and of this province have begun to starve. If anyone were to go outside or if the Honourable Minister for Agriculture were to go outside and see the villages, he will find that there is no corresponding prosperity in the country. People are living on starvation point actually. In my own district in particular, and in the other districts of the Multan division generally, and I conclude the same must be the case in the other parts of the province, people are not getting food in the night. Wheat, imported from Australia—for the wheat of the province has all been spent—is being sold in the villages at more than 7 rupees per maund. Consider this and the resourcelessness of the masses and you will conclude that these maps which are shown and these activities of the Department of Agriculture are merely farce. We spend huge sums of money on agriculture and what are the results. My honourable friend the Honourable Sir Jogendra Singh will excuse me when I say that this money we are spending is out of proportion to the results. His department and the Ministry of Agriculture cannot be proud of the results. The failure of the cotton crop which we have seen year after year, is a failure of the department which is unable to meet and find any remedy for that. There is something directly wrong in the selection of seeds. In some places I could say on my own experience, as I have also, along with my other brethren, suffered loss ; the selection of seeds is a failure and the department of agriculture has not been able to diagnose and I do not know how long it will continue. The country is already becoming bankrupt. Will they like to go on in this condition of affairs any longer ? The only production of the Agriculture Department in 8-A of wheat and 4-F of cotton or what they call *desi*. But 4-F is already a proved failure and I do not think any zamindar of intelligence will sow 4-F any more ? Molesene is also coming down year

after year. I feel it my duty at this stage to invite the attention of the Government, especially the Honourable Financial Commissioner, that the time is very short and that we must find instantaneous measures of relief. We must open stores for the cheap disposal of grain to poor people. The time is very short and something must be done at once to give relief. We are not getting sufficient and proper food for us to live. Sir, it has been stated in the Budget statement prepared by the Honourable Finance Member that large remissions of land revenue and abiana had to be given. The total remission in land revenue is shown as 68 lakhs in the budget estimates of receipts. I must say and I must acknowledge that the general remission given in the last rabi was really very gratefully appreciated by the people. It saved the zamindar masses from paying the full revenue for the crop which had failed and our thanks are due to the Honourable Revenue Member in particular and to the Government in general for granting that remission. But when the kharif came in and a similar disaster again set in, the Government gave relief not in the right direction but in the wrong direction. They had to remit, if I remember exactly, something like 40 lakhs of rupees. But the remission generally given to the people, all went to the pockets of the officers of the canal department. The zilladar, the patwari, the Deputy Collector and every other officer shared in that. If I am right and if my knowledge is correct, from Rs. 2 to 4 per acre were taken from the zamindars to give them any remission. When the time of remission came the poor zamindar who had borrowed money at a high rate of interest found that the full remission which he had expected was not granted to him. Every zilladar in my part of the country in the Lower Bari Doab must have earned something like Rs. 80,000. The remission, if any, was for the Canal Department and not for the zamindars.

Both the Financial Commissioners will bear me out that, when they went on tour last December to the district of Montgomery, they had written complaints from all sorts of people, ranging from an ordinary zamindar to the Deputy Commissioner, telling woeful tales of how the Canal Department were extorting money from the people. Had Government given 20 lakhs instead of 40 lakhs, in the form of general remission this would have gone to the pockets of the people. Besides, that would have saved the country from moral degradation and corruption. I respectfully put it before Government that some serious and severe action must be taken against those who have plundered the zamindars. These zilladars have no sympathy with them. Anybody, whether he be an executive engineer or a patwari, who has taken money from the zamindar must be dealt with very severely.

I would also draw the attention of the Honourable Revenue Member, who unfortunately is absent from the Chamber at this moment, and I hope that the Chief Engineer will convey to the Honourable Member what I am saying, that some change must be made in the rules of abiana. Abiana was enhanced a good deal. It was beyond the taxable capacity of the people to pay it, and I would like now to draw the attention of the House in general and of the Chief Engineer in particular to the fact that instead of placing the fate of the illiterate zamindars in the hands of the patwaris and zilladars something in lump sum should be deducted from the rates of the abiana regarded as the corresponding remission, say, 15 per cent. or 20 per cent. or 25 per cent., whatever may be thought proper. I suggest that the whole

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matter should be referred to the Canal Advisory Committee or some other Committee of experts including officials and non-officials to consider the whole aspect of the abiana and reduction should be made and relief or remission given as decided by that Committee. That is a suggestion which I would like to make to Government. They can count up the amount of remissions made during the last five or six years, and after taking the average they can leave a margin for any calamity that may befall and deducting that from the abiana, they should make the abiana remission, so that people may be satisfied.

Then, Sir, attention has been drawn by Chaudhri Afzal Haq who is an expert on the Police Department, to corruption prevailing in that department. Really we all feel very much for the crimes untraced, especially the two bomb cases and the murders of Mr. Saunders and Sardar Chanan Singh having remained untraced. It is a great insult to the province and the Police that such heinous offences should have remained untraced and the perpetrators of those crimes not brought to book. Great attention must be paid to such crimes and serious action taken against the Police if they are unable to trace these heinous offences as well as dacoities.

Now, Sir, I would turn to the Honourable Ministers in charge of the Transferred Departments. I have already said something in regard to my friend the Honourable Minister in charge of Agriculture and now I would draw the attention of the Honourable Minister for Education, to the fact that the country cannot tolerate any more illiteracy. We know and we believe that full responsible government is coming very soon and before that comes we want the whole population to be literate, at least to be able to realise where they are voting. I would point out to both the Ministers that they are in charge of a national trust, and I hope they will excuse me if I say and I say so with great restraint, that they must try to win the hearts of the other communities. They are equally responsible to all the communities of the province and I hope they will excuse me if I ask them to take a leaf out of the book of the younger Minister and the Revenue Member. They should follow the example set by their young colleague, the Honourable Minister for Local Self-Government and be above communal bias. He has been blamed as being weak, but I regard him to be strong. I would ask the Ministers to win the confidence of the other communities and to administer their departments more liberally. They should take a leaf out of the book of the Honourable Malik Firoz Khan Noon and the Honourable Revenue Member.

Then there is another matter to which I wish to draw the attention of the Minister for Education who is in charge of industries. The cottage industry of the province is altogether disappearing. The weavers of the province have been reduced to beggars. Two years ago I went to Jalalpur Jattan, a place which was the pride of the province at one time, for it could be called the Lancashire of India. At one time the Kashmiri weavers of that place were producing some of the finest fabrics, shawls and other things. That industry in Jalalpur Jattan has died altogether, and the weavers have become paupers, some of them are working as tonga-drivers while others have turned ill-paid coolies. Something must be done to revive that industry. The answer which the Honourable Minister for Education

has given to a question asked by a friend of mine is not satisfactory in my opinion ; something more substantial is needed to be done to revive the old cottage industry in order that unemployment should be removed from this country altogether.

One more point. A suggestion was made by Sardar Ujjal Singh that no more money should be spent on roads. I think that roads are absolutely necessary for the development of the country. They are not only a source of pleasure and comfort to the rich ; but the poor also derive a great benefit out of them. They can convey their commodities to the market and thus they are enable to secure greater value for their produce. I think no reduction should be made in the development of the roads.

With these remarks I take my seat.

Sardar Hira Singh : [Lahore (Sikh) Rural] (Urdu) : Sir, I am free to admit that the Honourable Member for Finance deserves our sincere gratitude and congratulations for the way in which he has tried to make both ends meet in the present Budget. But I am really very sorry to find that he has not been able to come forward with a single suggestion or proposal intended to relieve the poverty and indebtedness of zamindars. The last rabi crops were a total failure and the Government remitted only two annas per rupee out of the land revenue . The zamindars had to pay the remaining dues and they did so by selling whatever they got fom the rabi crops. It was hoped that the kharif crops would make up for at least a part of the loss which the zamindars had sustained on account of the failure of the rabi crops. But unfortunately the kharif also failed and the produce was only sufficient for seeds. So the zamindars had to borrow money to buy food and clothes for themselves and their families. I am not exaggerating the fact when I say that the failure of crops has ruined the zamindars. When they sold their wheat in order to pay the land revenue it was selling at Rs. 4 per maund and now when they have to buy it for their families its price has risen to Rs. 7 per maund. Thus they are compelled to borrow huge sums of money at a very high rate of interest, and as the present crop also has been spoiled by the last cold wave, there is no hope of their being able to repay these loans. Under these circumstances, the sad plight of the zamindars can be better imagined than described. I warn the Government that it is not Mahatma Gandhi or Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru, but the hungry zamindars who will cause a revolution in the country. Do the Government want them to organise Jathas and march to the Government House as was done by the military pensioners ? The Government is selling land in the canal colonies by auction. It would have been much better if the land was sold to poor zamindars and its price realized in easy instalments payable after sufficiently long periods. Even those zamindars who had purchased land in the canal colonies had done so with the idea that they would be able to pay the fixed instalments out of the produce of that land. But, alas ! the produce of the land did not prove sufficient for the purpose. Thus they had to borrow money from their relatives and then from the *Sahukars* to pay to the Government and when after a time they found that it was absolutely impossible for them to meet the demands of the Government, they gave up their possessions. Is it a wise policy for the Government to ignore the plight of these poor people and care for its treasury only ?

[Sardar Hira Singh.]

My honourable friend from Hoshiarpur has referred to the corruption in the Police Department, I submit, Sir, that the Government has utterly failed to take proper action in order to remove this grievance. I could quote some instances, but I think it will not be desirable on my part to do so. However, it is a fact that the honest officials are often transferred to the worst parts of the province while the corrupt ones are sent to such stations as afford ample chances for them to extort money from the ignorant people. The only cause of this practice is that the honest officials simply cannot afford to make valuable presents to the higher authorities.

Now, I come to the administration or maladministration of the Irrigation Department. The Lower Bari Doab is the oldest canal in the province and I may be allowed to say that it is the worst administered of all the canals. The zamindars are never in a position to know when their turn for getting water will come. I had once suggested that these turns should be fixed according to hours and minutes but no action has been taken in this direction. This is the reason why there are so many quarrels among the zamindars. Moreover, much water is wasted simply because the watercourses here do not run in a straight line.

The same is the case with roads. The land revenue is paid by the rural population of the province while the metalled roads have become a special privilege of the people residing in big cities. At least those villages whose population is more than two thousand must be provided with good and metalled roads.

Coming to education we find that although this province has been under the British rule for more than seventy years still much less than ten per cent. of its population has been able to get rid of illiteracy. Even primary education is the privilege of a selected few. Surely it was the duty of the Government to see that at least half the population of the province got rid of the ignominy of illiteracy by this time. I do not grudge the huge sums of money spent on big colleges but the Government must remember that the rural community also deserves their attention. Is it not shameful for a civilized Government that more than half of its subjects cannot even sign their names and are, therefore, compelled to resort to thumb-prints? I, submit, that it is the duty of the Government to provide educational facilities to every part of the province. Industrial education also deserves its best attention because the country can never get rid of unemployment unless you provide ample facilities in this direction.

In the end, Sir, I must warn the House that it will not serve any useful purpose to praise our co-religionists and criticize the officials belonging to other communities. You cannot make the Government advance the popular aspirations in that way. Let us get rid of communal prejudice and present a united front to the Government. It is only by being united that we can hope to make the Government bow to the wishes of the people.

Risaldar Bahadur Nur Khan: [Rawalpindi, (Muhammadan), Rural]. (Urdu): Sir, I offer my sincerest gratitude and hearty congratulations to the Honourable Member for Finance for presenting the Budget in such an able and clear manner. He richly deserves the tributes paid to him by various honourable members of the House. But allow me to

say a few words with regard to the conditions prevalent in my constituency. On account of the unfortunate riots that occurred some time ago a tax has been imposed upon the inhabitants of Rawalpindi. Sir, I have some knowledge of the way in which such taxes are realized. Many a person has run away from his birthplace on account of these taxes. The conditions under which the riots occurred have happily disappeared to a very large extent and, therefore, I request the Government not to rake up old scores.

It is also necessary to draw the attention of the Government to the sad plight of the poor zamindars, especially the military classes residing in the Rawalpindi district. Their possessions consist of barani lands only and on the average do not exceed four kanals. They have not got wells for the irrigation of their land and the scarcity of rain is proving disastrous. I do not say that the zamindars in the canal colonies are enjoying affluence and prosperity but the conditions in the barani districts are much worse. Sufficient regard is paid to the claims and rights of all other classes of people but I am sorry to say that these poor people do not receive their due share of sympathy and attention from the Government. My honourable friend Sardar Sikandar Hayat Khan, has put forward a suggestion which, if accepted would go a long way to better the condition of the poor zamindars. I had once drawn the attention of the Government to the fact that most of the middle class people who had purchased lands in the Nili Bar were compelled to give up their possessions because, they could not pay the instalments at the proper time. I, therefore, request the Government to sell land to the zamindars, and especially to those belonging to the military classes on easy instalments and at a lower rate of interest.

Now, I come to the question of their education. After the Great War the Government very graciously promised to pay their best attention to the education of our children and to award special military scholarships and stipends to them. But the present Minister for Education has framed some rules in this connection which are sure to impair the benefits of these scholarships. Under the new rules only those children of the military people will be entitled to receive military scholarships who were born between the years 1914 and 1919. But I submit, Sir, that during these years we were serving the Government in the battelfields. Then how could we get a child during this period ? Moreover, if a military man has got two sons only one of them can be awarded a military scholarship and another rule lays down that only those candidates will be entitled to these scholarships for the college education who have passed the Matriculation Examination in the first division. Sir, the Military classes are already labouring under the curse of illiteracy and it is not wise to discourage them by such hard rules. If the son of a military man passes the Matriculation in the second division, I do not see any reason why he should be deprived of the benefit of a military scholarship. Another condition is that only the children of those Military men will be awarded these scholarships whose yearly income does not exceed Rs. 700. This again is a very hard condition. The zamindars have to bear various expenses and a military man with an income of Rs. 700, a year, cannot afford to spend sufficient money on the education of his children. I have got some squares of land and even with the hardest of labour that I can put on my land it is not easy for me to make both ends meet. As you know, Sir, I do not enjoy the benefit of English education and, therefore, it is not possible

[Risaldar Bahadur Nur Khan.]
for me to fully comprehend the speeches made by most of the honourable members. Had I been able to get College education I would have pleaded the cause of my constituents in a much better way. It is a pity that the most important and the most loyal section of His Majesty's subjects is being deprived of its rights by such devices.

Mr. Owen Roberts (Non-official, nominated): Sir, during the Budget debate of 1925 I moved a cut on the grant under Industries with the object of drawing Government's attention to the necessity for restoring certain statistical figures regarding the internal trade of the Province. In reply to what I then stated, the Financial Commissioner, Development, gave an assurance that the matter was receiving the serious attention of Government. I was under the impression that that assurance, combined with the subsequent correspondence that passed between myself, Government and other public bodies, would achieve the object I had in view and that the necessary funds would be forthcoming. Four years have passed and nothing has happened up to date. The necessity for these figures to-day is as great as it ever was; there is in the Council to-day in the person of one of the Financial Commissioners, an officer who carried large responsibilities in the matter of distribution of foodstuffs during the war and who has placed it on record that had these figures not been available it would have been impossible for him to carry out his duties. The need for the figures to-day, as I have said, is certainly as great as any demonstrated during the war. For many months during the past year for example, produce that has moved from the Punjab to Karachi and has lain there and been sold at prices below what the same produce was selling in the Punjab. It has even been sent back to the Punjab from Karachi and resold here and the quantities affected are by no means negligible. Imported wheat is selling in our markets and prices are abnormally high and we have nothing to guide us in the study of a subject of such importance as this to the Province. The Council may not of course be prepared to accept my unsubstantiated statement on the subject, and with your permission Sir, I propose to read an extract from the speech delivered by Sir George Rainy in the Legislative Assembly. This subject of internal movement of foodstuffs has now attained the dignity of an excuse for a railway muddle and perhaps that may claim for it more attention than any it has been in the power of business or other interests to procure for it. Sir George Rainy said:—

"This year the downwards traffic was much smaller.....

Mr. President: Will the honourable member quote the volume and page of the Assembly Proceedings he is quoting from?

Mr. Owen Roberts: I don't think, Sir, it has yet come in the Official Report. I am however, reading from the *Civil and Military Gazette*, dated 1st March.

"This year the downwards traffic was much smaller and, at the same time, large quantities of wheat imported from Australia had to be moved upwards from Calcutta. The scarcity condition had at the same time brought about another abnormal movement of traffic, large quantities of fodder having to be moved into the United Provinces from the South-East. Giving figures illustrating the abnormality of the traffic with which the railways have had to deal Sir George said that the import of wheat in Calcutta in December and January were 143,000 tons, whereas no wheat at all was imported in the corresponding period of 1927-28. From December 1 to February, 2, 52,000 tons of wheat were despatched from Calcutta

and large quantities still remained to be moved. The important traffic in rice and sugar was, he said, also heavier. No less than 31,000 tons of rice were despatched up country as compared with less than 6,000 tons in 1927-28. The root cause of the present difficulties was to be found in the conditions prevailing in the United Province as a result of the partial failure of the wheat crop last spring and the scantiness of monsoon rainfall. Instead of traffic in agricultural produce moving downwards towards Calcutta it was moving upwards from Calcutta towards the areas in which scarcity prevailed."

With this behind me, Sir, I have no hesitation in saying that the movement of foodstuffs within this province alone to other parts of India during the last season should be over a million tons and it is in respect of these figures that we want statistics which will enable us to learn something about the conditions in respect of food crops moving about the country. Unfortunately, our failure here is symptomatic only, for commercial men feel that whatever interests may receive acknowledgment at the hands of Government they receive none, and theirs is a very unsatisfactory condition indeed. Our flesh is consumed by Municipal taxation on our raw products at the ports, and our bones cast to the wolves of Municipal maladministration in our own province and today we are threatened with an octroi tax or terminal tax at the port on every ounce of kerosine oil required for our needs; and in the face of all this we are absolutely defenceless. I had hoped that we would hear some reference to our condition in the speech of the Honourable the Finance Member; there a reference was made to Industries but nothing about Commerce. In fact, in such small regard are we held that even where Government might take some credit, it did not do so. The honourable the Finance Member in his speech said :—

"Throughout the past 3 years progress has been continuous. Vernacular education has been steadily expanded. Teachers have been trained, schools for girls have been opened and Intermediate Colleges established in various parts of the Province to provide further facilities for higher education."

Government here might have claimed some small credit for the establishment of commercial classes in the Province. These are laying a useful foundation and here at least opportunity and example are knocking at our door. Just outside the confines of Lahore Cantonment there is rising to-day a large Railway School which will cost 8 lakhs of rupees to build and equip, and, Sir, however important a railway may be it is a very small affair compared with the entire movement of commerce which supports it, this is the example. Opportunity lies in the direction of developing our own premier commercial institution, the Hailey College. There is a report on the subject before the Committee of the College now, calling for considerable expenditure immediately; funds are required not to enlarge it as a scheme, but merely to carry out obligations that it has already taken up. I sincerely hope that an attempt will be made to give it the necessary funds.

But to return to my statistics. These statistical figures would I understand cost the province some Rs. 20,000 to produce. The Government of India which used to be responsible for their production discontinued them in that wave of reducing everything that took place after the war. This may be high finance but I would like to put some aspects of this high finance before the Council. At about the same time, this Government and the Railway started out with schemes for the erection of colonies for officers. One of these colonies not only had the work on it stopped, but the work already

[Mr. Owen Roberts.]

done had to be allowed to fall into disuse and disrepair. Looked at through provincial spectacles I may sum up the result in a sentence. The colony which was financed by the Central Government is known and very deservedly known as Mayo Gardens, the other as Sodom and Gomorroh, the Cities of desolation.

Another item; a few days ago flaming headlines announced to us at our breakfast tables, a surplus of 10¾ crores on the Railway budget. But, Sir, notwithstanding this I still find a provision in our budget of Rs. 7,90,000 for Railway police.

I do not intend to go into the niceties of this question, but I must say that it can only be justified on the general lines that having suffered ourselves to have a railway, we must apparently foot the bill.

One more; I am wondering whether there is anything in this year's budget about it. The question has risen in this Province more than once in connection with the provision of over-bridges. To-day an over-bridge is very urgently required at Moghalpura station and the attitude of the Railway is that they are prepared to finance half the scheme and that we must finance the other half. I submit that this is a totally wrong view to take. If the Railway creates a condition of affairs where the Provincial Government considers it necessary for purposes of the safety and convenience of the public to call for an over-bridge, that bridge should come out of Railway Revenues.

When it is remembered that the Railway draws its revenue from the Province and applies it wholly to its own purposes, it is only right that it should meet every obligation that its presence brings into existence.

Unfortunately, Sir, our disadvantages are not merely fiscal. There is an institution known as the Railway Advisory Committee, and not very long ago, a case came up before it of a mistake—or it was not possibly a mistake—but just a case and one of other similar cases—that was made with regard to the railway station at Pattoki. The Railway station had been constructed at maximum of inconvenience to the local inhabitants and the local inhabitants were asking that it should be altered or that something should be done to consider their side of the question. The Railway authorities placed themselves behind the statement that they had submitted their plan to the civil authorities and no objection was raised. I saw the remedy suggested by the people of Pattoki and I quite agree with the Agent that the remedy suggested was impossible; the correct remedy would cost a great deal of money but one would like to know how this confusion arose, or how it was possible for a Railway Station to be so constructed. This same question brought up another. It was suggested to the Agent that in future all proposals regarding new stations, lines and alignments of new railways should be put before the Advisory Committee. He objected, and again I agree that he was correct in doing so and that because I do not think the Advisory Committee as constituted today, a proper body to bind either this assembly or the Province.

And here one discerns some slight hope and that hope arises from liberal thinking railway men. I will read a few lines from the report of the

Indian Railway Conference Association. In this opening speech the President says among other things :—

"India is a continent. We realise in a vague way its immensity and yet the area is not far short of that of the Continent of Europe. The reasons for this failure to realise the size of India is that we all conduct our correspondence in one language, we all adhere to the same set of the rules and regulations and we all—or nearly all—have to beg at a common door for our "sinews of expansion" shall I call it—The Railway Board."

He goes on to say :—

"Just imagine for a moment the reception that would be extended to a proposal that the Railways of Europe should send their Chief Transportation Officers to Rome to discuss many of the Subjects now referred to our Interchange Committees. Yet that is practically what is being done in India to-day."

The split must come and perhaps sooner than any of us imagine. The whole of these provincial or territorial organisations being co-ordinated in the central organisations of similar type to which delegates few in number but great in aggregate from the Provincial organisations will be appointed."

A possible solution may be that each province will have its own Railway Board—its own Railway Conference, Association and its own control of Railway Finance."

Sir, I commend these views and the policy they embody, to the Council.

Khan Bahadur Mian Muhammad Hayat, Qureshi [Shahpur West (Muhammadan) Rural], (Urdu) : Sir, the Honourable the Finance Member and his Secretary have prepared a very lucid and comprehensible budget under adverse conditions. Their efforts deserve our thanks and congratulations. Financially the last year was the worst of its kind. Both the wheat and the cotton crops had failed and the Government was obliged to remit a part of the land revenue and water rate. The remissions in connection with the wheat crop were sufficient but the Government was not equally liberal in the case of the cotton crop. In reply to the representations made by the people it was said that if the whole land revenue were to be remitted Government would not be able to make both ends meet. Perhaps the Government was right. Sir, if the same situation appears again, God forbid it, it will be next to impossible for the zamindars to pay their land revenue and the Government will also have to face grave difficulties. Therefore, we should try to find out some means by which it may become possible to meet such unexpected demands with the least embarrassment. In this connection I may make a suggestion. On page 2 of the Memorandum we find provisions for the Reserve Fund. It was started many years back to meet emergency cases without affecting the ordinary budget. But only a small amount is set apart for this purpose. My suggestion is that a greater sum should be reserved under this head in future. It may be said that although the suggestion is quite acceptable yet we have to find out where that money is to come from. I draw the attention of the House to the item of Extraordinary receipts. It consists of, among other things, the price of the Crown lands. This money has never been utilized for any purpose and a sum of Rs. 8,46,00,000 has accumulated. Out of it if a reasonable amount is transferred to the Reserve Fund both the Government and the zamindars may be saved much of the embarrassment. An objection may be raised that by following this course the amount of interest will increase but let me point out that the money is generally spent on works that yield much profit even after the interest has been deducted. Therefore, this proposal will not prove harmful in any way

[K. B. Mian Muhammad Hayat Qureshi.]
and I request the Government to adopt it so that a long-standing difficulty may be removed. During the previous years it was expected that the abiana and the land revenue would be reduced to some extent but the Government could not do that. If the present conditions are allowed to continue it will be necessary to impose some new tax or find some other source of income. Therefore, we should try to find some ways to augment the income and decrease the expenses. In this connection too I wish to offer some suggestions. The greatest source of our income is land revenue and I am sure that if necessary efforts are made there are many possibilities in this direction. At present quite a number of schemes like the Bhakra Dam Scheme, the Thal Project, the Jallalpur and the Haveliau Project, etc., are under the consideration of the Government. The Council also is very keen about them. I submit that if these schemes are completed the Government can expect a very considerable increase in its income by way of land revenue and water rate. I admit that the Punjab Government is not to blame for the postponement of these schemes and also that it is the Bombay Government that is the cause of all the delay. This also is a fact that the Punjab Government is as anxious to see these schemes mature as any one of us. What I want to suggest to the Government is that when making a representation to the Government of India, it should be made clear to them that if these schemes are not allowed to be taken in hand, the Punjab Government will not be able to make both ends meet. Thus by the completion of these schemes we can hope to considerably augment our income without having recourse to new taxes.

Another source of income may be also pointed out. It may not be expected to yield any large sums of money, but I may assure the Government that the income accruing from it will not be absolutely negligible. At present there is a large number of trees on the banks of various canals which if sold properly will fetch quite an appreciable sum of money every year. I suggest, Sir, that if the Irrigation Department is already overworked and, therefore, cannot undertake this additional work, the trees may be handed over to the District Boards concerned. They will make good income by the sale of these trees and the Government can compensate itself by stopping or reducing the grants of these District Boards. I may mention here that in the Shahpur District the Board gets many thousand rupees yearly by the sale of trees on a single road. But if the trees cannot be handed over to the District Boards and the Irrigation Department is prepared to undertake the work itself, so much the better.

Now I come to the question of reduction in expenditure. It is well known that the greater part of money is spent on the various branches of the Public Works Department. Therefore, the heads of all the branches of this department should try to reduce the expenses of their respective branches as much as possible. Let me quote an instance to show how careless the department is with regard to money. In my district a high school was to be built. The Public Works Department prepared an estimate of expenditure and then tenders were invited for the purpose. You will be surprised to hear that the contractor whose tender has been accepted has undertaken to finish the work for an amount of 15 per cent., less than that estimated by the Public Works Department.

Surely the contractor would not have been willing to undertake the work if there were no hope of a good profit. Therefore, the only conclusion is that the estimates were not prepared carefully. If the heads of various branches cannot help the Government a committee may be appointed to examine all expenditure in the Department.

Pandit Mehr Chand [Jullundur-*cum*-Ludhiana (Non-Muhammadan Rural]: Sir, I rise to say something about one of the most important subjects that can raise the standard of the nation. In this connection, I see that there are about Rs. 9,51,000 for the maintenance of primary schools and about 1 lakh for buildings. In a province, in such a big province as this, this amount I will consider as very insufficient for primary education. There is a demand for mass education all round and if I am permitted, I may say that the condition of primary education in villages is far from satisfactory. I would very respectfully urge upon the Director of Public Instruction the desirability of improving primary education in the villages. In their Administration report it has already been admitted that there are primary schools that are under-staffed. In these schools for the young generation that has to take charge of the country which is going to have responsible Government, you find the education of the children very sadly neglected; there are a very large number of boys and an inadequate supply of teachers. And it would not be out of place if I draw the attention of the Minister for Education as well as that of the Director of Public Instruction to this very sad feature of affairs. Moreover, there is a sort of rush of lower middle schools, as will appear from the Report, page 62, while the supply of teachers is quite inadequate. I submit, Sir, that it would be a very happy feature of the scheme if the number of lower middle schools were increased and a sufficient number of teachers to maintain them and to carry on the right sort of work were provided.

Another feature I would like to state here before the House is the deterioration of the physique of the student community. It is a very sad feature. Wherever you go you find students deteriorating in physique. Therefore, I would request the House to reserve some money for playgrounds to be used by high schools and middle schools. It is said that in villages boys get good fields to play, but I do not agree. Even in villages when the boys go to play you find very dusty fields where they play and this simply tends to ruin their health. Where the boys play there are often storms of dust which make the boys susceptible to tuberculosis just at the stage where it will prove dangerous. Therefore, I would very respectfully urge the House to reserve some money for playgrounds for these schools as they reserve for the university colleges. If there is some strong reason before the House to reserve money for colleges for their playgrounds, for their laboratories, for their libraries, I see no reason why the House should not reserve some money for playgrounds for these high schools.

Then if you tour in the province, you will find few schools at least few Government or district board schools, where depressed class students are reading. There are very few schools for the depressed classes. Therefore, in the near future and under the present circumstances it is idle to hope that the standard of the depressed classes would be raised and that they

[Pandit Mehr Chand.]
would be in a position to co-operate with us when responsible Government is given to us. It is very necessary that we should make every effort to provide some scholarships for the depressed class students as well as to create some schools for their education in every district where they have to live.

There is another thing. In the Lahore colleges you have military training, but the mufassil colleges do not have it. Therefore, I would request the Honourable Minister for Education to consider this problem. There is no reason why mufassal colleges should not take their share especially at this time when the Assembly has passed a resolution that training in the use of the rifle should be allowed in colleges so that students should be prepared to take part in the defence of their country if need be.

Another point which I will place before the House is that the communal institutions have done much to fight illiteracy in the province and this is one of the happy features of the affair. All these institutions if properly financed, if properly guided, if properly managed, I think, will produce very good citizens and this private enterprise in education if encouraged will decrease the expenditure of the Government and the people will be in a better position to do their own work on their own lines.

Along with this, I should like to draw the attention of the House towards the Indian systems of treatment, the *Unani* and the *Ayurvedic* systems of medicine. Both of these seem to be neglected. Both these systems suit the people and unfortunately both these systems are not being supported as much as they ought to have been.

With these remarks I resume my seat.

Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram [South-East Rohtak (Non-Muhammadans), Rural]: Sir, the sources of provincial revenues are very inelastic and therefore they do not afford the same amount of variation either on the side of receipts or on the side of expenditure as might be the case if these sources were of a different character. Neither the provincial Government nor the provincial Legislature is in a position to impose taxes of a nature which could be changed according to the changing circumstances of particular years. Necessarily therefore, there can be no spectacular changes in the budget and the budget remains more or less a dull document and naturally fails to excite any keen interest in the members. The only factor which really succeeded in creating some sort of interest among the members has disappeared. That factor was the remission by instalments of the provincial contribution. Now the chief source of provincial revenues centres round land. The taxation on land is guided by certain executive rules which it is not easy to change and which perhaps Government would not find it practicable to change. Thus, our resources are of so inelastic a nature that we cannot give our budgets a shape which will create any enthusiasm or any desire for a careful analysis among the members. However, the Honourable Member for Finance and his able Secretary have been able to place before the House a very lucid statement relating to the budget and very clear notes which will enable the members to understand, to some extent, the figures relating to the activities of Government in various spheres. Unfortunately the last two years have been years of misfortune. In 1927-28 there was a failure of cotton crop, and remissions to the extent, I think, of about 40 lakhs, had to be made. That year was followed by

another year of misfortune in which we had a partial failure of rabi crop and also a partial failure of kharif crop which again necessitated huge remissions and suspensions. In these circumstances the Honourable Member for Finance has naturally prepared his budget in a spirit of restraint and caution, and we may rightly congratulate him on the fact that even in these discouraging circumstances he has been able to prepare a budget with a surplus, a modest surplus, no doubt, but still a surplus. The figures that appear in the notes are such that they place a very great strain on the mental capacity of people who are not acquainted with the rules of budget making, and it becomes very difficult for ordinary private members of the Council to offer any intelligent criticism on those figures. I should like myself to understand the significance of certain figures that appear in the statement on page 2. I have tried to understand them. I presume they are correct, they must be correct because they have had to pass through so many expert hands. But I find it difficult to follow them. Take, for instance, the figures for extraordinary receipts for 1928-29. The balance from previous years was 6,55 lakhs. According to the budget estimates the receipts from this source were to be 152 lakhs. The total ought to have been 8,07. This is shown as 8,81. The next line, as a matter of fact, shows this total correctly. According to the modified grant the estimate of receipts remains the same, 1,52 lakhs, and the previous balance is the same, and the total is shown correctly to be 807 lakhs. I have not been able to understand why such a discrepancy between the two totals should exist. There may be some sort of an explanation, which will, I hope, be forthcoming at the proper time. But I have not been able to understand how these figures can be reconciled. Then again there is another set of figures that relates to ordinary revenue account for the same year. The general revenue balance in the revenue account from previous years was 1,28 lakhs. The budget estimate for 1928-29 was minus 47 ; this was a deficit budget and the amount of deficit for the year was minus 47. The balance then according to the budget estimates for 1928-29 ought to have been 81. This is shown as 79. If we just take up the figures in the next line we have figures relating to 1928-29 (modified grant). According to the modified grant, the deficit was expected to be 27 lakhs and the resulting balance is correctly shown as 1,01. Similarly the next line relating to the revised estimates of 1928-29. There the deficit for the year is expected to be 65 lakhs, and the resulting balance is correctly shown as 63 lakhs. The figures which I have not been able to understand are figures relating to the budget estimate for 1928-29 under the various heads just referred to.

Then there is another set of figures which is very bewildering indeed. In the revenue reserve fund, 1926-27, you put in 20 lakhs, take out 10 lakhs, the resulting balance is 10 lakhs. That is correct. In 1927-28 according to the revised estimate, 15 lakhs were to be put in this fund and the balance is correctly shown as 25 lakhs. The accounts of 1927-28 also show the balance correctly, because you actually put in 15 lakhs, take out 1½ lakhs and the balance is correctly shown as 23½ lakhs. But, take the budget figures for 1928-29. You propose to put in 15 lakhs and show the balance to be 40 lakhs. This I have not been able to understand, because this additional 15 lakhs with the actuals of 1927-28 gives you a balance of 38½ lakhs. Then the figures in the next line also seem to be incorrect because according to the modified grant, you propose to put in the same 15 lakhs and show a balance

[R. S. Chaudhri Chhotu Ram.]
of 88 lakhs which should be 88½ lakhs. The revised estimate of these figures seems to be correct, because at the end you decide to put in only ½ lakh which together with the actuals of 1927-28 gives the correct balance of 24 lakhs. These figures to which I have made a reference have baffled me, and I hope the Finance Secretary would be able to throw some light on these figures. As my time is limited and there are indications that the time limit that has been set will be rather strictly enforced, I should like to pass on to some other figures.

The memorandum that has been placed in the hands of the members of the Council would have us believe that the forecast of financial resources and requirements which was presented to the Council in November 1927 is likely to prove incorrect, and therefore the Finance Secretary thinks that either the course of development will have to be checked or fresh taxation will have to be imposed. Some of the private members who have spoken so far have in consequence taken a pessimistic view of the budget, but I do not take the same pessimistic view of the future prospects of our finances as has been put forward by the Finance Secretary in the memorandum. I will take up some of the figures and show that though, as a matter of fact, receipts have fallen short of the expectations which were formed in 1927, yet the reason is that we are at present dealing with figures of abnormal years and unless we are to assume that these abnormal years will continue to recur in succession, we have no reason to think that the provincial revenues will deteriorate to an extent which will make it necessary either to check development or to impose fresh taxes. There is no warrant for such an assumption.

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang: Sir, I rise at this stage just to ask for a ruling. It does not appear that many members are anxious to speak and there have been two days allotted for the general discussion. In the circumstances, is it necessary that this time limit of 15 minutes should be strictly enforced?

Mr. President: Last year as well as the year before, some members grumbled that they did not get opportunity to participate in the general discussion of the budget. Therefore, I decided to prescribe a time limit to enable all members who wished to speak to get an opportunity to do so. Some members do not wish to speak to-day, and have intimated that they will speak to-morrow. I cannot help this. Last year the Government members took part in the debate and four or five of them made speeches. This year not one of them has spoken so far. There are 74 elected members and in all 94 members in the Council. So, I fixed the time limit of 15 minutes to enable more members than in the past to take part in the discussion. The Council sits practically only for three hours a day and 15 minutes per member means 12 members per day. Again, the Honourable Finance Member has the general right of reply at the end of the discussion. In view of all this, I thought it necessary to prescribe a time limit and I see no reason to alter it simply because some honourable members have not attended or chosen to speak to-day.

Pandit Nanak Chand [Hoshiarpur (Non-Muhammadan), Rural]: Sir, I rise to congratulate the Honourable the Finance Member for having presented a budget which is at least clear if not very encouraging. Sir, in the first

instance, I wish to charge the Government with having ignored the best interests of the tax-payers by not remitting the items of taxation imposed in the year 1924. And I submit I can make out a strong case for this plea by reference to the memorandum which has been placed in our hands explaining the budget. Sir, it will be seen at page 2 of the Memorandum that there was a deficit at the close of the year 1921-22 and that a temporary loan of Rs. one crore was obtained from the Government of India to balance the account. This loan was repaid in the year 1923-24. Now, this sum of one crore which was taken as a loan and which has now been returned, I submit, should not have been returned. For, the Punjab Government had deposited with the Government of India during the pre-Reform days one crore of rupees, and up to this time we have been obtaining Rs. 3·50 lakhs as interest thereon. It was absolutely wrong on the part of the Punjab Government to have repaid that loan for the money really belonged to the Punjab Government. I would ask the Honourable the Finance Member to explain why when there was a deficit here, when the Province wanted money, this money was given back to the Government of India—the money which belonged to the people of the Punjab. Then, Sir, it will be found from the same memorandum at page 2 that the Punjab Government paid Rs. 52 lakhs out of the Provincial Loan Account due to the Government of India in 1921-22. "The Provincial Loan Account became wholly Provincial from 1921-22, and the sum of Rs. 52,89,000 is the amount to be recovered and credited to Provincial Revenues." Here again instead of paying this money to the Government of India, it ought to have been kept in order to get a part of that amount which was with the Government of India. Secondly, instead of paying this money to the Government of India in a lump sum, this Government ought to have paid it in long term instalments. This has not been done. Then, Sir, we find that in 1924 certain additional taxation was imposed on the people of the Punjab in the form of court-fees, stamp fees and fees for motor vehicles. There was also an increase in the water-rates, abiana about which we hear so much, to the tune of Rs. 75 lakhs. Then, Sir, we were contributing to the Government of India a sum of Rs. 1,75 lakhs. The memorandum mentions at page 3 that in the year 1925-26 the revenue ran to the highest point and if you calculate all these figures you will find how strong the position of the Punjab was financially. The Government was very kind to us then and tried to make a remission partially, of the taxation on the people. I submit that the Government could have wholly remitted the entire taxation which was imposed under financial stress. Why was that not done? You find that we had prosperity budgets before this budget and there were actually savings from the revenues. The Government instead of applying these savings to the remission of taxation employed these savings for capital purposes which was wholly illegal and unconstitutional. It is laid down in the book which I was reading the other day—"*The Financial System of India*" by Gian Chand,—a very good book which honourable members should read—

> "The accumulation of the surpluses and swelling of the treasury balances leads to public extravagance, and should, as Mr. Gokhale pointed out in his trenchant criticism of the Government policy years ago, be avoided either by the remission of taxation, or increase in expenditure on the material and intellectual betterment of the people."

My submission is that these savings should have been utilised by the Government in the remission of taxation. Instead of doing this, the Govern-

[Pandit Nanak Chand.]

ment spent the money on capital works; most of it was spent on capital expenditure, as was explained to us in one of the speeches delivered here, and I submit that this was a wrong thing to do. These savings, as I have said, ought to have been utilised for the remission of taxes. That again has not been done. I submit that these two matters require the careful consideration of Government.

Then, Sir, I have the honour to be a member of the Public Accounts Committee, and it has been our most unpleasant duty to point out year after year instances of over-budgeting in regard to expenditure. Year after year, the Public Accounts Committee of the Punjab Legislative Council has been drawing the attention of the heads of departments to various instances of over-budgeting but no heed is paid and even on the last occasion when we met in Simla there were such instances of over-budgeting in the budget presented for our scrutiny. I wish particularly to point out this fact to the members of the Punjab Legislative Council. I will give one instance which we noticed last year. The demand was brought forward then for nine new agricultural farms. Not one of them was opened but there came a supplementary demand for further sums for the same purpose. A supplementary demand was brought while the amount granted as a main demand by the Council was not at all spent. This instance was pointed out to the gentleman who came to explain and satisfy the Public Accounts Committee and he could not give any satisfactory explanation. These things still persist and there does not seem to be any use on the part of the Public Accounts Committee repeatedly bringing such instances of over-budgeting to the attention of the Government. I refer to this because it is for the Legislative Council to say whether any more stringent action should be taken against these officials who in spite of their repeated reminders and resolutions by the Public Accounts Committee continue to make the same mistakes.

Another thing to note is this, that when there was a huge remission in the Provincial contribution, we thought that the Government would bring as many demands as possible and utilise this remission for the beneficent departments. But I fail to understand why there should be any savings in what are called beneficent departments. A perusal of this budget shows that in the Education Department there was a saving of Rs. 4 lakhs, in Public Health, a saving of Rs. 8 lakhs. Now, when the whole country has been crying for education and more education, I really fail to see why there should have been this saving. With regard to this point, I would endorse the opinion of one of the honourable members who preceded me who stated that the earliest opportunity should be taken for introducing compulsory primary education in the Punjab. And this House has more than once asserted itself and stated in no unmistakable terms that the earliest possible opportunity should be taken to bring an Act introducing compulsory primary education. This should be done. It has been stated on the floor of the House many a time that the people would be prepared to shoulder new burdens, even if fresh taxation were necessary, to undertake it, if only the Act for this purpose were introduced. For, Sir, all our claims for advancement will collapse if the people are not sufficiently educated to take advantage of the opportunities which the Reforms will open out to them.

Then, Sir, if there has been a decrease in the receipts, so far as Land Revenue and Irrigation are concerned, you will find that there has been an increase in Excise and Stamps, which shows that people are drinking more and are more litigious. Then you find at page 10 of the memorandum that the excess under Jails is explained as being due to the large number of prisoners and the rise in price of foodstuffs and the cost of the pecule system. This shows that the number of prisoners has increased and the inference is that crimes are increasing, which ought to open the eyes of this Council and of the Government. It is a state of affairs which should not be tolerated in a province which claims to be advancing rapidly towards self-government.

Further, my submission is that so far as Public Health is concerned there you notice a saving of about 3 lakhs. You know, Sir, that in the Punjab we are generally having epidemics of various kinds and it should be the duty of the Minister to see that the money that is granted by the Punjab Council for Public Health purposes is properly utilized.

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : On a point of order, Sir. There is a mistake in the honourable member's mind. This saving of 3 lakhs was not on account of any money that was granted by the Council for the Public Health Department. That saving was out of the money granted by the Council for the Urban Sanitary Board and Municipalities. If they were not able to spend them it is not the fault of the Public Health Department. The money which the Council granted for meeting the epidemics was all spent.

Pandit Nanak Chand : Very good then. Well, Sir, these are some of the things which have struck me and one thing more which I will mention is with regard to the education of depressed classes and females. Not sufficient money is provided for these two things. With regard to rural education I submit that the Ministry should issue proper circulars to all the Inspectors wherever new schools are opened that they should not insist upon costly pucca buildings. They should only require sanitary buildings, *sanitary* buildings—whether kucha or pucca, that should not be insisted upon. I mean costly buildings should not be insisted upon as the part of a scheme. The Inspectors go about and ask the rural people, people living in villages of the Punjab, to have costly buildings for their schools and the result is that education does not progress at the rate at which it ought to progress.

Mr. President : The honourable member's time is over.

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : May I know, Sir, that if no member of this House is inclined to address the House today, no one will be allowed to address the House tomorrow. Will tomorrow be at our disposal even if the Council breaks up today for want of speakers ? I want to know, Sir, because it seems to me that people are not anxious to speak in spite of the time limit of 15 minutes.

Mr. President : May I read to the learned Doctor and the other members of the Council the relevant portion of the rule on the point ? It is as follows :—

> " On a day to be appointed by the Governor subsequent to the day on which the Budget is presented and for such time as the Governor may allot for this purpose, the Council shall be at liberty to discuss the Budget as a whole or any question of principle involved therein."

[Mr. President.]

Under this rule time has been allotted and the honourable members of the Council are at liberty to discuss the Budget. Time has been allotted by the Governor, not by me. So I cannot reduce it, and if the Council does not wish to discuss the Budget, even then, I must keep the time available.

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang: It suits us. It means that we are at liberty to address the House tomorrow.

Mr. President: Yes, but if the official members who have not spoken today care to participate in the discussion tomorrow, as many non-official members as may wish may not get time to speak.

Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram: Are any Supplementary Demands for Grants in respect of time allowable? (*Laughter*).

Pandit Nanak Chand: May I be permitted to develop one or two points which I merely touched upon, as there is nobody to speak?

Mr. President: Is the honourable member entitled to address the House a second time? Will he please point out the rule or Standing Order under which he can speak again?

Pandit Nanak Chand: Sir, I was the last speaker and nobody has got up after me.

Mr. President: After having resumed his seat without being asked by the Chair to do so, does the honourable member's right to address the House continue?

Pandit Nanak Chand: Sir, I always bow to the orders of the Chair. If you will ask me to sit down I will sit down. But as there is nobody to speak I submit that my speech has not been interrupted and no one has followed me.

Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan: Are we also allowed to resume our speeches?

Pandit Nanak Chand: There has been interruption, Sir, so far as other speeches are concerned.

Captain Sardar Sikandar Hyat Khan: Is the honourable member in possession of the House now, Sir?

Pandit Nanak Chand: Yes, Sir, the honourable President has not ordered me to sit down.

Mr. President: I have asked the honourable gentleman to point out the rule or Standing Order under which he is entitled to address the House a second time.

Pandit Nanak Chand: Well, Sir, there is no rule against it.

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon: Is it not a fact, Sir, that there is no quorum now?

The Bell was rung for 3 minutes, before counting the House.

Mr. President: As there is no quorum, the Council is adjourned till 2 P.M., on the 5th March 1929.

The Council then adjourned till 2 P.M. on Tuesday, the 5th March 1929.

330 PLC—600—6-4-29—SGPP ahore.

PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

3RD SESSION OF THE 3RD PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Tuesday, the 5th March, 1929.

THE Council met at the Council Chamber at two of the Clock. Mr. President in the Chair.

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

MEMORIAL OF GOVERNMENT SERVANTS.

*1902. **Mr. M. A. Ghani:** Will the Chief Secretary be pleased to state—

(*i*) what classes of Government servants memorialised the Government in (*a*) 1925, (*b*) 1926, (*c*) 1927 and (*d*) 1928 in the matter of grievances regarding their conditions of service;

(*ii*) what action has been taken by it to remove those grievances?

Mr. J. G. Beazley: Government regrets that it cannot undertake to supply the honourable member with the information which he seeks. To set forth all the matters in respect of which representations have been made and the orders passed on each representation would involve much labour, and unless at the same time the considerations which guided Government in passing orders were explained the honourable member would not be in a position to appreciate the meaning either of the representations or of the orders passed. If the honourable member has any reason to think that any particular representation has not received due consideration it is open to him to bring the matter to the notice of the head of the department concerned.

PUNJAB TAHSILDARS' ASSOCIATION.

*1903. **Mr. M. A. Ghani:** Will the Honourable Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether any deputation on behalf of the Punjab Tahsildars' Association waited upon the Financial Commissioners in January 1929;

(*b*) if so, what were the chief grievances laid by the deputation before them;

(*c*) what action has been taken by the Government to remove those grievances?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain:

(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Surely the honourable member knows them already.

(*c*) Brought them under consideration.

Mr. M. A. Ghani: With reference to the answer to clause (*b*), I submit I do not know the information, Sir.

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : I understood the honourable member was their Secretary.

Mr. M. A. Ghani : But I was not present then. I want to know the grievances which the deputation put forward.

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : Do I understand the honourable member to say that he is not aware of it though he was their Secretary ?

Mr. M. A. Ghani : Not Secretary, but I do take interest in their association.

REVENUE PATWARIS AND GIRDAWAR QANUNGOS.

*1904. **Mr. M. A. Ghani :** Will the Honourable Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) the amount of the monthly salary of a, (*i*) 1st grade, (*ii*) 2nd grade, (*iii*) 3rd grade, and (*iv*) 4th grade (assistant) revenue patwaris in the Punjab ;

(*b*) the amount of the monthly horse allowance paid to the girdawar qanungo ;

(*c*) the reasons for the equality (if any) of the amounts of (*a*) and (*b*) ?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : (*a*)

	Per mensem. Rs.
I grade patwari	26
II grade patwari	23
III grade patwari	20
Assistant patwari	15

(*b*) Rs. 20 per mensem.

(*c*) The reason for the equality is only a coincidence.

The two rates have nothing to do with each other.

REVENUE PATWARIS.

*1905. **Mr. M. A. Ghani :** Will the Honourable Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the revenue patwaris of the Punjab submitted any memorial to the Government in 1928 ;

(*b*) if so, what were the chief grievances set out in it;

(*c*) what action has been taken by the Government on it ?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Surely the honourable member knows that already.

(*c*) it has been receiving consideration.

GENERAL HOLIDAYS FOR REVENUE PATWARIS.

*1906. **Mr. M. A. Ghani :** Will the Honourable Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the revenue patwaris are not allowed all the general holidays enjoyed by all other Government servants ;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that they are allowed only certain holidays on communal basis;

(*c*) if so, what are the reasons for (*a*) and (*b*)?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) & (*c*) The annual holidays given to all patwaris are every Sunday and eight other days on which important religious festivals fall. Muhammadan patwaris are also allowed 5 other holidays and Hindu Patwaris 4. Further, in certain districts all patwaris are allowed three additional holidays on which important Sikh festivals fall.

Mr. M. A. Ghani: May I ask the reasons for granting holidays on communal basis?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: I understood the patwaris have some communities to which they belong.

PATWARKHANAS.

*1907. **Mr. M. A. Ghani:** Will the Honourable Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that patwaris are put to great trouble for want of Government patwarkhanas;

(*b*) if the answer to the above be in the affirmative, what steps have been taken by the Government to remove the trouble?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: (*a*) No. Patwaris have generally no difficulty in getting suitable houses for their residence. As many as 2,346 patwarkhanas are maintained at Government expense, and in circles in which it is impossible to hire a house Government tries to provide one. The pay of patwaris has of recent years been much increased, and they, like other Government servants, are servants expected to arrange for their own residence.

(*b*) Does not arise.

GIRDAWAR QANUNGOS.

*1908. **Mr. M. A. Ghani:** Will the Honourable Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of girdawar qanungos in the Punjab;

(*b*) the grades of their pay;

(*c*) the number of those recruited from the patwaris?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: (*a*) 501.

(*b*)

	Rs.
First grade	50 per mensem.
Second grade	40 ,,

plus horse allowance at Rs. 20 per mensem.

(*c*) Information regarding the exact number is not available; but according to the rules 67 per cent. of qanungos should be recruited from patwaris.

DISMISSAL OF TEACHERS OF THE DISTRICT BOARD OF MUZAFFARGARH.

*1909. **Shaikh Faiz Muhammad:** (*a*) With reference to answer to the starred question No. 1484,[1] asked in this Council on the 29th November 1928, will the Honourable Minister for Education kindly state under what rules, either under the Punjab Educational Code or the Punjab District Boards Act, he was authorised to direct the dismissal of two teachers of the district Board of Muzaffargarh ?

(*b*) Will the Honourable the Minister kindly state with reference to article 7, Chapter II, of the Punjab Educational Code, if the District Board of Muzaffargarh has delegated any of its powers regarding appointment and dismissal of its vernacular teachers to the Director of Public Instruction or the Divisional Inspector of Schools ?

(*c*) Has the attention of the Honourable Minister for Education been drawn to Rules 1 to 4 of Part V, of the District Board Rules published with the Punjab Government notification No. 3919, dated the 8th February 1926 ?

(*d*) Will the Honourable Minister for Education kindly state under what law he can proceed to take action against a district board which has declined to dismiss two of its Muslim teachers at the request of Ministry of Education ?

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal: (*a*) The honourable member seems to be under a misapprehension as to the action taken by the Director of Public Instruction. The Director of Public Instruction intimated to the Inspector of Schools, Multan Division, that the teachers concerned were not fit to be employed as school masters and that their services should be dispensed with, and the District Board was to be informed accordingly. The Director of Public Instruction further informed the Inspector that Government would not allow a grant in respect of any school in which these teachers might be employed.

(*b*) No.

(*c*) Yes; any action against the teachers concerned will have to be action by the District Board.

(*d*) The honourable member's attention is drawn to article 4 of Chapter II of the Punjab Education Code read with Chapter III of the said Code.

ABIANA ON LANDS IRRIGATED FROM THE CANAL.

*1910. **Khan Bahadur Mian Muhammad Hayat, Qureshi:** Will the Honourable Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the people of Bhalwal in the Shahpur district represented to the Government last year that abiana on lands irrigated from the canal only once should be assessed at *rauni* rates instead of full rates as charged at present ;

(*b*) if the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative what action the Government has taken, or intends to take, on the above representation ?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: (*a*) & (*b*) The matter is under consideration of Government.

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[1]Pages 73-74 *ante*.

PANJOTRA ON LAND REVENUE.

***1911. Khan Bahadur Mian Muhammad Hayat, Qureshi:** Will the Honourable Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the Lambardars have to realize, besides the Land Revenue, the local rates, water rates, and mutation fees, etc;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that the Lambardars get panjotra on land revenue and water rates realised;

(*c*) if the answer to (*a*) and (*b*) above are in the affirmative, why they are not allowed panjotra on all realizations?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: (*a*) & (*b*) Yes.

(*c*) It is one of the duties of a lambardar to collect local rates and mutation fees and this duty is included in the duties for which he is paid panjotra.

SALE OF LANDS OF AGRICULTURISTS IN INSOLVENCY PROCEEDINGS.

***1912. Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram:** Will the Honourable Member for Revenue kindly state—

(*a*) whether Government is aware that the Lahore High Court has recently held that agricultural land belonging to a member of a notified agricultural tribe, who has been declared an insolvent, can be sold by an order of an insolvency court to an agriculturist of the same group;

(*b*) whether any, and if so, how many cases of sale by auction under the orders of insolvency courts have occurred in the province in respect of land belonging to the members of notified agricultural tribes;

(*c*) whether Government intends to take any steps to prevent the lands of statutory agriculturists from being sold in insolvency proceedings?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) & (*c*) The matter is one of very great difficulty; the number of cases falling under this ruling is not yet ascertained; Government would welcome any constructive suggestions that may occur to the honourable member.

DAMAGE TO RABI CROPS BY THE RECENT COLD WAVE.

***1913. Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram:** Will the Honourable Member for Revenue kindly state whether any, and if so, what steps are being taken by Government to ascertain the extent of damage done to rabi crops by the recent cold wave?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: As the honourable member is aware, Government has definite rules on the subject of ascertaining the extent of damage done to any crop by any, what is called, natural calamity, and officers and members of Government are expected

[Hon'ble Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain.]
to keep themselves informed as to action being taken in accordance with the rules.

ALIENATION OF AGRICULTURAL LAND.

*1914. **Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram:** Will the Honourable Member for Revenue kindly state—

(a) whether when the Collector is asked by a civil court to arrange for the payment of decretal money by a temporary alienation of agricultural land, it is customary for the Collector to send for the judgment-debtor before the final order as to the proportion of a judgment-debtor's land to be alienated temporarily or for a term is passed;

(b) whether before the final order for temporary alienation referred to in (a) is made any account is taken of the needs of the family of the judgment-debtor?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain:

(a) No.

(b) Yes.

CANDIDATES FOR THE POST OF SUB-INSPECTOR OF POLICE.

*1915. **Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram:** Will the Honourable Member for Finance kindly state—

(a) the names, qualifications (educational) and tribe of the candidates who were sent up from Rohtak as candidates for the post of sub-inspector of Police;

(b) whether any candidate from Rohtak was selected, and, if so, the name of that candidate?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow: (a) Two candidates were sent up of whom one was a graduate. Government is not prepared to disclose their names.

(b) No.

COURT SUB-INSPECTORS.

*1916. **Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram:** Will the Honourable Member for Finance kindly state—

(a) the number of Court Sub-Inspectors, recruited from among LL.Bs. in the Punjab and the number of Hindus, Muslims and Sikhs among them;

(b) whether among Hindu court sub-inspectors of Police recruited from among law graduates there are any, and if so, how many belonging to notified agriculturists tribes?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow: (a) Total 53, Hindus, 30, Muslims 17 and Sikhs 6.

(b) Five Hindus belonging to notified agriculturist tribes were recruited but 3 resigned their appointments and one was discharged.

OFFICER GRADES OF THE POLICE DEPARTMENT.

*1917. **Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram:** Will the Honourable Member for Finance kindly state—

(a) the proportion of statutory Hindu agriculturists to Hindu non-agriculturists in the cadre of Deputy Superintendents, Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors of Police in the Province;

(b) whether Government intends to increase the representation of statutory Hindu agriculturists in the officer grades of the Police Department?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow: (a) A statement is laid on the table.

(b) Government does not intend to take any special measures in the direction indicated. Direct appointments to the ranks of Deputy Superintendent and Inspector of Police are now rarely made, while in regard to appointments by promotion efficiency must remain the criterion.

STATEMENT.

Rank.	*Agriculturists.*	*Others.*	*Percentage.*
Deputy Superintendent of Police.	1	10	9.1
Inspector of Police ...	8	31	20.5
Sub-Inspector of Police ...	84	174	32.6
Total ...	93	215	30.2

HONORARY MAGISTRATES, GURDASPUR DISTRICT.

*1918. **Shaikh Faiz Muhammad:** Will the Honourable Finance Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the Muslim population of the Gurdaspur district is nearly one-half of the total population of the district;

(b) whether it is a fact that in the district Hindus and Sikhs are less than two-thirds and one-third respectively of the Muslim population;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Muslim population in the district exceeds the population of Hindus and Sikhs put together by more than twenty-five thousand souls;

(d) how many honorary magistrates were in the district on 1st April 1927 and 1st April 1928; and how many of them were Muslims;

(e) whether during the past two years the Muslims of the district represented more than once to the Government that they were unrepresented on the cadre of honorary magistrates of the district;

(f) how many honorary magistrates are now in the district and how many of them are Muslims;

[Shaikh Faiz Muhammad.]

(g) whether the question of equalising the number of Muslim and non-Muslim honorary magistrates in the district is being considered by the Government; and if not, when the Government intends to consider it?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow: (a) Yes.

(b) The proportion is almost exactly one-third and two-thirds respectively.

(c) Yes.

(d) Five honorary magistrates on 1st April 1927 and four on 1st April 1928. There was no Muslim.

(e) Yes.

(f) There all 11 honorary magistrates in all out of whom there are 3 Muslims.

(g) There is no such proposal under the consideration of Government at present.

HONORARY MAGISTRATES, GURDASPUR DISTRICT.

*1919. **Shaikh Faiz Muhammad:** Will the Honourable Finance Member be pleased to state—

(a) how many honorary magistrates in the Gurdaspur district are exercising magisterial powers, (i) singly; and (ii) on benches; and what is the number of Hindu, Sikh and Muslim honorary magistrates falling under each category;

(b) whether Government intends to do away in the district with the system of single magistrates and constitute benches instead;

(c) whether Government intends to appoint one Muslim and one non-Muslim to each bench;

(d) if Government does not intend to do away with the system of single magistrates, how it proposes to equalise the number of Muslim honorary magistrates with the number of Hindu and Sikh honorary magistrates?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow: (a) (i) Seven are exercising individual powers (5 Hindus, 1 Muslim and 1 Christian).

(ii) Four sit on benches (1 Hindu, 1 Sikh and 2 Muslims).

(b), (c) & (d). No such proposals are before Government.

HONORARY MAGISTRATES FOR BATALA.

*1920. **Shaikh Faiz Muhammad:** Will the Honourable Finance Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that Batala is the biggest town in the Gurdaspur district;

(b) if so, what are the reasons (i) for not appointing honorary magistrates for Batala town; (ii) for not appointing any resident of Batala as honorary magistrate?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) No proposals have been received recently from the local officers regarding the appointment of honorary magistrates in Batala.

MUSLIM ZAMINDARS, GURDASPUR DISTRICT.

***1921. Shaikh Faiz Muhammad:** Will the Honourable Revenue Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of zaildars, communitywise in the Gurdaspur district;

(*b*) what steps Government intends to take to raise the number of Muslim zaildars in proportion to their population in the district?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: (*a*) The number of zaildars communitywise in the Gurdaspur district is:—

Hindus	19
Muhammadans	20
Sikhs	21

(*b*) Zaildars are appointed by the Collector, an appeal lying to the Commissioner and the Financial Commissioner, and the principle guiding these officials is that the candidate most fit to carry out the duties be appointed, his fitness being decided among other things by a consideration of the tribal group and the religion of the majority of the inhabitants of the zail.

***1922.** *Cancelled.*

DISTRICT BOARD, GURDASPUR.

***1923. Shaikh Faiz Muhammad:** Will the Honourable Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of elected members communitywise of the district board of Gurdaspur;

(*b*) what steps the Government proposes to take to increase the number of elected Muslim members of the district board in proportion to their population in the district?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon: (*a*)—

Hindus	17
Sikhs	10
Muslims	9

(*b*) Muslims have at present a majority of votes in 15 electoral circles. Of the six appointed members, five are Muslims. It is proposed to enquire whether, according to the latest figures of voting strength, Muslims are under the accepted formula entitled to more than 15 seats. If so, the question of revising the electoral circles will be considered.

HEALTSLEYS AUTOMATIC LOOM.

***1924. Mr. M. A. Ghani:** Will the Honourable Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(*a*) if it is a fact that ten weavers of Jalalpur Jattan have been sent to Surat at Government expense for learning the working of the Healtsleys Automatic looms;

(*b*) if so, why were all the men of one place selected for the work;

(*c*) if it is contemplated to send a similar number of weavers from other weaving centres of the Punjab?

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The honourable member's attention is invited to the reply given to part (*c*) of Council Question No. 24, in March, 1927, wherein it was stated that Government was taking measures to improve the conditions of the weaving industry of the Punjab, and that it was expected that the weavers of Jalalpur Jattan would receive their share of the benefits likely to accrue therefrom. Attention is also invited to paragraph 8 of the Punjab Government's review of the Report on the Department of Industries, dated the 31st March, 1928, wherein it is pointed out that the weavers of Jalalpur Jattan have made commendable efforts towards the revival of their once thriving textile industry, and that their example in forming joint stock organization is worthy of emulation. It was on these considerations that the weavers of Jalalpur Jattan were sent out for training at Surat.

(*c*) Not at, present, but Government is prepared to consider requests from weavers of other places, if the experiment of Jalalpur Jattan is successful and the weavers of other places are in a position to take due advantage of such training.

LICENSES TO NON-MILITARY ASSOCIATIONS FOR TARGET PRACTICE.

***1925. Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang:** (*a*) Will the Honourable Revenue Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether there are any bye-laws regulating the granting of licenses to non-military associations for target practice;

(*b*) if so, will the Government be pleased to lay a copy of these bye-laws on the table?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: The honourable member is referred to the reply given to question No. 978[1], a copy of which is laid on the table.

ESTABLISHMENT OF PANCHAYATS.

***1926. Chaudhri Duli Chand:** Will the Honourable Minister for Local Self-Government kindly state whether the recommendations of a panchayat officer for the establishment of panchayats are sent to Tahsildars for report?

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[1]Page 667 *infra*.

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : The status of a panchayat officer approximates to that of a gazetted officer and his recommendations are submitted direct to the Deputy Commissioner. If the Deputy Commissioner requires further details of revenue or other statistics in connection with an application from any particular area he has to call on the Tahsildar concerned to supply these details as the panchayat officers have no staff of their own to collect such information.

WAR SCHOLARSHIPS.

***1027. Chaudhri Duli Chand :** Will the Honourable Minister for Education kindly state—

(*a*) the budgetted amount and the amount actually spent on war scholarships during the years since 1921-22 ;

(*b*) the reasons if there were savings ;

(*c*) whether brothers and adopted sons are given the benefit of these scholarships now as before ?

(*d*) if not, why ?

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal : (*a*) A statement showing the information desired is laid on the table :—

	Amount provided in the budget.	Amount actually spent.
	Rs.	Rs.
1921-22	78,000	81,267
1922-23	2,22,296	4,61,296
1923-24	4,43,000	4,43,624
1924-25	4,00,000	3,66,444
1925-26	4,00,000	3,68,047
1926-27	4,00,000	3,48,514
1927-28	4,00,000	3,18,017

(*b*) The amount payable under the rules was in some years less than the amount budgetted.

(*c*) Adopted sons have never been eligible under the rules. Military scholarships are awarded on the score of the services of combatant brothers provided that the father is dead. Relaxation of this rule is allowed in special circumstances.

(*d*) Does not arise.

ASSIGNMENTS OF LAND REVENUE.

*1928. **Chaudhri Duli Chand:** Will the Honourable Member for Revenue kindly state—

(a) the number of recipients of life assignments of land revenue in each of the districts of Rohtak, Karnal, Gurgaon and Hissar giving the annual recurring value thereof in each of these districts;

(b) the total number of such recipients in the Punjab with the annual recurring value of their assignments?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: A statement showing the area and the annual value of assignments of land revenue held for 'life or lives' in the districts named and also in the whole province is placed on the table. But the collection of figures showing the number of recipients of such assignments would entail a great amount of labour, which Government does not consider would be proportionate to their value.

Statement showing area and value of land revenue assignments held "for life or lives" (figures corrected up to 30th September, 1928).

District.	Area, in acres.	Annual value in Rupees.
Rohtak	1,281	5,959
Karnal	1,279	1,755
Gurgaon	22	4,755
Hissar	5,235	7,882
Total for the four districts ..	7,817	20,351
Total for the province ..	207,778	3,27,621

MILITARY SCHOLARSHIPS.

*1929. **Chaudhri Duli Chand:** Will the Honourable Minister for Education kindly state—

(a) whether it is a fact that military pensioners who are residents of Jind State receive their pensions and child allowance, etc., from the British Government;

(b) whether the sons of military pensioners resident in Jind State are entitled to military scholarships from provincial revenues;

(c) if so, to whom they should apply for these scholarships?

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal: (a) Military pensioners who are residents of Jind State and who have been granted pensions in respect of service in the Indian Army receive their pensions and child allowance from the Indian Government.

(b) No.

(c) I am not in a position to say.

HONORARY MAGISTRATES.

***1930. Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang:** Will the Honourable Finance Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) the names of the existing honorary magistrates at Bhera;

(*b*) whether it is proposed to make any additions to the number of honorary magistrates at Bhera;

(*c*) if so, who are the gentlemen sought to be appointed;

(*d*) whether they belong to the city of Bhera;

(*e*) what are their educational qualifications?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow: (*a*) The existing members of the bench of honorary magistrates at Bhera are—

(1) Shaikh Fazal Ilahi.

(2) Sayad Pir Badshah.

(*b*) Government is at present considering the proposals of the Commissioner, Rawalpindi, in regard to the constitution of the bench of the honorary magistrates in question.

(*c*), (*d*) & (*e*) Government sees no reason to disclose any recommendations or remarks that may have been made by local officers.

HONORARY MAGISTRATES.

***1931. Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang:** Will the Honourable Member for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the Government has received a memorial from the Bhera public objecting to the appointment of some of the additional honorary magistrates on the ground of their indebtedness and lack of education;

(*b*) if so, what action has the Government taken on the memorial?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow: (*a*) Representations have been received from the Hindu Sabha.

(*b*) The attention of the honourable member is invited to the answer given to part (*b*) of question No. *1930 above.

HONORARY MAGISTRATES.

***1932. Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang:** Will the Honourable Member for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government has received a copy of the resolution passed by the Hindu Sabha of Bhera protesting against the appointment of five Muhammadan honorary magistrates against only two Hindus;

(*b*) if so, what steps does the Government contemplate to take to remove this grievance?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The attention of the honourable member is invited to the answer given to part (*b*) of question No. *1930 above.

NUREWALA MINOR, LOWER JHELUM CANAL.

*1933. **Sayad Mubarik Ali Shah:** Will the Honourable Revenue Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that there is always a complaint regarding the water supply at the tail of Nurewala minor of the Shahpur division of Lower Jhelum Canal;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that in spite of numerous applications and notices from the zamindars at the tail of the said distributary, no improvement is made in this direction by the canal authorities;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that the recent failure of kharif crop at that tail was mostly due to the unsteady and insufficient water supply to the said crops;

(*d*) if the reply to the above be in the affirmative, what action, if any, the Government intends to take to improve the conditions and remedy the grievances of the zamindars at the tail of the said distributary in so far as the water supply is concerned?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: (*a*) There have been complaints about the supply at the tail of the channel.

(*b*) No.

(*c*) There has been no abnormal failure of kharif crops at the tail of the channel recently.

(*d*) Does not arise.

INSOLVENCY CASES.

*1934. **Sayad Mubarik Ali Shah:** Will the Honourable Finance Member please state—

(*a*) the number of insolvency cases in the Jhang district in 1927 and 1928 and their total value;

(*b*) in how many such cases Muslims were appointed as receivers and the total value of such cases?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow: (*a*) & (*b*) The number of cases in 1927 was 22 and in 1928 was 32.

Information as to their total value and as to part (*b*) is being obtained and will be communicated to the honourable member when received.

LITIGANTS OF AHMEDPUR.

*1935. **Sayad Mubarik Ali Shah:** Will the Honourable Finance Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the town of Ahmedpur with the surrounding ilaqa in the Jhang district is at a very long distance from the district headquarters and there is neither regular railway nor motor service nor any pucca or satisfactory katcha road connecting that part of the district with its headquarters;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that the solitary and the nearest court for the ilaqa is the court of a second class magistrate at Shorkot, a distance of more than 25 miles from Ahmedpur ;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that the litigant public and other inhabitants of the ilaqa have to travel a distance of more than 60 miles to attend the business connected with courts even in very small money suits ;

(*d*) whether it is a fact that the journey from Ahmedpur to Jhang during the rainy season is particularly difficult on account of the floods in the Chenab river ;

(*e*) if the answers to above questions be in the affirmative, what steps the Government proposes to take in order to remove the inconvenience and difficulty experienced by the public in this matter ?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow : (*a*), (*b*), (*c*) & (*d*) Yes.

(*e*) Government will consider carefully any proposal, when and if forwarded by local officers.

BURALA BRANCH, LOWER CHENAB CANAL.

***1936. Sayad Mubarik Ali Shah :** Will the Honourable Revenue Member please state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the Burala branch of the Lower Chenab Canal has been recently extended ;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that the area of land commanded since the said extension is proposed to be allotted '*yak-fasiah-abpashi*' (single harvest water supply) as against the full water supply for two harvests allowed to the lands irrigated by this branch prior to the said extension ;

(*c*) if the answer to the above questions be in the affirmative, will the Government kindly state the grounds on which this differentiation is based ?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Irrigation is to be restricted to the Kharif season for the present.

(*c*) Rabi water can only be given to the extensions at the expense of the areas in which irrigation is established. Although the effect on these areas would be very slight, in view of the unfavourable recent harvests, the present is not considered a suitable time for reducing supplies in established areas.

OFFICIAL RECEIVERS.

***1937. Sayad Mubarik Ali Shah :** With reference to my question No. 1522[1] and the answer thereto in the last session of the Council, will the Honourable Finance Member kindly state—

(*a*) why and how is there disparity in the representation of various communities in the appointments of official receivers in the Punjab ;

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[1] Page 97 *ante*.

[Sayad Mubarik Ali Shah.]

(*b*) what steps the Government has taken, or proposes to take, in order to remove this disparity between the Hindu and Muslim elements in this branch of public service?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow: (*a*) Official receivers, of whom there are only fifteen in the Province, are appointed in consideration of their qualifications and not according to the community to which they belong.

(*b*) Does not arise.

HAQ ABPASHI.

***1938. Sayad Mubarik Ali Shah:** Will the Honourable Revenue Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that in the Lower Jhelum and the Lower Chenab Canal areas there are different standards of *haq abpashi* for the new colony and *purani-abadi*;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that this differential treatment works to the great disadvantage of the zamindars and tenants of the old *abadi*;

(*c*) if the answer to parts (*a*) and (*b*) be in the affirmative, what steps the Government intends to take in order to remove this differentiation?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The water allowance is less in the case of the old villages.

(*c*) The differentiation could not be removed without reducing the supply to the colony areas or increasing the supply to the old villages.

The former is not desirable and the latter is not practicable.

REMISSION OF LAND REVENUE AND WATER RATE.

***1939. Sayad Mubarik Ali Shah:** Will the Honourable Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(1) whether it is a fact that half the land revenue and water rate in respect of the last kharif in the Jhang and Shorkot tahsils of the Jhang district has been remitted by the Government on account of the failure of the cotton crop in that district;

(2) whether it is a fact that the cotton crop was generally poor all over the district;

(3) if the answers to parts (1) and (2) be in the affirmative, what steps the Government intends to take with regard to the rest of the district?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: (1) Yes.

(2) Yes.

(3) None: one part was worse than the other.

MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE OF ROHTAK.

*1940. **Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram:** Will the Honourable Minister for Local Self-Government kindly state—

(a) whether election of members to the municipal committee of Rohtak was due in July 1928;

(b) whether the said election has not been held so far, and if so, what are the reasons for the delay;

(c) whether it is a fact that fresh wards were suggested in December 1927;

(d) whether fresh wards have been sanctioned, and if not, what are the reasons for the delay;

(e) when it is expected to hold a fresh election to the municipal committee of Rohtak?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon: (a) Yes.

(b) No. The elections have been delayed owing to the necessity of redistributing wards as a result of the decision to increase the number of members of the committee.

(c) The proposals reached Government in February 1928.

(d) No. The description of the boundaries of wards was not correct and delay has been due to the revision of the description.

(e) As soon as the wards are formed.

APPEALS IN FINANCIAL COMMISSIONERS' COURT.

*1941. **Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram:** Will the Honourable Revenue Member please state—

(a) whether it is the practice in the Financial Commissioners' courts to dispose of appeals without giving the appellant an opportunity of being heard;

(b) whether the allegation contained in (a) is well founded;

(c) what is the provision of law which warrants this practice, and if the practice is unwarranted, whether Government proposes to stop it?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: (a) & (b) No, so far as revenue court cases are concerned.

So far as revenue officers' cases are concerned the Financial Commissioners always summon appellants and hear them, if they think fit. But occasionally they decide, after examining the case, that it is unnecessary to do so, and dismiss the appeals *in limine*. The reason for this practice is that in such cases to call the appellant would only involve him in needless expenditure of time and money.

(c) It is not unwarranted, as there is no provision of law which makes it incumbent on the Financial Commissioners to hear the appellants in revenue officers' cases.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

DISTRICT INSPECTORS OF SCHOOLS, ETC.

960. Shaikh Faiz Muhammad: Will the Honourable Minister for Education kindly state for each district in the Province—

(*a*) the percentage of Muslims in the total population;

(*b*) whether the district inspector of schools is a Muslim or non-Muslim;

(*c*) the number of Muslim and non-Muslim assistant district inspectors of schools;

(*d*) the number of Muslim and non-Muslim headmasters of district board vernacular middle schools at present;

(*e*) the number of Muslim and non-Muslim candidates who passed the vernacular final examination from district board vernacular middle schools in 1928;

(*f*) the number of Muslim and non-Muslim scholars enrolled in the secondary department of all district board vernacular middle schools on 31st March 1928?

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal: The required information is being collected and will be supplied to the honourable member when ready.

EXAMINERS FOR THE VERNACULAR FINAL EXAMINATION.

961. Shaikh Faiz Muhammad: Will the Honourable Minister for Education kindly state—

(*a*) the number of Hindu and Muslim examiners belonging to the Dera Ghazi Khan district appointed for the vernacular final examination this year;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that both the Hindu headmaster and second master of the Jampur Government High School have been appointed as examiners in the vernacular final examination;

(*c*) whether these two gentlemen were recommended by the divisional inspector of schools; if not, by whom they were recommended;

(*d*) how many Hindus and Muslims were recommended by the Multan inspector of schools and how many of them have been appointed as examiners;

(*e*) whether in the Dera Ghazi Khan district any Muslim headmaster, second master, or assistant district inspector of schools has ever been appointed as examiner in a departmental examination;

(*f*) whether it is a fact that the Hindu headmaster of the Jampur Government High School has been appointed examiner in Arithmetic and will receive answer papers from one or two centres in the same district?

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal: (*a*) Two Hindus and two Muhammadans.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) and (*d*) It is not the practice of Government to disclose recommendations of its departmental officers.

(*e*) Yes.

(*f*) Yes.

PROSECUTIONS UNDER TRAFFIC REGULATIONS.

962. Mr. M. A. Ghani: Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state the number of policemen who were (*a*) prosecuted; (*b*) convicted and (*c*) departmentally punished for (*i*) prosecuting people falsely or wrongly under the Traffic Regulations and (*ii*) for giving wrong signals in 1928 in the province?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow: The information asked for is being collected and will be communicated to the honourable member when ready.

CONVICTIONS UNDER TRAFFIC REGULATIONS.

963. Mr. M. A. Ghani: Will the Honourable the Revenue Member be pleased to state the accumulated amount of fine imposed on those who were convicted under the Traffic Regulations in 1928 in the province?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: The information asked for is being collected and will be communicated to the honourable member when ready.

TRADE UNIONS.

964. Mr. M. A. Ghani: Will the Honourable Member for Revenue be pleased to lay on the table a list of the trade unions of (*i*) employees and (*ii*) employers registered under the Indian Trade Unions Act showing the following:—

(*a*) the name of the organisation;

(*b*) the trade, profession, or service to which its members belong;

(*c*) the place of its head office;

(*d*) the number of its members;

(*e*) the amounts of its (*i*) General Fund and (*ii*) Political Fund;

(*f*) the names of its principal office-bearers and their present addresses;

(*g*) the names of its Executives and their present addresses;

(*h*) the date on which the Union applied for registration;

(*i*) the date on which the certificate of registration was issued;

(*j*) in the case of an employees' organisation, whether it is recognised by the employer or not?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: A statement is laid on the table.

[Hon'ble Sir Fazl-i-Husain.]

STATEMENT REGARDING TRADE UNIONS OF EMPLOYEES AND EMPLOYERS.

Serial No.	(a) Name of the organisation.	(b) Trade, Profession or service to which its members belong.	(c) The place of its head office.	(d) The number of its members.	(e) The amount of its (i) General fund, (ii) Political fund.
					Rs.
1	The Punjab Motor Drivers' Union.	Motor Drivers	Hassan Building, Beadon Road, Lahore.	206 (on 31-3-28)	(i) 172-10-9 (as it stood on 31-3-1928). (ii) *Nil.*
2	The Punjab Tonga Workers' Union.	Tonga Drivers	Opposite Dalgar Mosque, Railway Road, Lahore.	239 (on 31-3-28)	(i) 5-10-0 (as it stood on 31-3-1928). (ii) *Nil.*
3	The Upper India Homeopathic Association.	Homeopathic Doctors.	Near Golden Mosque, Lahore	19 (on 31-3-28)	(i) 583-12-9 (as it stood on 31-3-1928). (ii) *Nil.*
4	N. W. Railway Union, Lahore.	N. W. Railway employees.	Brandreth Road, Lahore.	5,000 (on 31-3-28)	(i) Nil. (ii) *Nil.*
5	N. W. Railway Audit Union.	Employees in the Audit Department of N. W. Railway.	Water Works, Lange Mandi, Lahore.	320 (on 31-3-28)	(i) 17-15-0 (as it stood on 31-3-28). (ii) *Nil.*
6	General Workers' Union, N.-W. Railway.	N. W. Railway employees.	Dalgar Mosque, Railway Road, Lahore.	15 (on 31-3-28)	(i) *Nil.* (ii) *Nil.*
7	The Punjab Labour Board.	Labour ..	46, McLeod Road, Lahore.	9 (on the date of registration).	No returns yet received containing this information.
8	Textile Mill Workers' Union, Dhariwal.	Textile Workers.	Dhariwal ..	16 (on the date of registration).	
9	The Electric Supply Co., Ltd., Lahore Workers Union.	Labour employed in the company.	Railway Road, Lahore.	16 (on the date of registration).	
10	The Punjab Mechanical Engineers' Union, Lahore.	Mechanical Engineers.	Dalgar Mosque, Railway Road, Lahore.	18 (on the date of registration).	
11	Punjab Provincial Trade Union Congress.	Labour ..	9, Hall Road, Lahore.	15 (on the date of registration).	
12	Punjab Revenue Patwaris Union.	Punjab Patwaris.	46, McLeod Road, Lahore.	15 (on the date of registration).	
13	The Punjab Christian Labour Union.	Agricultural and Industrial Labour (Christian).	3, Nicholson Road, Lahore.	10 (on the date of registration).	
14	The Central Labour Federation, Punjab.	Labour ..	3, Chamberlain Road, Lahore.	8 (on the date of registration).	
15	The Scavengers' Union, Lahore.	Scavengers	9, Hall Road, Lahore.	17 (on the date of registration).	

STATEMENT REGARDING TRADE UNIONS OF EMPLOYEES AND EMPLOYERS—CONTINUED.

Serial No. of Unions.	(f) & (g)—Principal office-bearers, executives and their present addresses.	
1	Sh. Niaz Muhammad, Advocate, High Court, Lahore	President.
	Mr. Lalchpat Rai, Bogra, Nisbet Road, Lahore ..	Vice-President.
	B. Mula Singh, The Mall, Lahore	Ditto.
	L. Bihari Lal, Mozang, Ahata L. Ladha Mal, Lahore	Ditto.
	M. Abdul Majid, c/o The Bombay Motor and Cycle Agency, Lahore	Ditto.
	L. Sagli Ram, Fane Road, Lahore	General Secretary.
	M. Abdul Rahman, c/o L. Piara Lal, Motor Agents, The Mall, Lahore	Joint Secretary.
	M. Ghulam Mahay-ud-Din, The Mall, Lahore ..	Ditto.
	Mr. Allah Dad Masih, c/o Kinnaird High School, Lahore	Assistant Secretary.
	M. Mohd. Bux, Mozang Road, Lahore	Ditto.
	M. Jiwan Bux, Begum Road, Lahore	Financial Secretary.
2	M. Muhammad Sharif, Ahata Shamas Din, outside Sarai Sultan, Lahore	President.
	Mr. M. D. Akhtar, Kundigaran Street, Lahore ..	General Secretary.
	M. Muhammad Hayat, Mohallah Wali Shah, Qilla Gujar Singh, Lahore	Joint Secretary.
	M. Ghulam Muhammad, 8, Egerton Road, Ahata Shibo Mal, Lahore	Member.
	M. Ata Ullah Shah, Mohalla Bhundpura, Mozang ..	Do.
	L. Paras Ram, Ahata Haji Mohammad Din, Lahore ..	Do.
	L. Kachhoo Ram, Mewa Mandi, Katri M. Abdul Aziz, Lahore	Do.
	Ch. Kalu, Khui Jandiwali, Mozang	Do.
	Mullan Ibrahim, Ahata Deputy Barkat Ali, outside Mochi Gate, Lahore	Do.
	L. Chuhar Mal, Sohel Singh Road, Gwalmandi, Lahore	Do.
	Budhoo, Ahata Haji Qadir Bux, Chamberlain Road, Lahore	Do.
	Faqir Muhammad, Mubarakpura, Mozang ..	Do.
	Ch. Abdullah Khan, Bhoondpura, Mozang ..	Do.
	Ch. Abdulla, Changar Mohallah, Lahore ..	Do.

[Hon'ble Sir Fazl-i-Husain.]

STATEMENT REGARDING THE TRADE UNIONS OF EMPLOYEES AND EMPLOYERS—CONTINUED.

Serial No. of Union.	(f) & (g).—Principal office-bearers, executives, and their present addresses.	
3	Dr. K. C. Hitesh, Hitesh Homeopathic Hall, The Mall, Lahore	President.
	Dr. Nizam-ud-Din, General Homeopathic Pharmacy, Circular Road, Lahore	Vice-President.
	Dr. A. R. D. Gianendra, Near Golden Mosque, Lahore	General Secretary.
	Dr. Sultan Muhammad Ahmady, The Mufid-i-am Hospital, Inside Mochi Gate, Lahore	Secretary.
	Dr. S. M. Iqbal, Kucha Tirgaran, Mochi Gate, Lahore	Financial Secretary.
	Dr. Daulat Singh, Homeopathic Hospital, Wazirabad	Examiner of Accounts.
	Dr. M. S. Muttaqi, Editor, *The Ejaz-i-Masiha*, Ludhiana	Vice-President.
	Dr. Harnam Singh, Nanda, Chakla Bazar, inside Lohari Gate, Lahore	Member
	Dr. N. Rai Gupta, Sutar Mandi, Lahore ..	Do.
	Dr. B. N. Dass, Homeopathic Hall, Old Anarkali, Lahore	Do.
	Dr. Ganga Bishen, Sangrur, Jind	Do.
	Dr. Buttan Singh, Fateh Abad, Amritsar ..	Do.
	Master Shiv Dass, S. D. High School, Lahore ..	Do.
	Mr. C. Essex, c/o *The Civil and Military Gazette*, Lahore	Do.
4	Mr. Radha Kishan, A. Mathrani, Sub-Inspector of Works, N.-W. Railway, Ratl	President.
	Mr. Allah Bakhsh, Train Examiner, Lahore ..	Executive Councillor.
	Mr. Ghulam Hussain, Driver, N.-W. Railway, Ferozepore	Ditto.
	L. Lakshmi Das, Guard, Shorkot	Officiating Executive Councillor.
	M. Muhammad Yusaf Shah, A. S. M., Amritsar ..	Executive Councillor.
	Muhammad Ali, Chargeman, Sukkur	Ditto.
	Bua Ditta, Clerk, Works Manager's Office, Moghalpura	Ditto.
	Allah Bux, Train Examiner, Moghalpura ..	Ditto.
	Mehraj Din, Shed Fitter, Lahore	Ditto.
	Jiwan Das, S. M. Khal, Phemeki	Ditto.

STATEMENT REGARDING THE TRADE UNIONS OF EMPLOYEES AND EMPLOYERS—contd.

Serial No. of Unions.	(f) & (g).—Principal office-bearers, executives and their present addresses.	
4—concld.	Dwarka Nath, Electrician, Quetta	Executive Councillor.
	D. D. Khanna, Station Master, Nowkot	Ditto.
	Hasan Muhammad, Fitter, Carriage and Wagon Shop, Lahore	Ditto.
	Ajwani, Special T. T. E., Karachi	Ditto.
	Jamiat Rai, Luggage Inspector, Rawalpindi	Ditto.
	Teja Singh, Train Examiner, Rawalpindi	Ditto.
	Kahan Singh, P. W. I., Safidon	Ditto.
5	M. Muhammad Bakhsh, Stores Audit Branch, C. A.'s Office, Lahore	President.
	L. Ram Sahai, Workshop Audit Branch, Lahore	Vice-President.
	Pt. Ram Lal, Traffic Audit Branch, Lahore	Ditto.
	Pt. Bhagwan Das, General Audit Branch	General Secretary.
	L. Brij Kishore, Traffic Audit Branch	Secretary.
	Pt. Ram Lal Vaid, Traffic Audit Branch	Treasurer.
6	Dr. Satyapal, Nisbet Road, Lahore	President.
	Mr. M. A. Khan, Chirl Maran Street, Lahore	General Secretary.
	Dr. Muhammad Alam, Egerton Road, Lahore	Member, Working Committee.
	Mr. J. B. Miller, Durand Road	Chief Organiser.
	M. D. Akhtar, Kundigaran Street, Lahore	Secretary.
	Pt. Kanwal Nath, Union Office, Lahore	Propaganda Secretary.
	S. Aroor Singh, Bhatt Gate, Gali Mota Singh	Working Committee.
	T. Webb, Driver, Loco. Quarters	Ditto.
	Mr. Sparks, Guard, Lahore	Ditto.
	Mr. Arnold, Guard, Lahore	Ditto.
	Ghulam Nabi, Workman, C. & W., Moghalpura	Ditto.
	M. Ram Singh, Workman, C. & W., Moghalpura	Ditto.
	Hasam Din, Workman, C. & W., Moghalpura	Ditto.
	Harnam Singh, Loco. Shop, Lahore	Ditto.
	Abdul Hakim, Loco. Shop, Lahore	Ditto.

[Hon'ble Sir Fazl-i-Husain.]

STATEMENT REGARDING THE TRADE UNIONS OF EMPLOYEES AND EMPLOYERS—CONTINUED.

Serial No. of Unions.	(f) & (g).—Principal office-bearers, executives and their present addresses.	
7	Mr. J. B. Miller, 13, Durand Road, Lahore	President.
	J. L. Kapur, Begum Road, Lahore	Senior Vice-President.
	Dr. S. M. Omar, Medical Practitioner, McLeod Road, Lahore	Junior Vice-President.
	Mr. M. A. Ghani, Bar-at-Law, McLeod Road, Lahore	General Secretary.
	Mr. Dharam Bhushan, Outside Shahalmi Gate, Lahore	Joint Secretary.
	M. Ghulam Muhammad, Ekki Gate, Lahore	Assistant Secretary.
	Mr. Abdul Karim, Mozang, Lahore	Financial Secretary.
8	Mr. J. B. Miller, 13, Durand Road, Lahore	President.
	Pt. Kanwal Nath, Union Office, Dhariwal	Secretary.
	Achchar Singh, Dhariwal	Vice-President.
	Durga Das, Dhariwal	Executive Member.
	Muhammad Tufail, Dhariwal	Ditto.
	Charan Das, Dhariwal	Ditto.
	Mangal Singh, Dhariwal	Ditto.
	Ram Parshad, Dhariwal	Ditto.
9	Mr. J. B. Miller, 13, Durand Road, Lahore	President.
	L. Des Raj, New Power House, Shahdara	Vice-President.
	L. Benarsi Das, Gwalmandi, Lahore	Ditto.
	L. Bali Ram, New Power House, Shahdara	Secretary.
	S. Harbajan Singh, Power House, Shahdara	Assistant Secretary.
	Sarjan Singh, Gwalmandi, Lahore	Ditto.
	S. Bhola Singh, New Power House, Shahdara	Treasurer and Accountant.
	S. Harnam Singh, Prem Gali, Lahore	Cashier.
	L. Maghi Ram, Temple Road, Lahore	Member, Working Committee.
	S. Sadhu Singh, New Power House, Shahdara	Ditto.
	S. Sohan Singh, Chhimaran, Mori Gate, Lahore	Ditto.
	L. Harbans Lal, Gwalmandi, Lahore	Ditto.

STATEMENT REGARDING THE TRADE UNIONS OF EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYEES.—CONTINUED.

Serial No. of Unions	(f) & (g).—Principal office-bearers, executives and their present addresses.	
9—*contd.*	L. Thakar Das, Gwalmandi, Lahore	Member, Working Committee.
	L. Bansi Ram, Gwalmandi, Lahore	Ditto.
	M. Ramzan Ali, New Power House, Shahdara	Ditto.
	L. Uttam Chand, Gwalmandi, Lahore	Ditto.
10	Mr. J. B. Miller, 13, Durand Road, Lahore	President.
	A. D. Muhammad Akbar, Amritsar	Vice-President.
	S. Aya Singh, Amritsar	Secretary.
	Mr. Fazal Karim, Amritsar	Assistant Secretary.
	Bahadur Singh, Chiehawatni	Ditto.
	M. Feroz Din, Abolar	Ditto.
	Amar Singh, Nankana Sahib	Ditto.
	Feroz Din, Amritsar	Ditto.
	Chhi Singh, Amritsar	Ditto.
	Habib Ullah Khan	Ditto.
	Muhammad Din, Lahore	Ditto.
	B. Madho Ram, Panipat	Ditto.
	B. Surender Nath, Multan	Ditto.
	B. Dhondi Ram, Lahore	Accountant.
	M. Siraj Din, Kot Radha Kishen	Do.
	M. Maula Bux, Peshawar	Do.
	M. Nazam Din, Sargodha	Do.
	S. Nihal Singh, Bhatinda	Do.
11	Dr. Nam Lal, Fane Road, Lahore	President.
	Mr. J. B. Miller, 13, Durand Road, Lahore	Vice-President.
	Mr. M. A. Khan, Inside Bhati Gate, Lahore	Ditto.
	Dr. K. C. Hitoshi, 5, Hall Road, Lahore	General Secretary.
	Mr. Shiv Das, B.A., B.T., Ram Gali, Lahore	Counsellor and Secretary.
	Mr. Shiv Dial, B. A., LL.B., Shahdara Gate, Lahore	Ditto.
	Dr. Sultan Ahmad, Inside Mochi Gate, Lahore	Chief Organizer.

[Hon'ble Sir Fazl-i-Husain.]

STATEMENT REGARDING THE TRADE UNIONS OF EMPLOYEES AND EMPLOYERS.—concluded.

Serial No. of Union.	(f) & (g).—Principal office-bearers, executives and their present addresses.	
11 —*concld.*	Mr. J. P. McDonald, 31, Temple Road, Lahore	Organizer.
	Giani Sher Singh, Lohari Mandi, Lahore	Assistant Secretary.
	R. C. Sewat, Gwalmandi, Lahore	Ditto.
	N. L. Shanny, Mohalla Jallotian, Lahore	Treasurer.
	Essex, Montgomery Road, Lahore	Councillor.
	Pandit Amar Singh, B.A., LL.B., Bhatti Gate, Lahore	Do.
	M. Kashi Ram, Gujranwala	Do.
	Mr. H. D. Hassan, Chamberlain Road, Lahore	Do.
12	Mr. M. A. Chani, 48, McLeod Road, Lahore	President.
	Pandit Nanak Chand, High Court, Lahore	Vice-President.
	Pandit Basant Ram, Batala	Ditto.
	Muhammad Shafi, care of Qanungo, Shahdara	Joint Secretary.
	R. Hardit Singh, Nankana Sahib	Executive Member.
	Barkat Ram, Tarn Taran	Ditto.
	Munshi Ram, Ambala	Ditto.
	Mushtaq Ahmad, care of Qanungo, Karnal	Ditto.
	Muhammad Bux, Nakodar	Ditto.
	Pir Bux, Gigarwala, Hoshiarpur	Ditto.
	Raja Ram, Moga	Ditto.
13	K. D. Burke, B. A., 3, Nicholson Road, Lahore	President.
	R. Ebenezer, 45, Kashmir Building, McLeod Road, Lahore	General Secretary.
	W. Paul, 41, Mayo Road, Lahore	Financial Secretary.
	DeCruz, c/o Spencer and Co., Lahore	Executive Member.
	Q. Sikandar Khan, Oliver Lodge, McLeod Road, Lahore	Ditto.
	Ch. Barkat Ditt, Martinpore, Sheikhupura	Ditto.
	Mr. Sant Lal, Mayo Road, Lahore	Ditto.
	Ch. Ganga Mal, Martinpore, Sheikhupura	Ditto.
	Ch. Sundar Das, Clarkabad, Lahore	Ditto.

STATEMENT REGARDING THE TRADE UNIONS OF EMPLOYEES AND EMPLOYERS.—CONTINUED.

Serial No. of Union.	(f) & (g)—Principal office-bearers, executives and their present address.	
14	Mr. M. A. Khan, Chiri Maran Street, Lahore	President.
	S. D. Hassan, 3, Chamberlain Road, Lahore	General Secretary.
	M. D. Akhtar, Noor Gali, Lahore	Vice-President.
	Mr. Ebenezer, 45, Kashmir Building, McLeod Road, Lahore	Joint Secretary.
	Dr. R. B. Dewan, Anarkali, Lahore	Treasurer.
	Pt. Kanwal Nath, Railway Road, Lahore	Organising Secretary.
	M. Ghulam Mohi-ud-Din, Mochi Gate, Lahore	Executive Member.
	M. Firoz-ud-Din, Tirgaran Street, Mochi Gate, Lahore	Ditto.
15	Dr. Karam Chand, Hitesahi, 9, Hall Road, Lahore	President and Councillor.
	Ch. Chiragh, Bhatti Gate, Lahore	Vice-President.
	Ch. Fajja, Mochi Gate, Lahore	Ditto.
	Ch. Hari Chand, Mayo Hospital, Lahore	Ditto.
	Ch. Allah Din, Paper Mandi, Lahore	Ditto.
	L. Kanshi Nath, High Court, Lahore	General Secretary.
	Ch. Shadi, Bhatti Gate, Lahore	Secretary.
	Ch. Nathu, Anarkali, Lahore	Assistant Secretary.
	Ch. Nanta, High Court, Lahore	Ditto.
	Ch. Pirn, Gwalmandi, Lahore	Councillor.
	Ch. Buta, Moghal Serai, Lahore	Do.
	Ch. Amir, Mozang	Do.
	Ch. Poosa, Punjab Club	Do.
	Ch. Allah Ditta, Empress Road, Lahore	Do.
	Ch. Fazal Din, Mozang	Do.
	Ch. Tori, Punjab Club	Do.

[Hon'ble Sir Fazl-i-Husain.]

STATEMENT REGARDING THE TRADE UNIONS OF EMPLOYEES AND EMPLOYERS—CONCLUDED.

Serial No. of Unions.	(h). Date on which the Union applied for Registration.	(i) Date on which the certificate was issued.	(j) Whether recognized by employers or not.
1	Not known	28th August 1927.	Information on this point is not required under the provisions of Indian Trade Union Act to be filed with the Registrar, hence not available of the Registrar.
2	26th August 1927 ..	Ditto.	
3	19th April 1927 ..	24th October 1927.	
4	2nd May 1927 ..	1st February 1928.	
5	16th August 1927 ..	29th February 1928.	
6	17th February 1928 ..	4th March 1928.	
7	12th March 1928 ..	2nd April 1928.	
8	19th May 1928 ..	18th August 1928.	
9	14th July 1928 ..	27th August 1928.	
10	12th September 1928 ..	15th September 1928.	
11	28th May 1928 ..	10th October 1928.	
12	2nd September 1927 ..	7th November 1928.	
13	7th November 1928 ..	9th November 1928.	
14	14th March 1928 ..	10th November 1928.	
15	11th December 1928 ..	2nd January 1929.	

GOVERNMENT SERVANTS' UNIONS.

965. Mr. M. A. Ghani: Will the Chief Secretary be pleased to lay on the table a copy of the rules for the recognition of unions of Government servants ?

Mr. J. G. Beazley: The honourable member is referred to part (*b*) of the answer given to his unstarred question No. 967[1] in the session of the Legislative Council held in November 1927.

FREE QUARTERS FOR GOVERNMENT SERVANTS.

966. Mr. M. A. Ghani: Will the Chief Secretary be pleased to lay on the table a list of those Government servants who are provided with free quarters or who are given rent allowance in lieu of free quarters ?

Mr. J. G. Beazley: The attention of the honourable member is invited to rules 4·29 to 4·43 of the Subsidiary Rules (Punjab Financial Handbook, No. 2, Volume II) a copy of which is available in the Council library.

[1]Vol. X-B, page 1123.

PUBLIC PROSECUTOR FOR THE MULTAN DIVISION.

967. Mian Ahmad Yar Khan, Daultana: Will the Honourable Member for Finance kindly state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that there is not a single Mussalman public prosecutor in the whole of the Multan division;

(*b*) if answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, whether there are any special reasons for not appointing Muslim public prosecutors in the Multan division;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that competent Mussalman lawyers are available in every district of the Multan division;

(*d*) when do the terms of the present appointment of various public prosecutors in Multan division expire;

(*e*) whether Government intend to consider the claims of suitable Mussalmans on the expiry of the terms of the present incumbents?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) No.

(*c*) The list of candidates for the post of public prosecutors, maintained in the office of Legal Remembrancer shows that suitable Muhammadan lawyers are available in four districts of the divisions.

(*d*) (1) Dera Ghasi Khan .. .. .. February 1931.
(2) Jhang .. .. .. July 1929.
(3) Lyallpur .. .. .. December 1931.
(4) Montgomery .. .. .. September 1929.
(5) Multan .. .. .. April 1929.

(*e*) Yes. Government carefully considers the claims according to professional capacity and efficiency. It is usual to renew the term of existing incumbents for another term when their work has given satisfaction.

SCHOLARSHIPS.

968. Chaudhri Ram Singh: Will the Honourable Minister for Education be pleased to state the number of scholarships awarded this year to the students who had passed their F. Sc. examination and also the number of marks obtained by each of such students?

The Honourable Mr. Manohar Lal: Information is being collected, and will be supplied to the honourable member when it is ready.

SALE OF LAND OF AGRICULTURISTS IN INSOLVENCY PROCEEDINGS.

969. Pir Akbar Ali: Will the Honourable the Revenue Member please state—

(*i*) whether the Government is aware of the following rulings of the High Court of Judicature at Lahore;

(*a*) Sardarni Dattar Kaur *versus* Ram Rattan and others, I. L. R. Lahore, Vol. I, page 192;

(*b*) Gokal Singh *versus* Shiv Ram, page 186, P. L. R. 1925.

[Pir Akbar Ali.]

(*c*) Jaimal *versus* Chanan, A. I. R. Lahore 1928, page 734.

(*d*) Lachman Singh *versus* Mahant Ramdas, A. I. R., Lahore 1929, page 66;

(*ii*) if the answer to the above be in the affirmative whether the Government is aware of the general complaint among zamindars that under these rulings even the ancestral property of agriculturists can now be sold by an official receiver in discharge of even the unjust debts of the judgment debtors?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: (*i*) Yes.

(*ii*) Attention of the honourable member is drawn to the reply given on the 28th February 1929, to parts (1) and (2) of the Council Question No. 1847[1] (starred).

SUPERIOR PROVINCIAL VETERINARY SERVICE.

970. Pir Akbar Ali: Will the Honourable Minister for Agriculture please state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that there exists a vacancy since last year, in the contemplated Superior Provincial Veterinary Service in the Punjab;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that a certain Punjabi gentleman with English veterinary qualifications (M. R. C. V. S.) at present employed at Bombay Veterinary College applied for the post referred to in question above;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that the applicant referred in the question above had the requisite veterinary qualifications equal to those already employed in the All-Indian Veterinary Service and contemplated Superior Veterinary Service of the Punjab;

(*d*) whether it is a fact that the applicant referred to in part (*b*) was refused the appointment, if so, will the Government be pleased to state reasons for it.

The Honourable Sardar Sir Jogendra Singh: (*a*) An additional post of a Superintendent in the Civil Veterinary Department was sanctioned with effect from the 1st of June 1928 and it has not yet been filled.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) The applicant, referred to in paragraph (*b*), was not appointed to the vacant post. As a matter of principle it is not considered to be in the public interest that the reasons for the acceptance or rejection of a candidate for a post in Government service should be published.

COURTS OF WARDS.

971. Pir Akbar Ali: Will the Honourable Revenue Member please state—

(*a*) how many non-muslim Courts of Wards in the Province are being managed by Muslim Managers;

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[1]Page 538 *ante.*

(*b*) whether a Hindu gentleman has recently been appointed Manager of the Bahak Muslim Court of Ward in the Ferozepore District ?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : (*a*) Three.

(*b*) No.

DISTRICT BOARD, FEROZEPORE.

972. Pir Akbar Ali : Will the Honourable Minister for Local Self-Government please state whether it is a fact that the number of the Muslim elected members of the District Board, Ferozepore, is below their population strength ?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : The honourable member is referred to the reply to unstarred question No. 568.[1]

NON-MILITARY RIFLE SHOOTING CLUBS.

973. Pandit Nanak Chand : Will the Honourable Revenue Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) how many non-military rifle shooting clubs or associations for target practice on miniature and other ranges there are in the province ;

(*b*) how many of them are on miniature ranges and how many are on other ranges ;

(*c*) how many of them are Government or Government aided clubs ;

(*d*) if there be Government aided clubs, what financial aid does the Government give to each club yearly ;

(*e*) whether any of these clubs or associations are registered ; if so, how many ;

(*f*) on what conditions, if any, and on what form the license is given under the Indian Arms Act to these clubs ;

(*g*) names of the clubs or associations and their addresses ?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : The information asked for is being collected and will be communicated to the honourable member when ready.

CANAL TELEGRAPH OFFICES.

974. Sardar Hira Singh : Will the Honourable Revenue Member kindly state—

(*a*) whether the canal telegraph offices on the Upper Bari Doab Canal have been opened for the use of the public as an experimental measure according to the promise made by him in May last ;

(*b*) whether on the result of this experiment Government have any intention of opening telegraph offices on other canals for the use of the public ?

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[1]Vol. XI, page 149.

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Yes, if the experiment is a success.

WATER COURSES ON THE UPPER BARI DOAB CANAL.

975. Sardar Hira Singh: Will the Honourable Revenue Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that owing to the absence of classification of squares of land on the Upper Bari Doab Canal, the water courses on this canal do not run in straight lines;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that on account of this defect the irrigation of this ilaqa is adversely affected;

(*c*) whether it is also a fact that the water courses on other canals run in straight lines;

(*d*) if the answer to the above be in the affirmative, what steps Government intend to take to remove the defect referred to in (*a*) above?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: (*a*) Yes. Except for comparatively recent extensions the greater portion of the Upper Bari Doab Canal has not been demarcated into rectangles.

(*b*) No. On the whole the irrigation is not seriously affected. It may occasionally result in difficulties to individual owners.

(*c*) With the exception of a very few instances, old village land on other canals has not been demarcated into rectangles. Only the crown waste land has been demarcated and a suitable system of water-courses excavated.

(*d*) Such a scheme would most probably be vigorously opposed by the irrigators, because it would not only involve the adjustment of land and the change of old established water-courses, but the recovery from the zamindars of the entire expenditure in connection with the surveys, demarcation and excavation of water-courses.

AMRITSAR-FEROZEPORE ROAD.

976. Sardar Hira Singh: Will the Honourable Minister for Local Self-Government kindly state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that that part of the unmetalled road called the Amritsar-Ferozepore Road, which runs between Kasur and Bhikiwind in the Lahore district, has been metalled by the District Board, Lahore;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that the District Board, Amritsar, is not prepared for several years to come to metal the remaining portion of this road, which lies within its jurisdiction;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that the incomplete metalling of this road causes great hardship to the travelling public;

(*d*) if the answers to the above be in the affirmative, what steps Government intends to take in the matter?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : A report has been called for and the information required by the honourable member will be communicated to him in due course.

GROWTH OF POHLI.

977. Sardar Hira Singh : Will the Honourable Minister for Agriculture please state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the increased growth of *Pohli* (a thorny bush) in the *barani* tracts is causing harm to rabi crops ;

(*b*) if the answer to the above be in the affirmative, what steps Government intend to take to destroy this bush or to make other use of it ?

The Honourable Sardar Sir Jogendra Singh : (*a*) Yes, In some districts.

(*b*) The Agricultural Department initiated an extensive campaign of persuasive propaganda against this weed in August last and every endeavour is being made to induce people to eradicate it. Some District Boards have been persuaded to allot prizes to persons who keep their holdings most free of the weed, and in some districts of the province actual "pohli eradication weeks" have been arranged. The main difficulty is that a single land-owner who does not destroy the weed can allow his land to reinfect the fields of others.

The weed is of no use and burning is the only way of getting rid of it.

LICENSES TO NON-MILITARY ASSOCIATIONS FOR TARGET PRACTICE.

978. Pandit Nanak Chand : Will the Honourable Revenue Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether there are any bye-laws regulating the granting of licenses to non-Military associations for target practice ;

(*b*) if so, whether the Government will lay a copy of these bye-laws on the table ?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : The attention of the honourable member is invited to rule 32 of the Indian Arms Rules, 1924. A copy of rule 32 is placed on the table.

COPY OF RULE 32 OF THE INDIAN ARMS RULES, 1924.

32. *License for the possession and use of firearms for purposes of target practice.*—A license for the possession and use of firearms, for the purpose of target practice, by the members of any military mess or of any club or association may, with the sanction of the Local Government, be granted in form XV in the name of the mess, club or association—

(*a*) in a Presidency town or Rangoon—by the Commissioner of Police, or

(*b*) in any other place by the District Magistrate or by any Sub-Divisional Magistrate specially empowered by the Local Government in that behalf.

BYE-ELECTION OF THATHTHI BHAI CIRCLE.

979. **Pir Akbar Ali:** Will the Honourable Minister for Local Self-Government please state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that a bye-election of Thaththi Bhai circle (Ferozepore District Board) was ordered by Government a long time ago;

(*b*) if the answer to the above be in the affirmative will the Government please state if the said bye-election has so far taken place, if not, why?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) No. The electoral rolls were destroyed by a clerk in the Deputy Commissioner's Office through an oversight. Fresh electoral rolls are now being prepared.

HONORARY MAGISTRATES AT KASUR.

980. **Lala Kesho Ram, Sekhri:** (1) Will the Honourable Finance Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) what is the number of honorary magistrates who constitute the bench at Kasur;

(*b*) how many are Hindus, Muhammadans and Sikhs?

(2) Are there any vacancies in the City Bench of Honorary Magistrates at Kasur?

(3) How does the Government propose to fill those vacancies?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow: (1) (*a*) Four.

(*b*) Two Muhammadans and two Sikhs.

(2) No.

(3) Does not arise.

GRANTS OF LAND.

981. **Sardar Ujjal Singh:** Will the Honourable Member for Revenue, please state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that under orders from Government certain Government officials who received their grants of lands as old residents of Montgomery district surrendered their lands, while a number of other officials were retired from Government service and that in some cases no action was taken;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that two police head-constables, Mubarik Ali and Ahmad Din, who were given grants as old residents of Montgomery district and were at first removed from service have since been re-instated to their former positions and are at the same time enjoying their grants;

(*c*) whether the grants of other such officials remain confiscated and those who were retired from Government service in similar cases have not been re-instated;

(*d*) if the reply to the above parts be in the affirmative will the Government please state the reasons which have led to accord differential treatment in identical cases?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: (*a*) As far as Government is aware no Government officials who were given grants as old residents of Montgomery were made to surrender their grants. Certain other officials, not falling under the category of old residents of Montgomery were, however, either made to retire from service or to surrender their grants.

It is true that in some cases no action was taken, but the honourable member will see from the reply given to Council question No. *1517[1] put by Lala Bodh Raj that no action could be taken against those who had been in possession of their grants for more than three years or where the official concerned had been in service for less than 25 years.

(*b*) Yes. The name of one of the Head Constables is Alim-ud-Din and not as stated in the question.

(*c*) Yes, but such cases are still under the consideration of Government.

(*d*) I have explained this in my reply to part (*a*) of the question.

MUNICIPAL ELECTION PETITION AT KAMALIA.

982. Sardar Ujjal Singh: Will the Honourable Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(1) whether an officer was recently appointed in the Montgomery district to hold enquiries into a municipal election petition at Kamalia;

(2) whether the said officer found that one candidate had received money raised (by subscription) and retired;

(3) whether the said officer dismissed the petition and ordered the petitioner to pay costs to the respondent;

(4) whether receiving money by a candidate as an inducement to withdraw from an election is punishable as a corrupt practice;

(5) if the reply to the above parts be in the affirmative, what action Government intend to take in the matter?

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon: A report has been called for from local officers and the reply will be communicated to the honourable member in due course.

PUBLIC PROSECUTORS.

983. Sardar Ujjal Singh: Will the Honourable Member for Finance please state—

(*a*) the number of accepted candidates of each community for the post of Public Prosecutor in the Province;

(*b*) the number of temporary or special appointments as public prosecutors made during the current year according to each community?

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[1]Vol. 95, page *ante*.

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow: (a)—

Hindus	71
Muslims	81
Sikhs	18

(b) Eight private practitioners (7 Hindus and 1 Muhammadan) have been appointed as special or temporary public prosecutors during the current *financial* year to date. This does not include private practitioners appointed by District Magistrates to conduct particular cases.

ARREST AND DETENTION OF MST. KARAM BHARI.

984. Pir Akbar Ali: Will the Honourable Finance Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that *Mst.* Karam Bhari, resident of Fazilka, district Ferozepore, was arrested on 21st July 1928, as an enticed away woman in a 498, Indian Penal Code case in which she was to appear only as a witness;

(b) if it is a fact that on arrest the said woman was brought to the court of Sardar Rajindar Singh, Tahsildar, Fazilka, on 21st July 1928 and when asked by him to go along with the complainant who was a Hindu she refused to do so;

(c) if it is a fact that the said tahsildar refused to attest the bail bond which the said woman offered for her release and that she was then sent to the judicial lock-up that day;

(d) if it is a fact that next morning on the 22nd the bail bond was again presented to the said tahsildar for attestation and release of the said woman *Mst.* Karam Bhari with an application through a pleader;

(e) if it is a fact that the said magistrate refused to attest the bail bond on the ground that it was Sunday although the application for attestation was presented at the time when he was hearing evidence in cases Crown *versus* Fatta and other cases that day;

(f) if it is a fact that the bail bond of *Mst.* Karam Bhari was not attested till the 24th July when it was done under the orders of the Sub-Divisional Magistrate and that till then she had remained in the lock-up;

(g) if it is a fact that *Mst.* Karam Bhari had brought a complaint against the said Magistrate Sardar Rajindar Singh, Tahsildar, under section 342, Indian Penal Code, on 25th July 1928 in the court of the District Magistrate, Ferozepore.

(h) what action Government has so far taken on the above-mentioned complaint;

(i) if it is a fact that several complaints of corruption were received by the authorities against the said tahsildar during the term of his service in the Ferozepore district;

(k) if it is a fact that he has since been transferred from Fazilka to Muktsar;

(l) if in the interest of better administration it is not desirable to transfer the said tahsildar to some other district?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow: I regret that the answer to this question is not yet ready. It will be supplied to the honourable member when ready.

PUBLIC PROSECUTORS.

985. Lala Bodh Raj: Will the Honourable Member for Finance please lay on the table—

(i) the number of candidates standing on the list of public prosecutors according to each community:

(ii) the number of such candidates as officiated during the year 1928 communitywise?

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow: (i)—

Hindus	71
Muslims	31
Sikhs	16

(ii) 6 Hindus.

1 Muslim (who acted on three different occasions).

No Sikh.

AREA OF IRRIGATED LANDS, LODHRAN TAHSIL.

986. Lala Bodh Raj: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Revenue please state, the area shown as irrigated by canal water by the revenue patwaris as well as by the canal patwaris for kharif 1928 for the following land in Lodhran tehsil:—

(i) Dawaran Village—

Khasra Nos. 353, 354, 394, 686, 395, 570, 580, 589, 1843, 1854, 2009, 2102, 2092, 1572 to 1574, 1578, 1594.

(ii) Dera Jand Village—

Khasra Nos. 279, 288, 312, 360, 391, 397, 424, 368, 364, 749, 757 and 756.

(b) How is the difference in the areas as shown by the canal patwaris and the revenue patwaris explained by the authorities concerned?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: Government is not aware that there is a difference between the two, but if on enquiry finds that this is so, the matter will receive consideration.

CANAL IRRIGATION AND ABIANA.

987. Lala Bodh Raj: Will the Honourable Member for Revenue please state in a tabular form for the villages Lodhran, Dargahpur, Sandiwala, Thada Tahim, Rajapur and Dohrata in Lodhran Tahsil for Kharif 1928;

(*i*) the total area of land commanded by canal-irrigation;

(*ii*) the area actually irrigated;

(*iii*) the amount of abiana levied?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: The information is not available at Headquarters and has necessitated enquiry being made from the local officers and the result is awaited.

The information, as soon as ready, will be communicated to the honourable member.

VILLAGE PATHARMAJRA—DAMAGE BY A RIVULET.

988. Sardar Hari Singh: Will the Honourable Revenue Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the village Patharmajra and its lands in Rupar Tahsil are being damaged by a *naddi* (rivulet);

(*b*) if the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, whether the Government intends to take any action in the matter?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: (*a*) Since the last settlement in 1917, the village of Patharmajra has gained 12 and lost 7 acres of land by the action of the *naddi*.

(*b*) Does not arise.

FAMINE IN HISSAR DISTRICT.

989. Sardar Hari Singh: Will the Honourable Revenue Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that famine is raging in the Hissar district for the last four years?

(*b*) if so, has the Government taken any steps to give relief to the victims of the famine?

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: (*a*) No.

(*b*) Does not arise.

GENERAL DISCUSSION OF THE BUDGET.

Mr. President: The Council will now resume the general discussion on the Budget.

Mr. M. A. Ghani: Sir, it is also my pride and privilege to associate myself with the chorus of congratulations that have been offered to the Honourable Finance Member and his able Secretary for presenting to this House a very lucid and very clear and concise budget for the next year. I really appreciate the great pains that have been taken by the Honourable

Finance Member because I find that the budget and the memoranda are so clear that even a lay man can very easily understand the principles underlying it.

With these preliminary remarks I wish to discuss the budget from only one point of view. That point of view is the point of view of the labouring and depressed classes of this province. From that point of view I find —and anybody who reads these pages from that point of view will come to the irresistible conclusion—that this budget is a most disappointing document. I feel, Sir, that the Honourable Finance Member and the whole of his staff did not take into consideration the grievances and the troubles of the poor labouring classes of this province. I feel, Sir, as if the Government has got no consideration whatever for the labouring classes of the province which are the poorest and the most down-trodden and backward classes of the Punjab. I would like to point out through you, Sir, to the Council that the wage earning classes of this province are to a very great extent the poorest classes of the province and I would like to ask the Government, what they have done up to the present for this wage—earning class. If we turn to page 67 of the budget we find that chaukidars are provided only with a salary of Rs. 12 a month, the assistant patwari is to be given only Rs. 15, the poor chaprasis are to be given only Rs. 14 a month and the grades of the patwaris are from Rs. 20 to Rs. 26, a police constable is to be given Rs. 18 and a compounder is to be given Rs. 30 or so and the clerks get from Rs. 30 to Rs. 60 or so. If we turn to page 165 of the budget we will find that the highest paid official gets Rs. 8,333 a month. So if we compare the lowest paid servant of the Government who gets Rs. 12 and the highest paid official of the Government who gets Rs. 8,333 a month we come to the conclusion that the highest paid official gets more than 700 times the salary paid to the lowest paid official of the Government. I feel Sir, that this state of affairs is not such as I could congratulate this Government on.

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : Does the honourable member consider the patwaris lowest paid officials?

Mr. M. A. Ghani : No, I consider the chaukidars to be so. I would like to acquaint the members of this Council through you, Sir, that in other countries the proportion of pay between the highest paid official and the lowest paid official is not so great as in this country. For instance, we find that in Japan which is not very far from the Punjab, the proportion comes to 1 : 22, in China it is 1 : 32, in Italy it is 1 : 6, in Belgium it is 1 : 5, in Sweden 1 : 5, in Denmark 1 : 5, in France 1 : 12, in Norway 1 : 7, and so forth. I would also give the actual figures of these countries. In Norway the highest paid official gets Rs. 16,665 and the lowest gets Rs. 2,250. In France the highest paid official gets Rs. 30,000 and the lowest paid Rs. 2,375. In Denmark the highest gets Rs. 16,000 and the lowest paid gets Rs. 3,986, in Belgium the highest paid gets Rs. 17,500 and the lowest paid gets Rs. 2,187, in Italy the highest paid gets Rs. 16,200 and the lowest paid gets Rs. 2,850. From these figures it will be seen.....

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : Is that the pay of the chaukidar, this Rs. 2,850?

Mr. M. A. Ghani : That is the minimum salary of the lowest paid official, the figures for chaukidars are not available.

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : In our case it is stated that a chaukidar gets Rs. 12.

Mr. M. A. Ghani : I feel that in this province and in the whole of this country we pay too much to the high officials and too little to the poor low paid officials. Now, Sir, the thing is this that I do not grudge the high salaries of the high officials but I would like that at least a living wage should be paid to the poor servants of the Government.

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : It would be of interest if the honourable member gave references because it is a very interesting subject.

Mr. M. A. Ghani : I would like to point out in connection with this very point that these figures were based I think on the figures obtained from the International Labour Office, Geneva. I have got figures which will show the truth of my statement. Lala Lajpat Rai wrote a book called "England's Debt to India" and at the end of the book he gives these figures as.....

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : Does he give the authority for these figures ?

Mr. M. A. Ghani : Lala Lajpat Rai himself was an authority on the subject.

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : No, no, is there any authority for the figures which he quotes ?

Mr. M. A. Ghani : On page 356 he says :—

"We do not believe there is a single country in the world where the difference between the remuneration allowed to the highest and the lowest officials is so disproportionately marked as in India. Yet we find that there is a tendency still further to increase the salaries of the high officials, European and Indian, while even very slight increases in the salaries of the under-paid lowest servants of the State are most grudgingly given. Moreover, the high officials get allowances almost equal in amount to their salaries. This is not true in the case of the lower officials. The fact is that the British Government in India does not attach enough importance to the common man; his needs are often overlooked in the desire to please the high officials and keep them contented. Considering that every man in India is supposed to have a family the condition of the lowest officials is most miserable, in some cases it almost necessitates corruption. The Government of India must know this, yet they do nothing to remedy the state of affairs. A rise in prices is claimed as a good ground for raising the salaries of the highly paid civilians, but the same weight is not attached to that reason when the question of increasing the salaries of the lower grades arises."

This, Sir, is quite true so far as this province is concerned. I have been doing work for the labouring classes for the last ten years.....

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : Not during the last year.

Mr. M. A. Ghani : No, last year I was away from the province. But for the last ten years I have been requesting the Government to give at least a living wage to its own servants. I press the claims of the lower paid Government servants because people generally take the scales of pay paid to the Government servants by the Government as a standard living wage. Now in a factory or a field where a labourer is engaged if the labourers claim

say Rs. 30 a month, the answer of the owner of the factory or the field is: "Look here, the Government is the greatest capitalistic body." (*At this stage there was some talking in the Chamber.*)

Mr. President: Order, order.

Lala Kesho Ram, Sekhri: There is something wrong with the hall, we cannot hear anything.

Mr. President: The honourable member in charge of the building is absent. When he comes he may be requested to improve the Hall if he can.

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: In the meantime the honourable member has finished.

Mr. President: Not yet. His time is not over yet.

Mr. M. A. Ghani: I would request the Government to take the grievances of the poor servants into consideration. I feel, Sir that thousands and thousands of rupees are given in this budget for education, for making roads and for sanitation and so forth, but before we make roads, we must try to find money to feed the poor people. Of what use are these roads, if the people are starving in this country? Only the other day we found the *Civil and Military Gazette* advocating the cause of the British soldiers who got 2 shillings a day *plus* everything found. We also read in the same paper that the Government had consented to consider the claims of the British soldier. May I humbly submit that if the British soldier cannot live on shillings 2 a day *plus* all found how can a poor chaukidar and how can a poor chaprasi live on Rs. 14 or Rs. 15? With these remarks I would request the Government most humbly to do something for the wage earning classes of the province.

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: And not reduce the salaries of the higher officials?

Mr. M. A. Ghani: No, if possible.

Dr. Mrs. M. C. Shave (Non-official, nominated) *(rising amidst cheers)*: It is with some diffidence that I rise to contribute a woman's quota to the discussion of the Budget. One is urged on all sides to make this, that and the other recommendation to Government, but when one looks through the Budget one realises the difficulties Government has to cope with and the inadequate means at its command for the struggle. My long residence in this town and my work in this city of Lahore, however, have burdened me with two obsessions. One is the expansion and improvement of primary education, and the other the need for sanitary reform.

It has been said that a nation advances on the feet of its little children, and while we permit generation after generation to grow up in insanitary surroundings with careless habits formed in childhood, how can we ever really bring about sanitary reform in this country? The horrible conditions with which the municipality wrestles feebly and half-heartedly in Lahore City will continue to the end of time if we do not strike at the root of the matter by spending generously on our primary schools, equipping them with proper sanitary arrangements, giving children such memories of cleanliness, order, decency, beauty that growing up they will refuse to

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tolerate the conditions they now accept meekly never dreaming that they can be bettered and bettered effectually only by themselves.

The employment of refined women teachers is the first essential in such a programme and I earnestly commend this step to the consideration of Government. (*Applause.*)

Mr. R. Sanderson (Director of Public Instruction): Sir, if I rise to-day it is not to debate a point but to make an appeal. I have listened to many of the speeches of yesterday and to-day, if I may say so, with some slight impatience and occasionally with a little indignation. My reason is that I felt, when the debate touched my department, that it had something of unreality about it; because I know that statements were made which were not in accordance with facts. I do not for a moment suggest that the honourable members were not absolutely honest in what they said; but what I wish to say is that they were not correctly and fully in possession of the knowledge that I have.

It is unfortunate, Sir, that one of the honourable members should have made a speech implying unfairness on the part of my department in allotting grants. Grants given to privately managed schools in all countries that I have studied are based on their earning power; and that earning power is roughly calculated in our code by subtracting the income from fees from the total amount of approved expenditure and paying a percentage of the remainder. It is on this main basic principle that grants are allotted throughout this province. I, therefore, feel that the honourable member who raised this point considered any stick good enough for beating the poor old dog of the Education Department; and that this was unfair when it is not within its competence to alter the disproportionate distribution of grants which I admit does exist. The fairer thing would be for some member to bring forward a clear cut issue as to whether we should not finance certain institutions on a system of doles rather than on earning power.

Now I turn to Sardar Ujjal Singh who said—I have got his exact words and I will read them—that Government has done practically nothing in the way of compulsion. I will quote the figures which are in my possession. In 1920-21 there were 2 school areas under compulsion. The approximate percentage of boys of school going age attending schools was then 35. Up-to-date figures are not yet available, but we certainly have 2,988 areas under compulsion. The percentage of boys is not quite definite, but the figures I have here with me indicate that there are somewhere between 70 and 75 per cent. of boys of school going age in those areas attending school. I hope to better it considerably next year. I have issued instructions to Divisional Inspectors of Schools to think in terms of average attendance instead of enrolment. I think that my order will meet the acceptance of this House.

Then again, we come to a statement made by Risaldar Bahadur Nur Khan. If I did not misunderstand him, he definitely stated that the Honourable Minister for Education, presumably meaning thereby the present Ministry of Education, had placed grave restrictions on military scholarships. He quoted two main points. One was the date of birth for the recipient of a scholarship and the other the restriction that if he wishes to

retain his scholarship he must get a first class in his examinations. This Ministry has been in existence a little over two years. The order regarding the first restriction was passed six years ago. The order regarding the second restriction was passed four or five years ago. Therefore I should like honourable members, before they make statements which cause the Director of Public Instruction considerable inconvenience and mental worry, to try in the first place to verify their facts. I am not debating the point; I am simply making an appeal in the hope that members will omit things of which they are not certain.

There is one other point to be taken up. Pandit Nanak Chand dealt with the question of the education of the depressed classes and made certain statements. I think he must be unaware that throughout some six or eight months last summer I had an officer on special duty studying the whole question of the education of the depressed classes and finding out what we could learn from other provinces. His report is now before Government and I sincerely hope that we shall make some progress in the matter. As regards figures—I am speaking from memory as I was not intending originally to speak to this point—I would say that since the inception of the present system of the Council the number of boys of the depressed classes in our schools has risen by 616 per cent. That does not imply complete indifference on the part of Government.

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang: From 1 to 616 ?

Mr. R. Sanderson: The honourable member has got hold of the weak spot in my argument. However the rise is from about 3,500 to 26,000 odd, which is not so very bad.

Another point which my friend the Pandit from Hoshiarpur made was in connection with compulsory primary education. He declared that we did not do our utmost to introduce compulsory primary education. If he were here at this time I would tell him that he had in his possession then my statement of the probable cost of such a measure. He would find that it is not only financially impossible but administratively impossible to introduce such a scheme at once. We could not provide the buildings, we could not provide the teachers, and there would be a complete breakdown; as it is, it is a very difficult business to keep going at the present pace but the figures that I have quoted in reply to Sardar Ujjal Singh's objection will show that Government is fully alive to this question of compulsion. At the rate at which we are progressing, in ten years' time, I think, we shall see that the Punjab is fairly universally educated. Then to go back.....

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang: Sir, Pandit Nanak Chand is not here, but so far as I remember his speech, what he said was that the department should not insist on costly buildings being erected by the mofussil people if you want to encourage education. That is what he said. We feel that most of the resources are exhausted in erecting buildings and there is nothing left to make education efficient otherwise.

Mr. R. Sanderson: Yet, only yesterday one member asked a question implying that schools should not be housed in *chaupals*. As I said in the beginning, Sir, I am not debating any points. I am simply asking members not to put forward any statements the correctness of which they have not

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ascertained for themselves. It is extremely trying to listen to such statements and it adds, if I may say so, a feeling of unreality to the debate.

Lala Bodh Raj [West Punjab Towns (Non-Muhammadan), Urban]: Sir, the budget that has been presented to us is nothing but a collection of figures received from the heads of departments. My honourable friends according to the usual practice have been very anxious to congratulate the Finance Member on the budget that he has presented to us. He has been so candid and frank in presenting this budget that he has not been able to find out any ways and means for further advance in the next year. If I have to congratulate I can only congratulate him on his frankness and his candidness and we wish that the other Honourable Members for Finance who presented to us the budgets during the last eight years had been so frank and candid. If we are to look into the condition of the poor masses, I should be excused when I say that they stand where they were before the Reforms. We are in the ninth year of the Reforms and the poor people of this province have been so heavily taxed that the revenues of this province have been doubled, but when we examine the actual results of the working of the Reforms and see whether the sanitary conditions of the people have improved or not, whether the educational facilities have been provided to the people to the extent we want or not, and whether the medical relief is within the easy access of each and every man in the province or not, I am sure, Sir, that the departments concerned have failed.

The Honourable the Finance Member in his speech told us that a fair portion of the revenue of the Province is spent on the beneficent departments. There is no doubt that during the last few years a fair portion of the revenue was spent on the beneficent departments but if we compare the figures of 1921-22 allotted for Civil Administration with those allotted for 1929-30, we will find that the figures in that respect show a heavy increase year after year. In 1921-22, the first year of the Reforms, the total amount of expenditure was something about 10,69 lakhs and the sum spent on Civil Administration was about 2,89 lakhs. In the budget we have before us, the expenditure that has been charged to revenue is 11,18 lakhs and out of this sum Civil Administration gets 3,47 lakhs. If the same proportion were to be maintained, the figure should have stood at 3,01 lakhs. Even according to the simple method of calculation it will be found that the Civil Administration has got more than its due share. In the beneficent departments, the only department that is most neglected, and is receiving a step-motherly treatment at the hands of the Government is the department of Industries. The amount that is allotted to it does not represent even 1 per cent. of the total revenue. And in his speech, the Honourable the Finance Member told us:

> "Among the more striking manifestations of the activities on which the Department of Industries has embarked, may be mentioned the up-to-date weaving factory at Shahdara and the steps which are being taken to assist financially in the establishment of a company for the production of sugar in a factory to be equipped with the latest appliances."

This is the only work that has been done in the Department of Industries, the only thing that can be said to the credit of the Honourable the Finance Member or other Members of Government. And the question is whether this development in the department has been enough to provide

cheap bread and butter for the poor masses of the province. If we just look at the conditions prevalent in the Province a few years before the introduction of the Reforms, we will find that although in this Province new areas have been colonised, and a network of canals opened, the people as a whole are not prospering so well as one would imagine. I remember that when I was a school boy, wheat was selling at 16 or 20 seers a rupee; but now with the extensive colonisation schemes by which new lands are brought under cultivation, and with the network of canals, the poor man in the street cannot have wheat even at the rate of 8 seers per rupee. In this state of affairs can we say that the Province is advancing or that the Government is doing something for the advancement of the poor people of this country? It may be that the Province might have advanced in the direction of providing high salaries for the chosen few, for providing palatial buildings for a few of them. Sir, we are playing the part of a host who has got nothing himself to eat, and who cannot provide his relations or his brothers, but affords dainty dishes and palatial houses for the strangerguests who have come from a long distance. The people of this Province do not want to pay these high salaries to their officials, nor do they want that they should be housed in such palatial residences. What they want is bread and butter for themselves. I am sorry, Sir, that the Honourable the Finance Member in his speech has not been able to tell us how he has met these elementary needs of the people of this Province. He has, however, stated that because we are passing through an adverse year so far as the provincial finances are concerned, he is in a fix to find out ways and means for the advance and welfare of the people of this Province. He has asked us to stay where we were last year and he has given us a warning that we shall have either to find out other ways and means for augmenting the resources of the Province or we shall have to make rigid economy in the expenditure by retrenching it. There is no doubt that we have been given this warning and we have been crying over and over from these benches that the administration is getting top-heavy, that the people of this Province are already sufficiently taxed that they cannot bear any further burden of taxation and the only alternative left to us is to find out whether there are possibilities of retrenchment. I have gone through the whole speech of the Honourable the Finance Member but I have not been able to find out in any department or in relation to any head of expenditure if the Honourable the Finance Member has suggested any such possibility. The only thing that he has told us is that the programme under Civil Works has been retrenched and that the expenditure on new schemes was not placed in the budget. What the new schemes were, and what, the old ones, they are not before us. (*Mr. Penny*: Please look up the schedules of expenditure.) Sir, new expenditure of about 25 lakhs or so has been reserved for the beneficent departments, about 18 lakhs for buildings and roads, and the balance of new expenditure of 65 lakhs relates to such few schemes as are already in hand. The Honourable the Finance Member states in his speech that the new expenditure proposed to be incurred is only new in the technical sense. At page 5 of his speech, he says:

> "It has been impossible this year to launch new schemes of development, and much of the new expenditure is only new in the technical sense."

It is true, therefore, that we are asked to contribute 61 lakhs towards the expenditure of a new kind but we are not given any corresponding

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advantage in the form of any new schemes. Although with the colonisation of new areas one would have hoped that there would be a little more expansion in irrigation, the fact is that with the increase of colonisation, new markets have been opened for the export of raw material to foreign countries. It would have been better if the Government had taken some steps to collect the raw materials of the Province and turn them into finished goods. The problem of unemployment is getting more and more acute every day. Beyond the appointment of a committee to go into the question and allowing the report of that committee to lie in the shelves of the Government without in any way trying to give any practical effect to the findings of that committee, nothing has been done by Government. If such is the state of affairs, I fail to see what is there in the budget for us to congratulate the Honourable the Finance Member or any other member of Government.

Mr. President: Order, order, the honourable member's time is over.

Rai Bahadur Lala Rattan Chand [Non-official, Nominated] (Urdu): Sir, I also join with other members in congratulating the Honourable Finance Member for presenting to the House a lucid and clear budget, the preparation of which must have involved a good deal of labour on his part. The failure of three or four crops successively is really a regrettable feature. On account of this failure the people of the Province have suffered many hardships and Government is very much exercised over it. However, I note it with satisfaction that, in spite of financial stringency, Government is keenly alive to the difficulties facing the people and it has rendered their help to an appreciable extent. As we all know, a large amount of Government dues in the form of land revenue and abiana has been remitted. Other reasonable steps necessary for the advancement of the people have been encouraged in various districts of the Province. The system of *batai* in Dera Ghazi Khan has been abolished and the Land Revenue Amendment Bill has been passed and placed on the Statute Book which will undoubtedly go a long way in saving the zamindars from many difficulties in future. This is not all. Besides the reclamation of criminal tribes, the question of the reformation of the prisoners has been taken up and efforts are being made to infuse in them a spirit of self-respect and self-dependence so that they may become good citizens after their release. It is no mean record of the good intentions of the Government for the betterment of the people.

3 P.M.

I think I will be failing in my duty if I do not avail myself of this opportunity of placing before the House and the Government some of the grievances of that section of the population which I have the honour to represent. Sir, it pains me to say that it is a general complaint that the Government has, of late, paid very little attention to the welfare of the urban people. For the last so many years the condition of trade and trade markets has been getting worse. That it is so will be proved by the fact that there has been a steady fall in revenue under the head 'income-tax' so much so that in 1927-28 the amount of income-tax realised by Government came down to Rs. 77,42,000

whereas in 1922-23, Rs. 98,30,000 were realised in the form of income-tax. The worst of it is that in the near future there seems to be no prospect of the revival of trade, which is the main occupation of these people.

Because of this dullness in trade the petty traders are practically starving. Unemployment in towns has increased by leaps and bounds during the last few years. Till recently parents used to give education to their children unmindful of the fact that it was very expensive and they used to cherish high hopes that, after receiving higher education, their children will be a source of great help to them. But education also pays very little now and as our educated young men are unable to do anything else than service in offices which is very difficult to get, they are worse off than many uneducated people. I do not mean to imply thereby that Government is to blame for that. It is not its fault that all educated men are unable to get employment under Government, but it must be conceded that it is the right of the ruled to ask for the help of the rulers in case they stand in need of it. Government must have come to know from the report of the Unemployment Committee that the legal profession has also ceased to be attractive. A few years ago if a man could not get employment under Government, he took up the legal profession which offered very good prospects. But now that profession has become very much overcrowded and very little scope is left in it for ordinary men to earn their living. In 1916 the number of legal practitioners throughout the Province was only 1,648, but in January 1928, the figure stood at 3,618. The worst of it is that the number of cases has actually gone down. Whereas the number of cases filed in the courts in 1916 was 479,687, in 1928 the number of such cases fell down to 479,516. It is, thus, clear that practically all means of earning a livelihood are blocked so far as the urban people are concerned and it is the duty of Government to take immediate steps to give relief to them.

With your permission, Sir, I should like to suggest a way out of this difficulty and if the House approves of it, it may commend it to the Government for its acceptance. In my opinion, the best way to get rid of unemployment in the towns is to make the study of technical and agricultural subjects compulsory in the schools and colleges of the Province. This will fit our young men for other than mere clerical duties and they will not have to depend for their livelihood on Government service alone. As will appear from the report of the Unemployment Committee, there is yet sufficient scope for employment, not only under Government, but in other walks of life as well, for those who have studied or are studying in Lyallpur, Maclagan and other professional colleges. It is, therefore, more advantageous if more attention is paid to agricultural and technical education. In districts like Gurdaspur, Sialkot and Hoshiarpur, which are centres of agriculture, attention should be concentrated on agricultural education and at other places in the Province, technical subjects should form the important subjects of education. If this suggestion is adopted I am sanguine that many difficulties, which are at present facing the Government and the public will be solved.

There is another defect in the present system of education to which I would like to draw the attention of the authorities. We find that at present almost in all schools and colleges teachers, professors and principals appear

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before the students dressed in up-to-date suits and wearing expensive boots. They appear to be very much enamoured of ties and hard collars. This appearance of the teachers creates an unhealthy mentality amongst the students and soon after entering school and college compounds, the students begin to discard their own indigenous ways and they studiously try to emulate their teachers so far as outward appearances go. They try hard to look like well dressed *babus* at all costs. I have not been to Europe myself. However, I understand that the teachers and professors there do come neatly and even gorgeously dressed to teach the students. But I also understand that while working in the factories and at the farms, they take off these suits and, thus, by their example, create a love of labour in the students. What a pity it is that we leave what is of real worth in others and only adopt the ways of the people which are meant for mere show? The life in schools and colleges makes an indelible impression in the minds of the students and it is in these days that the process of character building goes on and for the good character of the students, much depends on the conduct of the teachers. (*The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain*: And nothing on the conduct of the parents?) To solve the question of unemployment Government can advantageously employ these young men in factories which should be started on co-operative lines and on guarantee system under the management of Government officials and in which motor accessories, electrical instruments and other small apparatus should be manufactured. Government should also encourage some enthusiastic young men in the towns to take up agriculture and if such men should apply for a grant of land, it should be granted to them on easy terms. I am sure that if these young men are encouraged like that, they will prove, if not better, at least as good agriculturists as my friends on the opposite benches claim to be. Of course, they cannot compete with rich men in the open auction of lands and, therefore, Government should grant them land at moderate prices to be paid in easy instalments. I would like to mention one thing more and that is, that we are grateful to the Education Committee and particularly to the Education Minister for the efforts that they have made to increase the number of students who can now study in the Roorkee College at the expense of Government. I hope he will try to secure another increase in that number.

As regards retrenchment in expenditure, I have to say very little and that is, that I do not agree with the member who advised Government not to incur more expenditure on roads. I think he is not aware of the difficulties that passengers have to experience on account of the awful condition of the roads. Traffic facilities are very necessary in these days and I think that the money that is proposed to be spent on roads, is not too much. Similarly, I do not see any justification in reducing expenditure on the police department as was suggested by another honourable member of the Council. If he wants reduction or retrenchment under this head, I would advise him to change his policy.....

Mr. President: The honourable member's time is over.

Dr. Shaikh Muhammad Alam [West Punjab Towns (Muhammadan) Urban]: Sir, it was my first intention not to speak in this general discussion on the Budget, if for no other reason at least for this, that the space of

time which has been allotted is insufficient for me even to draw up an index of my views on the budget as a whole. But I have decided to speak, among many other reasons, mainly for this that the Honourable the Finance Member must have been fed up by now with the flattering appreciation and meaningless congratulations. After all what do these compliments, these appreciations and admirations show? These are showered only for the compilation, the presentation and elucidation of the figures in the Budget? I think, Sir, that these figures are more or less the work of the subordinate staff and not of the Honourable the Finance Member himself who should not feel proud for being congratulated merely upon the compilation of the figures, doing arithmetical calculations in respect thereof and seeing that there is no flaw in the application of the rules of addition and subtraction. This, certainly, is the work of the subordinate staff. I have been hearing since yesterday honourable members supporting the budget and congratulating the Honourable the Finance Member, but none of them I have listened to has justified the sources of income in the sense that they are legitimate sources and rightly shown in the budget presented to us, nor has any honourable member approved or justified the expenditure adopted in the sense that the methods of expenditure adopted in the budget are right methods. In the absence of such statements, no Government I submit should be proud of such meaningless appreciations and I hope, Sir, the Punjab Government would be wise enough in not taking into account such appreciations as have been paid since yesterday.

My own view of the budget remains unaffected and unchanged by my experience of the last two years in this Council. If anything, it is further strengthened by this experience. I am confirmed in my belief that for those people whose political rights are being trodden upon, whose grievances are not redressed, and whose wishes are not cared for by an irresponsible bureaucratic government, the only legitimate course is to throw out the budget *in toto* and not enter into any consideration of the details of it. I have been repeatedly expressing this view in this Council and I still adhere to it. Though it might please the Honourable the Revenue Member it is plain truth and let me frankly admit it that so far I have not succeeded in converting the honourable members of this House to my way of thinking. The fault is neither mine nor that of the principle. I shall not even blame the honourable members of this House whose simple nature or lack of patriotism is responsible for causing so much loss to the country and consequently to themselves. Attractions offered by the Government are too many to resist and their manœuving is too subtle to understand.

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: Lack of patriotism, simple nature and what else?

Dr. Shaikh Muhammad Alam: Something more also if it is within your knowledge.

Anyhow, Sir, I entered this Council with the avowed object of mending or ending it and it is true that I have failed in both so far. But let not the Government take false pride over it. The budgets have been voted upon by the House not on account of their merits but on account of our weakness. I may also declare here that notwithstanding the fact that we have not been able so far to throw out any budget, we have succeeded in creating right

[Dr. Shaikh Muhammad Alam.]

impressions in the minds of honourable members of this House. Since yesterday we find that some members who have been supporting the Government throughout the lifetime of this Council, even they have been vehemently attacking the expenditure both on the Reserved and Transferred Departments. I am sure the honourable members on the opposite side remember what they have said. From this we cannot but draw the irresistible conclusion that the attitude of the honourable members to-day in this House is not the same as what it was when the Council began two years ago. And the days are in sight when there will be a complete change of opinion, and the Government will lose those supporters whose votes go still to the Government although they retain no longer any genuine sympathy with it.

I shall just take the two sides—the Reserved and the Transferred sides separately. In the Reserved Department we cannot shut our eyes to the mal administration that is going on in regard to law and order. Human memory may be very short but the picture of the recent, merciless and murderous assault in this Province is still fresh in our minds. The leaders of the people were beaten and assaulted on the day of the arrival of the Simon Commission and Lala Lajpat Rai succumbed to those injuries he received at the hands of police officials. Sir, the Police have been criticised even by such members who have been always supporting the Government. Particular reference was made by the honourable member for the East Punjab Towns who is not here to-day, to the murder of Channan Singh and Mr. Saunders and the failure of the police to arrest the culprits. Reference was aslo made by him to the bomb outrages on two successive Dusserah festivals, and the failure of the police to trace the offenders. But, Sir, more abominable than their failure is their behaviour in the investigation of these crimes. The methods adopted by the police such as the indiscriminate arrest of young men from several educational institutions in Lahore, of many young men about whom it can be said that they took the slightest interest in the politics of the country, the indiscriminate arrest of the members of the Navajivan Bharatha Sabha and the members of the Congress, have been condemned by every man in the Punjab, and outside, whether the Government have knowledge of it or not. Then, Sir, those arrested were treated most cruelly and even private food and bedding were refused to them We had to approach the judicial courts. Then notwithstanding the fact that we got judicial orders the police put in hundreds of obstacles in their way.

Mr. President : Are not these cases still *sub judice* ?

Dr. Shaikh Muhammad Alam : No, Sir, I am not talking of the cases which are in courts of law.

Finally, Sir, some were released on bail and others later by the police.

Mr. J. D. Penny : On a point of order, is all this relevant to the general discussion of the budget ?

Dr. Shaikh Muhammad Alam : I am talking on the general principles of the budget and showing cause why the whole budget should not be thrown out for these reasons.

Mr. President : Is the honourable member discussing the budget as a whole or any princi]'e involved therein ?

Dr. Shaikh Muhammad Alam : I am discussing the budget as a whole and showing that I am on principle in favour of rejecting the whole budget.

I was to submit, Sir, that where bail was accepted by the police there was no limitation of time. But all those released are still under the surveillance of the police. Surveillance even does not matter much. There should be some time fixed for their bail ; no time whatsoever was fixed for their bail. Again, Sir, false witnesses were brought from different places—from Multan and other places—to say that such and such a young man committed this murder and it constituted a great pleasure to the Inspector-General of Police and heads of various other departments. When these witnesses were asked to show the spot of the murder they pointed it out somewhere about the premises of the District Court and outside the Court-room of a Sub-Judge. This is how evidence was manufactured. Under the circumstances I ask, is this honourable House justified in allowing one little item of expenditure for the reserved side to be sanctioned in this Council ? We should throw out the whole budget for the reserved side.

Mr. President : Is the honourable member sure that it is in the power of this Council to throw out the whole budget ?

Dr. Shaikh Muhammad Alam : Why not, Sir ? Unless you show me a ruling to the contrary I am of this view. I have been putting forward this proposition before you for the last two years, and it was never objected to.

Mr. President : There are votable as well as non-votable items in the budget. Can the Council reject the non-votable items ?

Dr. Shaikh Muhammad Alam : Only the votable items of the budget and that is really the conception of the whole budget in my mind at present. I am talking about that only.

Let us, Sir, now consider the action of the Government, if crimes are increased in any part of the Province. So far as the police officials as custodians of law and order are concerned, they receive rewards and receive promotions and they won't even be transferred from that ilaqa to another. The only way of dealing with crime is to penalise all the inhabitants of the district. Innocent men, women and children, whosoever may be living in the neighbouring parts are penalised. Why ? Because they are innocent. They are asked to pay for the inefficiency of the police, whilst on the other hand the cost should have come from the custodians of law and order. You know what is happening in Rawalpindi with regard to the punitive taxation because a riot took place there two or three years ago. Who was responsible for these riots ? Not the innocent citizens of the town ? Therefore, why and on what principle do you ask them to pay ? Why should not something be deducted from the pay of the Inspector-General of Police and some other officials of the Police Department. I know that none of those police officials who were there on duty, is punished at all ; nobody's pay has been reduced by even a rupee. Well, if you cannot govern the land, it is better you leave the land. It is no use adopting such methods mal administration. Even the supporters of the Government have been vehemently criticising the administration of police. The time is fast approaching when on account of the change in their mentality there will be a change in the voting also.

Mr. President, may I have two minutes more to speak about the Transferred subjects ?

Mr. President : The honourable member's time limit is reached.

Dr. Shaikh Muhammad Alam : I was misled by the clock which had stopped.

Mr. President : Sorry, I cannot allow any more time.

Rai Bahadur Lala Mohan Lal [North-East Towns (Non-Muhammadan) Urban.] Sir, I beg to congratulate the honourable the Finance Member in presenting us so lucidly what I would call a poor man's budget. In spite of the decrease in revenue after the failure of three harvests he has provided for normal expenditure. Some honourable members suggested yesterday that we should cut down our expenditure or devise some means of new taxation, if necessary. Reference was also made to death duties. I submit we are in no such condition in this Province as to ask for fresh taxation. There is absolutely no necessity for the House or for the Government to consider any means of fresh taxation. What we find in the budget to-day is this that the Government has to borrow from the Provincial Loans Fund a sum of Rs. 1,40,00,000. For what purpose ? If I remember correctly, it is for capital expenditure on Irrigation. All capital expenditure should, in my humble opinion, be met by borrowing rather than by revenues. From a perusal of the budget and the statement supplied by the Finance Member we see that during the last few years Government have been utilising the revenue from the sale of lands for financing Hydro-Electric and Irrigation Schemes. This year the Government is borrowing one crore and 40 lakhs of rupees to finance these schemes. There is nothing here to justify the imposition of additional taxation in the Province.

My Honourable friend Pandit Nanak Chand drew the attention of the Honourable Minister for Education and the Director of Public Instruction to the education of the depressed classes. We have heard to-day from the Director of Public Instruction that out of 3 million depressed classes in the Punjab there are 26,000 only at present receiving education. If I have understood him correctly I should say that it does not reflect credit on the Education Department. My personal opinion is that Government should take special steps in the matter of the education of the depressed classes by giving block grants to the schools which admit those students and by providing stipends and scholarships for the boys and girls of the depressed classes. They should be treated in the same way as members of the criminal tribes in the matter of educational facilities.

Then again, Sir, I submit that the *Unani* and *Ayurvedic* systems of medicine require greater consideration and encouragement at the hands of the Government. In the budget only Rs. 9,000 has been provided for the Islamia College (Unani) and D. A.-V. College Ayurvedic and Tibbia College as a grant-in-aid. These sums are very inadequate and if the Government are anxious to encourage these systems they should allot more money for them.

Another point to which I should like to draw the attention of the Government is the poor condition of the clerks and the menial servants of the

Government who are drawing Rs. 50 and less a month. Under the present economic conditions in the Punjab it is the duty of the Government to raise the salaries of these poorly paid people. Or they should at least be given some allowances so long as the present famine conditions prevail in the Province.

With regard to the excise policy of the Government, I strongly request them to take steps to see that ultimately Punjab reaches the goal of total prohibition. We have just seen that the Madras Government or the Bombay Government have allotted a sum of Rs. 4 lakhs for temperance propaganda. The Punjab also should take similar steps and spread the cause of temperance more and more. Temperance societies and other organisations which are carrying on propaganda in the direction of temperance should receive help and encouragement at the hands of the Government.

Then again, Sir, one honourable member said that the Government was spending more money on roads and that the development programme of roads should be cut down and that the money thus released should be spent on other objects. I regret to say that I do not agree with him. In my humble opinion the development of roads is as necessary for the development of the province as education and public health. (*Hear, hear*). We may not be able to finance the roads to the extent that we wish; but there is no reason why the programme of Government already laid down should not be undertaken. In this connection I would draw the attention of the honourable member in charge of roads to the conditon of the road from Hoshiarpur to Dharmsala, arterial No. 18. Government allotted Rs. 1,04,000 for this purpose last year and out of that Rs. 20,000 had to be spent last year, 1928-29. But in this year's budget owing to certain economies that have been effected no provision has been made. In spending Rs. 80,000 I want to draw the attention of the Honourable Minister in charge of roads that this is the only road which passes through two poor districts, *i.e.*, Hoshiarpur and Kangra. From the point of view of these two districts it is absolutely essential that the Government should devote more attention to them. Another road which I believe requires the attention of the Government is the Simla-Narkunda road. This road beyond Thanedhar requires the serious consideration of the Government. As soon as funds permit that part of the road should be taken in hand.

A very paltry sum only has been provided in the budget for the development of industries. If any country is to advance and take its proper place in the world it must develop its industries, it may be by starting factories and oil mills and developing the natural resources. It is absolutely essential that the Government should take the lead in the matter by starting small factories for demonstration, and by that means demonstrate to the public that the resources of the Punjab are capable of being developed commercially and as soon as the Government is able to demonstrate they should induce the people to float big companies to take up the work of development in their hands.

Remarks have been made about the police and I myself would like to draw the attention of the Government to the inams that are paid by the police to people who serve them in the matter of helping them. These men are usually zaildars and lambardars. I have got an instance which I shall

[Rai Bahadur Lala Mohan Lal.]
probably have to bring to the notice of the House later on, but my personal knowledge is that a misuse is made of the money spent in the way of grants or inams or rewards that are given by the police to some of the people who help them in the matter of investigation and so forth. In July 1928, there was a theft case in my village and when the police came there in connection with that case the zaildar also came there and several people including women who were alleged to have been beaten were called in. The police and the zaildar are alleged to have misbehaved towards the women. The matter is, so far as I can see, under the consideration of the authorities but I have simply referred to it because later on I may have to bring all the facts to the notice of the honourable member in charge, and then they will feel how the police misuse their power and in what way these rewards are distributed and how some of the officers oppress the poor zamindars, and how the local officials, take advantage of the existence of the police. With these remarks I take my seat.

(*Mr. President then called upon Mr. Penny to speak.*)

Diwan Bahadur Raja Narendra Nath : I have stood up thrice to speak but I have failed to catch the eye of the Chair although I gave notice of the fact.

Mr. President: The mere fact that the honourable member rose three times to speak does not entitle him to be called by the chair. I gave opportunity to many members to speak yesterday but they refused to avail themselves of that opportunity. I am aware that many members are anxious to speak to-day but as the honourable members know, the time at my disposal is limited.

Diwan Bahadur Raja Narendra Nath : I was not prepared then to speak.....

Mr. President : Order, order. No speech on the ruling of the Chair is allowed.

Mr. J. D. Penny (Finance Secretary) : Sir, I do not wish to detain the House more than a few minutes, if only because I have already had my say in print; and I am afraid that honourable members may have found mine rather a long memorandum, which I feel flattered to find they have studied. I only wish to try to remove a few misapprehensions under which I am afraid one or two honourable members have laboured. I rather envy the honourable members who have already spoken and who have been free to pass lightly from subject to subject like butterflies visiting one budget flower after another and sipping the honey from the fairest blossoms. I have to do my best to follow in the wake of these honourable members, and to see if I can revive some of the flowers on which they have rested their weight. I shall try to confine myself to the functions of the Finance Department. It is not concerned so much with the way in which the money is spent, as that is a matter for the Council as a whole and for the Government as a whole. I shall try to confine myself to the form in which the budget is presented to the Council for it is one of the primary duties of the Finance Department to attempt to put this in a clear and intelligible form. It is very gratifying to the Finance Department to hear that a number of honourable members

have found the budget more easy to understand than in some previous years, and I have not so low an opinion of my colleagues in this Council, as to think with a gentleman who spoke just now that when they make these remarks they are either not speaking the truth or they are misled by lack of patriotism. One honourable member I was glad to see who complained last year that he found the memorandum still more difficult was pleased to say that this time it was helpful. When the memorandum was presented last year the intention was to give Administrative Departments an opportunity of explaining in it what their policy was and in what way the money would be spent.

The idea was that these notes should be explanatory of the rather bulky volume in which the budget figures are comprised, and in the words of the dramatist "to add life and verisimilitude to an otherwise bald and unconvincing narrative." If it is not too late, I should like to offer honourable members a word of advice. I think they will find it helpful if when studying the budget volume they will keep open by them part B of the memorandum and in particular part II of the expenditure memorandum where they will see the policy of the administrative departments clearly explained. I cannot help feeling that if some honourable members who have spoken to-day and yesterday had referred to that portion of the memorandum they would have found answers to some of the difficulties which they have experienced. For instance I understood one honourable member to complain that it is waste of money to metal roads. If he had turned to that portion of the memorandum which deals with 41—Civil Works, he would have seen the roads on which the money is proposed to be spent and I think he would agree that the works are necessary. It is by reading these memoranda that we are able really to understand to what purpose the money will be put and whether it is going to be usefully utilised or not.

Now in dealing with revenue account, I find that one or two honourable members have been finding it difficult to follow the figures, which following the previous practice, I have put in the usual form, and one honourable member in particular complained that he found the figures for revised estimate of the current year totally unintelligible, because they did not tally with the figures that were given in the budget estimate. The explanation of his difficulty is simply this, that the figures given for the budget estimate of the current year are the figures as presented to the Council this time last year, that is to say before the actual figures for the year 1927-28 were known. As soon as the actual figures were known it was necessary to see what effect they had upon the current year's budget. Consequently, when we revise the estimate for the current year and work out the balances, we have to base them on the balances as reported by the Accountant-General at the end of 1927-28 and not on what we thought they would be when we framed the budget this time last year. So in studying the expected closing balance of the current year as shown in the modified grant or in the revised estimate he has to skip out one line and cast his eyes back to the accounts for 1927-28. I do not wish to labour this point. It is rather difficult to explain on the floor of the House, but I think he will find it quite easy to see if he works it out afterwards.

Another honourable member has repeated the charge which has been brought against the Finance Department that it habitually under-estimates

[Mr. J. D. Penny.]

receipts and over-estimates expenditure. I should like to give the actual figures if I may do so. In the year 1925-26 the actual estimate of receipts was 10,77 lakhs and the actuals were 11,39 lakhs, an increase of 5½ per cent. Expenditure on the other hand, was estimated to be 10,93 lakhs and actuals were 10,26 lakhs—a shortage of 7 per cent. These are figures for the most prosperous year we have yet had, and it is true that so far as these figures are concerned the charge is substantiated. In the next year (1926-27) we find that receipts were estimated to be 11,49 lakhs and the actuals were 10,87 lakhs. There was no under-estimating of receipts rather there was an over-estimating, for there was a deficiency of 5½ per cent. On the other hand, on the expenditure side, the estimate was 11,68 lakhs and the actuals were 10,85 lakhs, that is to say there was under-spending to the extent of 8 per cent. But in 1927-28 which is the most recent year for which the figures are available, we find that on the receipt side the estimate was 11,08 lakhs and actuals were 10,90 lakhs, so that we were only 1½ per cent. out in the year. On the expenditure side similarly the estimate was 11,08 lakhs and actuals were 10,68 lakhs. That is we were out by 8½ per cent. That is not a bad record for an expenditure of 11 crores. In the current year, which is rather an exceptional one, the revised estimate shows that our receipts are likely to be down by about 5 per cent., but expenditure is down by, as far as we can see at present only 1½ per cent. If the 15 lakhs on account of the revenue reserve fund is taken out, then the percentage is even less. This explanation, I think, disposes of the charge that Government habitually under-estimates receipts and over-estimates expenditure.

I have dealt so far only with revenue account but in the capital account also you will find that the same tendency shows itself. In the current year we have been embarrassed by the rapid capital expenditure under irrigation and capital expenditure on roads in the Nili Bar. I have explained this to the best of my ability in the memorandum, and it seems to me quite clear that in guarding against over-budgetting we have perhaps gone a little bit too far and it is necessary to correct that error. We cannot expect to get accuracy all at once. When a man first shoots, he probably shoots too high. When he shoots the second time, he probably shoots too low. It is some time before he gets the bull's eye. I hope that next year we shall get a bull's eye, but we can never count on doing it in any year, still less to keep on doing it.

Time is short, but I wish to say one thing regarding the extraordinary receipts about which one honourable member has made a suggestion which appears to indicate that he thinks that these receipts accumulate and are still available for use. He suggested that funds should be taken from the total shown under extraordinary receipts, and that some portion of them should be put in the revenue reserve fund for utilisation to meet the loss in revenue in a bad year. That appears to indicate that he was under the impression that possibly this sum of 846 lakhs shown in the bottom line of the statement is actually in existence somewhere and can be drawn upon when required. That is not so. This account is only a *pro forma* account, the object of which is to see to what purpose these receipts have been devoted,

and in fact these 846 lakhs will have been entirely used on capital expenditure and on provincial loans and advances. That money will not be available for any purpose whatever. It has been used. It is used year after year as it comes in. It is used for capital expenditure to obviate borrowing. It might be argued as a matter of future policy, that certain portions of extraordinary receipts should be made available for transfer to the revenue reserve fund. But that would also be a great mistake for, it is essential that any transfer that is made for revenue reserve fund should be made from revenue and not from extraordinary receipts which must sooner or later fail, and there would be very great inconvenience if we got into the habit of using extraordinary receipts to make good the losses of revenue which we know sooner or later are bound to occur. The House has already endorsed the view that extraordinary receipts are things which must only be used for the reduction of debt or to save the province from further borrowing, and it is essential that we should adhere to that principle especially at a time when there may be some temptation to utilise them in our recurring expenditure.

Another honourable member raised certain questions regarding capital account which might appear to require an answer. He asked why the one crore of rupees that we lent to the Government of India some fifteen years ago had not been paid back to the Punjab Government. I understand that to be his difficulty. This one crore of rupees was lent to the Government of India, I think in 1918 at 3½ per cent. which was then the prevailing rate of interest and it was then stipulated that it would be a permanent deposit. After the introduction of the Reforms, the Punjab Government did make an attempt to get it back, but the Government of India were only prepared to give the money back on conditions which were not profitable to the Punjab Government. The money therefore, has been allowed to remain there and we simply draw the interest every year. I need hardly say that should an opportunity present itself to us for getting the money back on suitable terms, it will be eagerly taken.

A further objection made by the same honourable member was that 52 lakhs have been paid over to the Central Government to liquidate the provincial loan account; and that this could have been paid in instalments. That is a fact, though it is a matter of some years ago, and I cannot speak with personal knowledge, that it was repaid in a lump sum instead of in instalments. If the honourable member will refer to the statement at the beginning of the memorandum, he will see that the 52 lakhs were in fact met as other capital expenditure was met, namely, from extraordinary receipts. If we had paid this 52 lakhs in instalments the only result would have been that we should have paid interest on it and had an equivalent amount of extraordinary receipts available to obviate borrowing at interest for other capital purposes.

Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq [Amritsar City, Muhammadan, (Urban)]: Sir, while going through the budget you will find that the most important items have not been properly provided for. But before I start the discussion on the details in criticism of the budget, I am obliged to say a word with regard to the attitude of honourable members of the Government benches in this respect. Sir, we have been, member after member, in

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[Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq.]

the course of our speeches rising to offer our criticism and sometimes our advice to the Government and it is but fair that those honourable members whom we address should at least be present here at the time. For what do we find, Sir? The Government benches have been practically empty during these two days of general discussion on the budget. We have been expecting that our remarks would be taken note of by them and some reply would also be given thereto. But it is very disappointing to find that little attention is paid to us and it is in this way that the work of the Government is being carried on.

Mr. President: Does not the honourable member think that it is incumbent on the other members as well to be present on these days?

Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq: That cannot be, Sir, for we are responsible to our constituencies and it is open to the constituencies to judge whether we ought to be here or we should be replaced by better people. But with the honourable members of Government the case is different, Sir. They should be present in their places here and they are paid for it and they should answer the charges or the criticisms that we level against them. And when I see the benches opposite practically empty all through, it is very disappointing. We do not know whom we are expected to address. When I intend to talk on Irrigation, I do not find the honourable member in charge of the subject in his seat here.

I shall first start with the Minister of Education. When the new Minister was appointed I had great hopes that he would revolutionise the system of education, but, Sir I am disappointed. Far from overhauling the present machinery of education, what has he done? I do not have the actual figures before me, Sir, nor am I good at statistics, but the fact is there that roughly about 20 to 25 thousands of students are coming out every year out of our academic institutions and not one of them has been afforded the facility of an industrial or an agricultural education. There is thus no practical means of livelihood taught to them in the schools and the number of such students is on the increase. What are they going to do, Sir, except to add to the problem of unemployment, already keen as it is? After all, Sir, what are the avenues of employment open to them under existing conditions? About two or three thousands of students come out of the colleges, of whom a few scores are absorbed in the Medical, a few more in the Legal and some others in the educational line. But are these openings enough for 20,000 students sent out every year? I do not see any sense in such a system. I expect that the Government will do something and I look up to the honourable Minister for Education to take some practical and effective steps in the direction before this Council is dissolved at least. Surely the Government ought to be wide awake to the question of unemployment and to the shortcomings of the present educational system which in no small measure contributes to it. We do not want our boys to be educated for employment which nowhere exists. They should be given agricultural or industrial education in order to make them useful citizens of the country.

Then, Sir, my honourable friend who represents all the Sikhs in the cities of the Punjab spoke of the road programme before the country now. Roads, I concede, are a necessity and no progress is possible without roads.

But no country can go on making roads beyond its means. If there is necessity for a particular kind of road it is their right, nay their duty, to make them in the particular area. But simply to add to the convenience of a few motor vehicles which are increasing fast, it is not right that the taxes of the poor people should be made use of. Just see the other side of the picture for a moment. The province is passing through a critical time in regard to its finances. And it is necessary just to pause and consider whether this programme could not be curtailed or postponed and the money released for the beneficent departments, until such time as the province regains its prosperity. Roads are absolutely necessary but under the present financial stress it is necessary for the Honourable Minister to see that money is not over-spent in this direction.

Chaudhri Afzal Haq : On a point of order, Sir, the honourable member (Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang), is reading a newspaper, in the House.

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : I do not know if it is against the rules. It is not to-day's newspaper moreover.

Mr. President : Newspapers, letters, files and books are not allowed to be read in the Chamber.

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : If that is your ruling, Sir, I obey it.

Mr. President : That is the Parliamentary practice.

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : That may be, Sir. But supposing there are newspapers which are relevant to the subject matter of the discussion.

Mr. President : That will be a different thing altogether. In that case the honourable member will probably be preparing his speech on the question before the House and that is quite in order.

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : How does my honourable friend who raised the point of order know that the paper I am reading has no bearing on the subject under discussion ?

Mr. President : Had the learned Doctor said in reply to the point of order raised by the honourable member for Ludhiana, that he was reading something which related to the budget, he would have disarmed his critic.

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : But on a question of principle, Sir, how does my honourable friend over there know that I am reading a paper which has no bearing on the question before us ? I want a ruling for the future, Sir.

Mr. President : No one can be prevented from raising a point of order. As a rule the reading of newspapers, letters or books, unless they relate to or are in any way connected with the matter under debate, is not allowed. I think, the honourable member for Ludhiana was in order in raising his point of order ; and had the honourable Dr. Narang stated that he was reading something which related to the discussion on the budget, the matter would have ended.

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : I submit, Sir, that I do not deny the honourable member's right to draw the honourable President's attention to anything that he liked. But all that I submit is that he was not well advised to do it because he should have considered whether I was reading a paper which had a bearing or not on the subject before the House.

Mr. President : Before the Chair took notice of the point of order the honourable member volunteered his explanation and thus involved himself in a series of explanations. Had he not done so all this discussion would have been obviated. (*Laughter.*)

Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq : If some minutes of my time have been taken away in this discussion, it is not my fault, Sir. I was on the point of criticising the way in which the budget has been presented. The demands start from one end this year and from the other end the year next. Those demands which are in the middle, all escape our criticism. I think, therefore, the proper system should be for all the demands to come before the House. This could be done if the budget is taken up from the demand which was once discussed at a prior budget discussion. For instance, if on one discussion of the Demands, we dispose of up to Demand X, the list of demands for the next year should begin with Demand XI. This would bring all the demands before the House and no one will escape our criticism in the whole of our period.

For instance, take the Education Demand. It is an important demand and as it comes as the 18th in the list, I believe, it will have to be left over on both the occasions, when we start from Demand No. 1, and also when we start from the bottom of the list of demands. I will, therefore, suggest to obviate this difficulty that the demands should be discussed continually and the House should begin with the demand next to the one which it disposed of the year before. I hope the honourable the Leader of the House will have this in mind and will be kind enough to adopt this suggestion.

Another point. I do not know whether I will be quite in order in discussing it. Sir, when we were discussing a very important non-official resolution, what happened was, the honourable the Revenue Member who was to reply did not rise to speak till late in the day and while he was speaking, it was time for the House to adjourn for the day. Consequently we were not able to dispose of the resolution. In such cases I would request that one more day be allotted for the purpose.

Mr. President : Order, order. How is that matter connected with the budget ?

Shaikh Muhammad Sadiq : Money is given to the Government for arranging the work of the Government and of the Council properly and in this way it is relevant, Sir. If they do not do that properly, it is open to us to annoy them by rejecting the budget. We have given them the necessary establishment and if they do not prove good at management, we should refuse them the supply. I do not know whether it can in this way be relevant to the discussion. If it is out of order, Sir, I am sorry. I have anyhow given the hint and I shall leave it at that.

Then, Sir, I pass on to Industrial Education. The Honourable the Finance Member made the frank statement that there was a very narrow margin of safety in the budget this year. The Punjabis have been proud all along that this province with its system of canals and good irrigation could never be faced with any adversity, but now it is no longer so and the worst of it is, that this adversity will not last just for a year but will continue for several years to come. How are we going to meet this serious situation ? What are the factors which would mitigate the difficulty ? Rains, surely, Sir, rains.

are in the hands of the Almighty. But we have, though not control over the clouds, at least what we have been endowed with, namely brains. If we would only use our brains, the only solution out of this difficulty will be seen in the opening up of new industries. What is the condition here? We are importing goods worth crores and crores of rupees from outside and certainly much of them could be made in this Province. For example, take the demand in regard to woollen blankets. We are exporting large quantities of wool and what difficulty, I ask, stands in the way of our manufacturing blankets out of them ourselves. The Government, say, of such countries as England and Germany, take a real interest in such matters and at times help private enterprises with subsidies. Honourable members know fully well how capital is shy in the province and that is largely due to the failure of many individual concerns which were faced with bad times and were obliged to close down.

Mr. President: The honourable member's time is over.

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang: [North-West Towns (Non-Muhammadan), (Urban)]: Sir, it is impossible to discuss many subjects within the scope of 15 minutes. It will be like writing a log book of the Government. So far as the present discussion is concerned, I shall start by making one reference to industries. Sometime ago I brought forward a resolution in this House that the Government should be called upon to make all its purchases in India of articles which are manufactured in India. But unfortunately this resolution of mine was not accepted by the House and I was compelled to withdraw it. Now, everybody seems to be solicitous about the development of industry which gives me a great pleasure. I want to make one practical suggestion which would be of very great advantage to our province and that is this. We are going to make purchases in connection with our Hydro-Electric Scheme worth lakhs and lakhs of rupees of electrical goods. Electric goods to the tune of a crore of rupees or more will be required. I have very often discussed this subject with scientific people and also with capitalists. Up to this time so far as I am aware, there is not one big, even sufficiently big, factory in this country of 33 crores of people where even one bulb can be manufactured. Now is the time for the Government of the province to show that it actually feels for the people of this country. Towers worth 75 lakhs of rupees would be required and there is no reason why they should be imported. I hope that the honourable members of this house would put all the pressure that they can upon the Government that a big sized factory should be set up in this Province immediately, even if under disadvantages, if there are any, in order to supply all the electrical goods that may be required in connection with this Hydro-Electric Scheme. This is one practical suggestion that I am making.

I have also to say a few things in connection with certain other matters and the most important of them is the Co-operative movement. In spite of all the misapprehensions that exist I assure those gentlemen who are interested in the Co-operative movement that I have the fullest sympathy with the movement, but there are certain features of it which require the attention of the Government and also the attention of the honourable members of this House. Now it so happens that the money which is deposited in the various Co-operative Banks comes mainly from the pockets of people who have absolutely no voice in the administration of the Co-operative movement.

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It is absolutely necessary, therefore, that in order to satisfy them and to assure a continuance of their sympathy for the Co-operative movement, they should be given a representation in the management. If it is necessary to make an amendment in the existing law, I hope the Minister in charge would see that steps are taken to introduce the necessary amendment. It is a crying need and it ought to be satisfied, otherwise, the result may be that the money may be withdrawn by those people and the Co-operative movement would be starved because it is not the zamindars who are contributing by way of deposits to the Co-operative movement, but if I am not wrongly informed, 90 per cent. of deposits come from the pockets of pleaders, Government servants, and others of whom very few are agriculturists. If they are not satisfied and they withdraw their deposits, the Co-operative movement in this Province would starve and that would be a calamity for all concerned, and for the poor zamindars themselves.

The second thing which I want to submit in this connection is this, that unfortunately it has created an impression that this movement is running on communal lines. I am not here at this moment to say how far this is true, but this impression does exist and it is in the interest of the people who are running the Co-operative movement that that impression should be removed. That impression has been created by the fact that the management of this movement is mostly in the hands of agriculturists and mostly agriculturists belonging to one community. The result of this is that the management in many places is incompetent and this works to the detriment of the movement. In several cases defalcations have taken place, because the management is incompetent. Then again, it has created a sort of communal hostility between the Hindus and Muslims and between the agriculturists and non-agriculturists. These impressions are fatal to the progress of the Co-operative movement in this province. Then again, Sir, I have got plenty of information that a sort of active propaganda of vilification is being carried on by some foolish friends of the movement against the sahukars. They should remember that of all the non-agriculturists everybody is not a money-lender. There are some who are labourers. Some labour in the fields and some labour in the offices or in the shops. Only a few of them are actual money-lenders and even to carry a propaganda of vilification and vituperation and abuse against a money-lender would ultimately reflect badly upon the Co-operative movement, because those people have got more influence with those whose money is the life and soul of the Co-operative movement. I hope, therefore, that the honorrable minister in charge of this movement will see that no propaganda of vilification, misrepresentation and vituperation or abuse is permitted anywhere. Sometimes even in the schools, the school masters and boys are exploited and this propaganda is carried on in a nefarious manner by means of dramas and stories. It is time that such things should be stopped at once. The fundamental mistake that I find in the carrying on of this movement is that it is confined only to one class. Sometmie ago the Honourable Sardar Jogendra Singh held out a promise that the Co-operative movement would be started among the mercantile community, but so far I am aware nothing worth speaking has been done. In fact, I know that a proposal was sent up by an *ex*-Minister, I mean, Lala Harkishan Lal, for the starting of a Co-operative Bank by a trading

community, and up to this time so far as I know the Government has not allowed the registration of that Bank. What I mean to say is this that the Co-operative movement being a very useful movement should be thrown open to all communities and all classes whether agriculturists or non-agriculturists, trading classes or even Government servants. Let the clerks have a Co-operative movement of their own, if they like, and let the depressed classes, including sweepers have Co-operative movements on the same lines as zamindars are having in this Province. (*A voice:* They have got one). But nothing much to speak of.

Then, Sir, the next point to which I want to draw the attention of the Government. (*Interruptions*). I have no time to stop and reply to stray remarks. My time is limited. The point to which I want to draw the attention of the Government is that there are a number of Acts which we want to be repealed or amended and it is time that the Government should take steps to do the needful in this direction. It is impossible for private members of this House to have any act repealed or amended, unless Government is agreeable. We all are agreed upon the repeal of the Court-fees Act as passed by the Punjab Legislative Council. In other provinces the old law has been reverted to. Many of us are very particular about the restoration of the old Stamp Act also, and I believe every one is anxious for the repeal of the Motor Vehicles Act. Every one would like that Act to be repealed, at least those who have got motor cars. With respect to another Act, the very mention of which, stinks in the nostrils of many people, I would not stop to say many words, but I would say in all earnestness that it is necessary for the Government to make its position clear. In order to ascertain whether there is room for any amendment in the Land Alienation Act, let them appoint a Committee to go through it once for all and then declare either that for sometime to come there is absolutely no room for any amendment in this, or if the Committee of experts recommends any amendment, they may introduce it so that these bickerings may come to an end one day. I feel, Sir, that the Punjab Land Alienation Act in this province is responsible to a very great extent for the embitterment which exists between the agriculturists and non-agriculturists and if the matter is decided once for all for some time the agitation would have a quietus, whatever the result of the enquiry may be. But I do want to impress upon the Government the necessity of going into this question once more and make an authoritative and final statement on the subject.

Then, Sir, I want to say a few words with respect to education, and I shall be very brief. I feel and everybody feels that education not only in this province but in this country as a whole is too literary, and that sufficient attention is not paid to the promotion of industrial education. Then, again, Sir, we have a rule in the Bihar and Orissa province that where 10 Muhammadans ask for an Urdu teacher, it is given to them. I wish that if 10 Hindus or 10 Sikhs ask for a Gurmukhi or a Hindi Teacher, one may be given to them, whether 10 or 15 boys are anxious to learn either Gurmukhi or Hindi. In this way the grievances of the Hindus and Sikhs that their vernaculars are being neglected would be removed.

Then, Sir, I sent up a resolution asking Government to introduce Text Books on Civics of a graded course in all schools and colleges. It is absolutely necessary that something in this direction should be done and some

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sort of promise was held out to me by the present Director of Public Instruction and I hope the Honourable Minister for Education would look into the matter, so that our children from the very first lower class may begin to learn that this country is theirs and that they owe a duty towards it and that those who are living in this country are their countrymen so that they may show tolerance and regard to each other and these communal wrangles that have disfigured the face of this country for so many years may come to an end. Patriotism can never grow wild, but has to be taught and that is the only way in which it can be taught.

One word about the Police and I believe my 15 minutes would be over. Sometime ago I sent up a resolution with respect to the imposition of taxes in Rawalpindi. I fully appreciate what Dr. Alam said on this point. So far as the Pindi people are concerned, a few sinned and the whole town is suffering and I hope the Government would look into this matter also and see that the innocent do not suffer with the guilty.

The Honourable Sardar Sir Jogendra Singh (Minister for Agriculture): Sir, I think I may begin by mentioning conditions which govern economic progress in this province. We have in the Punjab 63 million acres of land. Out of this 30 million acres is cultivated. Out of this 14 to 15 million acres are irrigated. The population that this area has to support is 20 million human beings and 15 million live stock. If you work out this area on the population, it comes to 1·43 acres per head. The production was estimated last year at 82 crores of rupees from agricultural produce. The members of this House will no doubt realize that the small holdings in the Punjab cannot give full time employment to our village population. Unless you can find full time employment for the whole population, it is not possible to make the province prosperous. We are trying to explore methods of improving agricultural production, and unless we can deal with it from the field to the factory we cannot find employment for our population. The Joint Development Board is concerning itself with these matters. In the matter of sugar, a factory is going to be established at Sonepat. The members of this House perhaps do not realize that from Karachi we are importing something like 150 thousand tons of sugar, in addition to this, we import sugar from the United Provinces and other places. Then we have cotton and oil-seeds, if cotton could be manufactured into cloth in the country itself, and oil refineries established—we would be doing something to improve economic conditions of the province. Money is nothing else but monetised labour, as Adam Smith declared many years ago. The Royal Commission on Agriculture in declaring for the village improvements has gone to the root of the question.

There is no other way but to equip men with education and instil into them a desire to maintain a higher standard of living to bring prosperity to the village. Some progress has been made in this direction. Take for instance the Gurgaon uplift scheme. It is not only in Gurgaon, but in Amritsar, Rohtak and Hoshiarpur and in many other places the Deputy Commissioners have taken great interest in improving the villages. It has been said that the Government has abandoned the uplift programme in Gurgaon. It is absolutely untrue. Government have provided grants to carry on the work. The grant for village guides alone comes to Rs. 29,760

a year. For the School of Rural Economy another grant has been made. A similar grant has been made for other schemes which Mr. Bryne started. Even for Palwal funds were provided; unfortunately fodder famine in Gurgaon has compelled the abandonment of the show as it was inexpedient to collect a large number of cattle which could not be fed.

Then again, Sir, I should like to associate myself with the remarks made by Mr. Owen Roberts regarding the need of studying the market conditions and improving the commerce of the province. In the matter of marketting, our Trade Commissioner in England has pointedly drawn attention in his review to trade tendencies. We know how in Western countries they study the market conditions and send their goods to the market as the purchaser requires it. Unless we put our produce on the market in a similar way we are likely to lose our markets and secure inadequate prices. There is no doubt that Railways play an important part in this matter and here I must pay a tribute to Colonel Walton for his desire to co-operate with us. I entirely agree that the provincial needs will have to be studied by the railway authorities who must work in close co-operation with the producer of the trade. I should like to appeal to the Finance Member in the Government of India to study the currency needs of the province and see whether there is adequate currency and give us a stable measuring rod of values. We are an agricultural people and have the horror of a managed currency. The honourable member, Sayad Muhammad Hussain, said that the agricultural department was doing no good. I must confess I was surprised that an agriculturist of his experience should make such a statement. He knows that if you plant a tree in the morning you cannot eat the fruit in the evening. The Department has just started work and it will bear fruit in the course of many succeeding years. We have taken the first steps in starting research in all the places where research is required. We are establishing demonstration farms in every district to study the needs of the district. The Director has appointed a committee to study the problem of the failure of the cotton crop and the results of that enquiry are still awaited. We have a specialist who is cultivating about 76 kinds of Deshi and 100 varieties of American cotton. The work will take some years; it is not possible to say within a year what variety will give best results under our conditions.

In the matter of cattle-breeding we have 15 million cattle in this Province giving 75 cattle for every 100 human beings. The Royal Commission has very rightly remarked that the number is too great for the available food supply in this province. The cost of maintenance of a single pair has been estimated by the Board of Economic Enquiry at Rs. 150 per annum. If we want to secure good results we shall have to feed and breed our cattle properly. It is no use keeping a large number and starving them. We have now 8,000 bulls in the Province; but there are 34,000 villages in the Punjab and unless we have 100,000 good bulls we cannot get the better breed that we require. You will notice that both in the matter of agriculture and cattle-breeding, work has been started and a great deal more remains to be done if we are to reap the fruit which modern knowledge promises.

Regarding Co-operative Societies, Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang, has made a couple of observations. I am glad to be able to give him some satisfaction on one or two points. Co-operation in the Punjab in all directions is making progress. Societies have increased from 16,000 to 18,000; membership from

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6 lakhs to practically 6 lakhs and the working capital from 11½ crores to 14 crores. There are 2,616 societies which are non-agricultural. There are 112 women's societies, and a few industrial societies have been started. I can assure the honourable members that so far as the department is concerned we are prepared to register societies, if any body of men are prepared to co-operate and work according to the Act.

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : How long will it take to register ?

The Honourable Sardar Sir Jogendra Singh : It is not a question of our taking time. It is a question of the people founding society and asking for registration.

The work of consolidation has made steady progress. Last year 64,619 acres were reduced from 55,000 plots into 8,868 plots. One disappointing thing is that the thrift societies are not making as good a progress as they ought to do. I agree with the honourable member that most of the capital comes from the professional classes. I should like to see more savings coming from agriculturists. The total capital of these societies comes to about 6 lakhs of rupees.

The need for the creation of agricultural credits on a wider basis is urgent. I am studying the Act which has just been passed in England to finance agriculture. As I am on this point I may say that modern agriculture is nothing but a return on capital and unless you have capital and knowledge, it is not possible to secure better yields. For the improvement of agriculture it is necessary to have credit and great knowledge.

In the matter of roads, I am glad to see that though my Honourable Friend Sardar Ujjal Singh raised a note of warning the House has given its support to the road programme. At the end of the last year we had 2,143 miles of metalled roads and 1,732, of unmetalled roads. The programme provides for metalling 100 miles a year at a cost of 25 lakhs. The honourable members, if they would refer to the Review which has been placed before them will find that the repair bill comes to something like 45 lakhs a year, and in the Nili Bar programme, another 15 lakhs a year ; added to this the grant of Rs. 7 lakhs to the district boards, brings the total to the neighbourhood of 1 crore a year. It would interest honourable members to know that while in 1913 there were 468 motors in the Province we have now 14,000 motors.

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : Not one of them manufactured in this country.

The Honourable Sardar Sir Jogendra Singh : As soon as I assumed office, I asked the Communications Board to start kachha demonstration roads. These kachha demonstration roads were provided, ten miles of good motorable road to a district. We have how discovered that we can make a mile of good motorable road at a cost of Rs. 100 a mile costing about Rs. 40 a mile for maintenance. The Communications Board has now decided to push these kachha roads and we hope to connect every village with a good motorable road within due time. I cannot help paying a tribute to the members of the Public Works Department who have carried through this big road programme this year. *(Hear, Hear).*

I may now mention another department which I administer and to which Dr. Gokul Chand Narang, drew pointed attention, I mean the Hydro-Electric Department. We have met with a great many difficulties in connection with this scheme. The water of the river Uhl is to come through a tunnel 18,000 feet long and then drop down to the power at Shanon. It was expected that we would meet with a good rock and that the new implements would bore a tunnel at fair speed. We have met with shattered rock and if honourable members care to visit the place, they will realize the risks which some of our staff are running. If you will permit me, Sir, and if the House will give me 5 more minutes, I will give the House an account.....

Mr. President : If the other members do not object, I shall not mind at all.

The Honourable Sardar Sir Jogendra Singh : The work has now advanced to a stage when I can say that within a reasonable period the scheme would be completed and as the irrigation works in the Punjab transformed the province and made it into a granary of India, the hydro-electric power when it is available will lead to industrial development such as we cannot at present imagine. It is one of the biggest schemes that has been taken up in North India. It is as big as the Irish Scheme which is now nearing completion. The hydro-electric power when it is available will lead to the industrial development in the same way as the great irrigation schemes have led to the development of agriculture.

There is one more matter and I have done. Mr. Din Muhammad and Sayad Muhammad Husain insinuated that in administering my departments I was not altogether impartial. I want to repudiate the charge. It has been my ambition to serve to the best of my power all communities including the European community (*Laughter*). We, Sikhs believe that there is no other way but to serve the people as a whole. I can assure this House that they will find me holding the scales even and helping the weak and the backward communities to come into line with the strong.

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : What about people who come qualified from England and are not given any job in the Co-operative Department because they do not belong to any agricultural tribe ? Is that holding the scales even ?

The Honourable Sardar Sir Jogendra Singh : The jobs do not exist.

Dr. Gokul Chand, Narang : Is it not a fact that those people who are highly qualified with English qualifications are told " you are not wanted because you do not belong to agricultural tribes " ?

The Honourable Sardar Sir Jogendra Singh : The policy in the Co-operative Department is that so far as the agricultural banks and agricultural societies are concerned only agriculturists who are familiar with village conditions are employed, I have no doubt that when industrial societies spring up, only people familiar with urban conditions will be employed.

May I mention that so far as the Rasul School is concerned a committee has been appointed and is going into the matter of admission, etc. In the matter of the Maclagan Engineering College, the admission is by

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competition and only 5 nominations are made to equalise any communal differences that competition may bring about. It would interest my friends to know that last year 3 nominations were made from the Muslim community. It is impossible to say how many of them were zamindars. The Honourable President is holding the watch and I think I have no alternative but to bring my remarks to a conclusion.

Chaudhri Zafrullah Khan [Sialkot (Muhammadan), Rural]: Sir, the Honourable Finance Member has received congratulations from the various parts of this House on the skill with which the budget has been prepared and presented to this House. I shall, however, offer a word of sympathy over the fact that in the very first year of his tenure of office as Finance Member he has been faced with a situation in which he finds that the revenues of the province are not in such a flourishing condition as they had been in for some years past. This is, as has been pointed out by the Honourable Finance Member himself and various speakers, due to the successive failure or partial failure of crops during three or four harvests and this is a fact which has brought home to all sections of this House the truth that the prosperity of this province mainly depends upon the prosperity of the rural areas and rural classes and that money spent on the advancement of these areas and these classes is spent eventually for the benefit of the whole of this province. In the very few observations that I propose to make with regard to the general features of the budget, I propose to confine myself to that sphere, that is to say, the promotion of the welfare of the rural classes and rural areas. I am glad to be able to state that on several points I have been anticipated by the Honourable Minister for Agriculture and he has stated his policy in such a manner that several of the observations which I intended to make with regard to these matters have become unnecessary and I shall, therefore, not put them forward, these having already in anticipation been satisfactorily answered by the Honourable Minister for Agriculture. Everybody must realise that several of the problems with which this province is faced depend for their solution upon this, that life in rural areas must be made healthier, more attractive and more remunerative and as you go on achieving these ideals you will go on solving several of the difficulties with which you are faced. No doubt for some years a great deal is being done in this direction but whatever is being done is still in the nature of pioneer work and a great deal more, a vast deal more, must be done before the Punjab can rank as a prosperous province.

With regard to communications I had two specific and concrete suggestions to make. One of these has been anticipated, namely the use of the grader on a much larger scale in developing our demonstration roads. I have been told that even in such an advanced country as the United States of America over 90 per cent. of the roads are of the quality which we here call demonstration roads, *i.e.*, graded roads. There is no doubt that the soil of that country probably lends itself better to the maintenance of that kind of road han the soil of this province is likely to do. But in any case, before we can afford to have all our principal roads metalled, it would be better to push forward the policy advocated by the Honourable Minister to have a much larger mileage of graded roads. In order to link up each village by rural roads it may be useful to have an enquiry made into the width of these roads.

Village to village roads have been very largely encroached upon by neighbouring cultivators and in some cases they have been reduced to mere footpaths. The Honourable the Revenue Member could help in that direction and I think that that would be one of the very useful activities of the revenue department and of the Communications Board by which the communication of the rural areas can be developed. Another matter which requires a great deal of attention is the stamping out of recurring diseases in rural areas. No doubt dispensaries are being established in rural areas and a great deal of money is being spent on this object, but the amount of sickness in those areas particularly during the malarial months is still appalling and apart from the suffering caused, the economic loss to the province is very considerable and the rapid putting down of diseases of this kind in the rural areas would not only contribute towards the happiness of the rural people but would also contribute materially towards the economic progress of the province.

Before I leave this question of the development of rural areas, I want to deal with one or two matters concerning the departments of the Honourable Minister for Agriculture. The Honourable Minister, towards the close of his remarks, has said that he was very much upset by the charge that his policy with regard to recruitment to and the administration of the departments in his charge has been savouring of communalism. I must plead guilty to a feeling that I have on that point. No doubt with regard to an Honourable Minister who possesses such great charm of manners and who exercises so lavish a hospitality and delivers such nice speeches one is loath to entertain any such feeling but when one looks at the portion of the civil list and other lists which show the recruitment made to the departments in the Honourable Minister's charge during the years that he has been in charge of those departments, one cannot help feeling that that charge is true. I shall not on this occasion develop it in greater detail but as the Honourable Minister has disclaimed any such feeling he will perhaps on some other occasion be able to explain how this feeling on his part can be reconciled with the facts that stare us in the face when we look at these lists. With regard to the educational institutions in the charge of the Honourable Minister, as the Rasul School of Engineering, I understand that some satisfactory formula has been settled with regard to admissions to that school. The method of admissions to the Maclagan Engineering College, the Agricultural College, Lyallpur, and the Veterinary College is looked upon with dissatisfaction by honourable members on this side of the House and I would urge upon the Minister to lay down some similar formula with regard to admissions to these educational institutions as has been laid down in the case of the Rasul School.

I now pass on to a matter which is equally vital to the happiness and prosperity of the rural areas as well as of the urban areas, but as I am dealing with the rural classes I shall confine myself to that aspect of it alone, and that is the question of education. Here again, several matters of detail and of policy have been pointed out by several honourable members and I need not repeat them. But I wish to say the same thing with regard to the policy of the Honourable Minister for Education in the

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matter of recruitments, promotions, transfers and the administration of his department as I have said with regard to the Honourable Minister for Agriculture and perhaps to add that honourable members on this side of the House are much more dissatisfied with the recruitment and other matters connected with the administration of the departments in charge of the Honourable Minister for Education than they are with the departments which are in the charge of the Honourable Minister for Agriculture. One grievance is that the pace of expansion of education in the rural areas during the last two years has been very slow and that such expansion as has taken place has not been intensive. It may be due to lack of sympathy or to some error of judgment, but in the matter of posting and choice of district inspectors and other inspectors whose duty in the main it would be to encourage education in rural areas, the Honourable Minister for Education has acted in a manner which has caused grave dissatisfaction to this side of the House, and honourable members on this side of the House also feel generally that the administration of that department has to a large extent deteriorated and needs looking into. As I said, I shall not go into very great detail in these matters, but I might cite two instances which have come to my notice during this session in answer to questions put. In answer to question No. 1738 put by my honourable friend, Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram, the Honourable Minister for Education has stated that out of 21 Physical Training Supervisors there are only 2 who are Muslims and only 11 who are agriculturists. These figures speak for themselves. In one of the statements that he has laid on the table in answer to question No. 1739 put by the same honourable member the fact is revealed that out of 29 District Inspectors of Schools who are at present actually discharging these duties, only 13 are Muslims and only 11 are agriculturists.

Then with regard to retrenchment there is one matter which I have constantly urged upon the attention of the Honourable Minister for Agriculture and that is the Department of Fisheries. There is no doubt that this is a department intended in the main for the development of one of the foodstuffs of this province and if this department were to devote its attention to the culture of fish, we would get cheap food in the form of fish in the province and the department would justify its existence. The Warden of Fisheries was warned some time ago that if it was considered that his Department was unnecessary it would be abolished. I have had several talks with the Warden of Fisheries since I have been a member of this House. No doubt the Warden can talk very well, indeed, (*Laughter*), but I am not satisfied that his Department has justified its existence. If the Honourable Minister for Agriculture satisfies this House that the Department is doing useful work I would be only too glad to give him more money to develop it. But I am sorry to have to say that I do not think the Department has achieved anything which would justify its continuance. In answer to questions put by me with regard to this Department last year I was told that the expenditure on it has in every year continued to be in excess of the income. In view of the fact that all the collection of lease money and administration work is being done by collectors and tahsildars of the districts and not by the Department

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itself, my submission is that it has failed to justify its existence as a separate Department. Whatever research work it is doing could have been done under the directions of the Director of Agriculture or better still, under those of the Financial Commissioner and I think that a separate Department is really not necessary.

With regard to land revenue, every member of this House views with satisfaction the fact that the new Land Revenue Act has now been placed upon the statute book and we are anxious that rules should immediately be framed under it in order to carry into effect the provisons of that Act. Wherever reassessment is to take place in order that .....

Mr. President: The honourable member's time is up.

Lala Kesho Ram, Sekhri [Amritsar City (Non-Muhammadan), Urban]: Sir, it is now too late in the day for me to say all that I wanted to say. I am sorry I did not avail myself of the opportunity given to members yesterday, and consequently I shall not be able to discuss each and every question that I wanted to discuss. (*Several voices from Government benches*: We cannot hear).

Mr. President: Some honourable members on this side of the House say that they cannot hear.

Lala Kesho Ram Sekhri: I shall now speak in a manner so that I may be audible to all. The Honourable Minister for Agriculture has just now told the House about the Hydro-Electric Scheme that they have to dig a tunnel through a mountain 8,000 feet high and that there are certain other difficulties which have delayed the supply of energy, and now he has given an assurance to this House that we shall be in a position to have electricity from that scheme. The Amritsar Municipality has entered into an agreement with the Government who is to get energy from Lahore Electricity Supply Company and supply the same to Amritsar Municipality, with an option to renew the agreement for another ten years. It means that the engineers in charge of the Hydro-Electric Scheme will take another fifteen years before they will be able to supply electricity to the province.

It is very necessary that a Committee should go through the pros and cons of the scheme and to find out whether this scheme will ever be in a running order. Lahore is not going to take any energy from that scheme, Amritsar is booked for five years, Jullundur has got its own plant, Gujranwala is going to have its own plant and Sialkot has got another license. So by the time the scheme is in running order there will be no city left which would be in a position to consume the energy which is generated from this scheme. It is obviously doubtful whether this will be a successful scheme. Taking for granted that it will be, the question is whether we will be in a position to give Government year after year a sum to the tune of 42 lakhs every year for the scheme. I would submit, Sir, that the scheme, which is of course a very gigantic and huge scheme should not have been taken in hand at all. I do not blame the Minister in charge of this department, for I know that all the schemes of the Ministers are first sent to the Finance Department. Then the Finance Depar ment turns round and says: "we have not got money enough; we regret we cannot see our way to help you with the scheme." It is not the minister in charge or the member in charge to blame, it is the Finance Department, and the Finance Department have to say that they

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have got their own limitations. The question is why are they paying such a handsome salary to the Director of Industries? It is no good keeping handsomely-paid officers when there is not sufficient work for them. When we say we do not want more roads, it means that we must give a clean holiday to the engineers. What is the good of having a highly paid officer as the Director of Industries and not placing any funds at his disposal? Out of ten lakhs which have been placed at his disposal only 2 lakhs is intended for certain schemes in order to improve the industries of the province, and the remaining 8 lakhs you will find is meant for salaries. What is the use of keeping a department which can be of no avail at all to the province? So far as this Department is concerned, it is very necessary that funds be placed at its disposal. It is very natural for our electorate to call upon us to show what we have done for the towns. What will be our answer? Take any town. Have we been in a position to widen its roads or better its sanitary conditions? Have we been able to give more amenities of life to the inhabitants of a city? Now you find you cannot have drainage out of the funds of local bodies and there is only 40 lakhs with Government to be lent to the local bodies all over the province.

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon: The 40 lakhs includes takavi loans.

Lala Kesho Ram, Sekhri: I am sorry. I thought that the whole was meant to be lent to the local bodies. So I submit that the 15 or 20 lakhs that is left is not sufficient for the purpose. When a local body makes a request they are told that their scheme has to undergo certain changes, and it normally takes about three years for administrative sanction as they call it. Later on they are told: "we cannot see our way to give that loan because your finances do not warrant that you will be in a position to repay the loan." Consequently, the Ministry of Local Government regrets that it cannot see its way to help that local body in its predicament. It is no fault of the Ministry of Local Self-Government. The Ministry has to use the funds that are made available to it. Funds are allotted by the local bodies to have better roads, to make more roads, to provide water works and better drainage and to give electricity. But it is too much for the local revenue. We expect that the provincial revenues should contribute something at least for the betterment of towns.

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon: I think the honourable member made a statement in the House that 40 lakhs were set aside to be given away as loans to municipal committees. That statement is incorrect; as far as Government is concerned, they have set aside only 5 lakhs of rupees which are given away by way of grants-in-aid by the Urban Sanitary Board and as far as loans are concerned, each loan is considered separately. Therefore, the impression that 40 lakhs are given away in the form of loans to municipal committees is incorrect.

Lala Kesho Ram, Sekhri: I have been a member of the Standing Committee and I know that the resources at the disposal of the Ministry of Local Self-Government are very, very limited.

The Honourable Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : As far as loans are concerned, the honourable member will not be able to point out any instance in which Government has refused the loan where it was deserved.

Lala Kesho Ram, Sekhri : I am sorry, I was mistaken. I find that Rs. 18,20,000 is the sum allotted. I am very sorry I made that mistake. I do not blame the Ministry for it, but the Ministry must fight in order to improve local self-government in the different towns and districts . . . .

Mr. President : Order, order. The honourable member's time is up.

Sardar Bahadur Captain Dalpat Singh [Nominated, Non-official] (Urdu) : Sir, first of all I wholeheartedly associate myself with my honourable friends who have paid a tribute to the Honourable the Finance Member and the Finance Secretary for presenting the Budget in such a clear and easily comprehensible manner. Then with your permission, I will say just a few words from the point of view of my own constituents. The people whom I have the honour and privilege to represent in this House live upon agriculture and Military service. Yesterday, Risaldar Bahadur Nur Khan explained at some length the grievances and the claims of this very important class of people. I do not say that the Honourable Minister for Education is to blame for all these grievances, but it is a fact that the rules for awarding military scholarships are very defective. The children of many deserving military men have been deprived of the benefit of scholarships on account of these rules. You know Sir, that illiterate persons cannot be expected to work properly on aroplanes, Lewis guns and other recent inventions. Therefore, it is the duty of the Government to provide more and more educational facilities for the children of military tribes. Moreover, the Government has very graciously promised 40 per cent. of the King's Commissions in the Military to the Indian officers holding Viceroy's Commission and now it is up to us to avail ourselves of such opportunities. If we do not send up suitable candidates, our province is sure to be deprived of these benefits and the responsibility for that will rest upon the shoulders of this Council.

The Honourable Minister for Agriculture was pleased to state that a sum of Rs. 29,000 has been set apart to be spent on work in connection with rural uplift. I submit, Sir, that the Government should always be prepared to spend more money for that purpose because much remains to be done in that direction. While discussing the construction of roads, etc., my honourable friend Chaudhri Zafrullah Khan pointed out that in the villages people have made encroachments on the paths connecting one village with another. The Government must take steps to check such encroachments and to keep the means of communication in the best possible condition. Similarly, the programme of Mr. Brayne should be followed in every district of the province. No exorbitant sums of money will be required for the purpose. At least as far as my district (Rohtak) is concerned, I am in a position to say that the uplift work is being carried on efficiently and with very little expense. In short, Sir, to keep the military spirit alive it is absolutely necessary to pay special attention to the work of rural uplift.

Now, I wish to say a few words with regard to the sad plight of the military classes. These people possess very small tracts of land and have

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to support large families. Now-a-days they have to face a very grave situation. On account of the failure of crops they have no food for their children and no fodder for their cattle. These people are the backbone of the Government. Their usefulness and loyalty is admitted on all hands. Therefore, if the Government could see its way to grant them some lands in the Nili Bar they might be able to make both ends meet. I know that a large number of people have served the Government during the Great War and that it is not possible to grant lands to all of them. When I was a Subedar-Major in the Military a good many under me applied for lands in canal colonies and naturally, the Government could not meet the wishes of every one of them. Under these circumstances, I suggest that the Government should try to reserve some land to be sold to these people at a reduced price so that this important section of His Majesty's subjects may be able to live with some comfort and continue to supply good and loyal servants to the Crown and the country.

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain (Revenue Member): Sir, I will make a few observations and group them under three or four different heads. The first one will deal with land revenue matters and matters connected with land; the second with irrigation, the third with miscellaneous points and the last, the Legislative Council and its proceedings.

Mr. President: I do not propose to allow the honourable member more than 20 minutes.

The Honourable Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: I can assure you that I may be able to save one or two out of the limit. For, classifying one's ideas tends to economy.

As to the first point, a large number of members have been very jubilant over the assent which the Viceroy gave to the Land Revenue Bill which they passed in the face of the strong and determined opposition of Government. They congratulated me on my defeat in Council and I with a smiling face bore it. Although I was defeated still I bore them no grudge and I bore my defeat with fortitude and tried to serve their wishes. I hope on future occasions when there are other minorities defeated by other majorities, they will try to do as I have done.

I have been reminded that the Land Revenue Bill has now become an Act and that there are two little matters connected with it which need attention. The first one is with reference to the rules. I am not unmindful of the promise I made that the rules under the Bill, if it were enacted, would be taken up immediately, not only taken up by Government, but when the rules were drafted, the rough draft of them will be placed before the Select Committee to which the Bill was referred by the Council. I have, Sir, the honourable members will be pleased to know, already taken steps in that direction. An officer has been placed on special duty to frame the rules. The directions given to him are that the rules should be ready within two months. And I trust the members of this Council who are on the Select Committee will send in all their suggestions in relation to these rules to that officer during the course of the month of March and I will request their presence during the months of May and June. I trust I will be able to place on the Council table these rules at its July session, at all events, I do

not think this Council will come to its end before the rules are ready and become part of the rules under the Act. I trust that that is quite satisfactory.

The other point which I would have preferred if the Council had not made mention of, relates to money matters. Money matters are always awkward things. I am reminded that my predecessor has made the mistake of promising that the land revenue Bill when it is enacted would affect not only settlements which will take place after it had been enacted but that all those settlements which had taken place between 1922 and the time that that Bill is enacted would also benefit by the provisions of that Act. That is perfectly true. The Act as it stands provides that it will operate on settlements in the future which would mean that the seven settlements, Gujranwala, Sheikhupura, Attock, Mianwali, Gujrat, Shahpur and Jhang, that had taken place during the last seven years would not benefit by the provisions of the Act at all. But a promise is a promise and Government must carry out the promise made by my predecessor. (*Cries of hear, hear*). What is the result of it? Kindly see for yourselves. I have found after very troublesome and careful calculations that the assessments in these seven districts will end in a reduction of not less than nearly 9 lakhs, and what is the effect of it? For about 34 years, 40 years being the term of assessment fixed, this 9 lakhs would be lost and 9 times 34 lakhs is what the province will be short of its income. Is that not something like 3 crores and odd? It is really a very large sum. And if you capitalise this 9 lakhs a year, I think it will work out to 2 crores or something like it. The amount sacrificed is thus very considerable, but still as I said, a promise is a promise and Government must abide by it. I have already taken steps towards carrying out that promise as well. Five of these seven districts will be re-assessed during the next hot weather, I mean in 1929, and the remaining two immediately after that, which means before the next budget session. Therefore, you will see that in the course of the year 1929-30 all this work will also be completed. I have done my duty. I trust the Council will do its duty which means that 9 lakhs a year having been taken away from our income, the Council should not talk as one honourable member did of the Stamp Act, etc. We are all agreed that the court fees should not exist and the Motor Vehicles Act, it is to our interest, should never have been enacted and since it has been enacted should be repealed at once. In view of this reduction of 9 lakhs a year you cannot very well talk of these things in that liberal fashion.

Therefore, Sir, I trust honourable members realize that having been defeated, we have carried out their wishes and it is up to them to play up and see that the Province does not suffer in any way. Under this head as I said, I will deal with the affairs connected with land. The other matter is the matter of the Land Alienation Act. It has been said that Government ought to make its position clear with reference to the Land Alienation Act. I think, two days ago it was, during the course of this session, I made the position of the Punjab Government absolutely clear on that point. The Punjab Government stand by the principle underlying the Land Alienation Act. It is not prepared to extend its scope nor prepared to reduce its scope. Therefore, I would beg honourable members not to make this a point of agitation either for one side or the other, because

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what leads really to trouble and embitterment of feelings is not the Act but the constant harping on that Act. I assure the honourable members, Sir, that if the Land Alienation Act had not been made a point of ever-abiding and everlasting grievance, it might have receded into the background of political and economic life; it is the fact that it has always been cried down which has made the rural people who were absolutely innocent of all agitation to talk about that being the Magna Charta of their political and economic life. I do believe that the support for it takes the form of reaction to the attack made on it. When I was a student of Mathematics, Sir, having been a very poor student of that subject, I was taught that reaction corresponds to action, and therefore, if the hatchet is buried and nothing is said about it for 5 or 10 years, I am sure embitterment between the rural and urban classes, which is largely due to this measure being unfortunately talked about by many people, will disappear. I, therefore, say bury the hatchet and say no more about it.

The next point, Sir, was irrigation. Very pleasant observations were made, pleasant to hear for me relating to corruption. It is not a paradox that when people begin to talk about corruption, if they are at all sincere about their talks, it is a sure sign that public conscience has begun to awaken. As soon as it does awaken, honourable members will find that Government is ever ready to push the movement in favour of honesty and against corruption with all the power with which the Government is endowed. One honourable member, I find he is not present, made mention of a certain grievance. He said honest irrigation officers disappeared, were soon transferred from places where corruption is rife. Whereto? To bad places, and the dishonest ones are kept in corrupt places, meaning thereby lucrative places for a corrupt officer. I don't know his own place, whether he calls it a good place or a bad place. It is Upper Bari Doab. I do not know whether he complains that all good officers are sent to his constituency or his complaint is that unfortunately all bad officers find favour in it. I am afraid, such wild allegations are easy to make, but extremely difficult to substantiate. I think although he has been pretty frank in his talks with me with respect to various grievances including the opening of Canal Telegraph Offices to the public, scarcity of water supply and so on, he never mentioned to me that any of his officers was either particularly honest or particularly dishonest. If he will read my speech at all, if his ilaqa has been unfortunate in having dishonest officers, the best course for him will be to inform me or the Chief Engineer, and we will take action in no time.

There is then, the talk about remissions. Some people say not enough remissions were made. I find that I am an extremely unlucky Revenue Member. I assumed charge of my office in 1926. Towards the end of that year Government through me lost 30 lakhs of rupees. It was our first cotton remission. When I went to England in 1927 Government did not lose any money. In 1928 when I was here Government lost 40 lakhs under remission and rabi. We have recently in kharif lost another large sum, nearly 30 lakhs. That is one crore in all to my credit. Can any one suggest that when Government has been dealing in these hard days with such sympathy, that there is a case for remissions keeping in mind the condition of our finances? Remissions have to be adjusted not only to the extent that the people need

them but to the extent that Government can afford. After all, if Government is to give remissions it is assumed that Government has in some way or other to make money to give these remissions. None has been suggested. Do the honourable members want Government to go on borrowing in order to give these remissions? So, Sir, enough of remissions has been given and I wish I could have given more. I assure honourable members that as long as I continue to be the Revenue Member the views of the people will receive the careful and sympathetic consideration of the Government.

Suggestions have been made that some money ought to be got out of the plantations. The Irrigation Department has never lost sight of that, but up till now the view that has prevailed has been that there is not much scope for increasing our income that way. But if some enterprising officer comes forward, I have no doubt he will receive every encouragement at the hands of Government.

Coming now, Sir, to the miscellaneous head, I am very pleased to see that our Labour member is interesting himself in his low wage-earning constituency, after he has been on the list of the heavy wage earners like myself and others of my colleagues during the last year, his constituents were getting very restive, urging upon Government that their worthy representative has left the Punjab, and is busy in operating in a gold mine and they wanted another one, who is a fellow worker, preferably a chawkidar on Rs. 200 a month. Well, I am not sure whether his object was that we should raise the pay of our chowkidars from Rs. 150 a year to Rs. 2,500 a year which he thinks they ought to get. I am afraid, the calculations he suggests even if all officials getting pay more than, say 80 thousands a year, were to give up their additional pay still the budget won't work. However, I am glad that he has returned to his activities and I do not want in any way to discourage him in doing what he can for his constituency.

The honourable member to my right (Dr. Gokul Chand) made mention of purchasing Indian made goods. Well, Sir, I assure him that so far as purchase of Indian made goods is concerned, the instructions and rules and orders on the subject are perfect. That is to say, if he sat down and devoted a week or 10 days or a fortnight in framing rules in order to serve the purpose he has in view, he could not frame any better rules than there are now. No order is given for things that are made in India to any firm outside India. So on this point I need not say more except to give every information and to see that if he seeks any reference or information, it is supplied to him.

I come to the last head, Legislative Council and its proceedings. I have no doubt that the Council would like me first to welcome the maiden speech of the honourable member, Mrs. Shave, our first lady member who I find is not present here now. She made such a beautiful little speech in her beautiful voice that although it was not audible in those corners, members were so impressed by her that they did not say they could not hear her. I am sure as time proceeds, may be during the next election, there may be elected lady members. I am not sure which of the honourable members are willing to vacate their seats for them.

The second point was that made by my honourable friend from Amritsar, whom it is a pleasure always to watch and to hear. He said that it was rather funny that there were demands which were in the middle "You begin

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from the top now; next, you begin from the bottom; they are always in the middle." There are several things so constituted by nature. But there is such a thing as self-Government and is it not open to the members of this House to so regulate their cuts as to attack the middle both times, whether it is begun from the top or from the bottom? It is not at all necessary that there should be a re-arrangement.

The next point mentioned by him was that there had been a long protracted debate the other day and I was still speaking when the House had to be adjourned without a division. There again the matter rests with the House itself. Any member could have called for a division and I am not aware that any one wanted a division at all.

I now come to my last point. That is the speech made by the honourable member from miscellaneous towns in different parts of the Province an irresponsible constituency by itself no doubt. He talked of the budget being a child's play. "Your subordinates do it and you get all the credit for it", and so he grudges the Finance Member all the congratulations he gets. I will meet that by reciting one proverb, and one proverb only,

هل دا کی واهنا جیدے پچھے پچھے جانا

"Where is the trouble about ploughing, you have only to follow the plough." Those who do actually plough, know what it means.

The next point he made was to suggest that the non-official members of the Council were absolutely of no use, that they did not follow him in throwing out the budget and that the Government was to blame for that. To him I will simply reply—

رقص کردن خود نداند صحن را گوید کج است

"She does not know how to dance herself but says this room is not level."

The Honourable Mr. A. M. Stow: [Finance Member] Sir, along with my honourable colleagues I thank the many members of the House who have studied the budget and have given us the benefit of their criticism and advice. They have covered a wide range of subjects, and matters pertaining to Agriculture, Public Works Department, Land Revenue, Irrigation and Education, have been dealt with by those in charge of those departments. The Finance Secretary also discussed the form of the budget and has given information on other matters. There is, therefore, very little left for me to say before this debate closes.

I may, however, deal with certain constructive proposals which were made in the course of the debate. I regret to say that there were not too many of them. Mr. Owen Roberts having seen the Signal School at Kot Lakhpat proposed that this Government should shift the burden of the Railway Police, which means seven or eight lakhs, on to the North-Western Railway. I can assure him that this is not the first occasion on which this important question has arisen. I can also assure him that Government has not been remiss in this matter. The Government of India have been

addressed more than once and the honourable member's suggestion that they should be addressed again will be seriously considered. In his remarks in connection with commerce, Mr. Roberts perhaps over-rated the powers of this Council. Commerce is a central subject, and as such it can find but little place in the provincial budget. It is satisfactory, however, to see that Mr. Roberts himself admits that commercial education, which is of the greatest importance, does receive considerable attention in this Province. Mr. Roberts is himself an enthusiast on commercial statistics, especially those relating to food grains, and it is unfortunate that his views have not found favour with the Government of India; also that we have not been able to include in this present budget any sum for giving effect to his proposals. I have no doubt that the Honourable Minister who is in charge of Industries will see that Mr. Robert's proposals in this connection receive due attention.

One of the proposals that were made was the provincialisation of income-tax. But it was promptly pointed out that this would not be of much assistance, as the Central Government would impose some other form of taxation to take its place. We can only wait and see whether the revision of the Meston Settlement will give us anything under this head. The second proposal was the imposition of death duties. This question was carefully examined some years ago, but the difficulties were so great that it was necessary to abandon it. There was another proposal made with regard to the remission of revenue. I should like to allude to it since the Honourable the Revenue Member did not mention it. The honourable member from Montgomery wanted to reduce the rate of abiana by the average percentage of failed crops and to have no kharaba remissions in future. I have no doubt that the Revenue Member will consider this; but I should like to point out that this principle has been adopted as far as possible as a result of the Colony Enquiry Committee proposals of 1907, and the suggestion has been incorporated in the rules of the Lower Jhelum and Lower Chenab Canals. It is almost impossible to do away with remissions altogether in years where the failure has been so widespread as at present.

There was one economy suggested by Sir Muhammad Iqbal with regard to jail expenditure. This expenditure has largely swollen on account of the Peculé system. This system is engaging the attention of the Jail Committee of this Council, and it is hoped that some economy will be effected in this direction.

I may now return to the general remarks made by honourable members. I was somewhat astonished to hear that no progress had been made and no bold step had been taken as regards education since the Reforms. This can hardly be borne out by the facts. The expenditure on Education in 1921-22 was 100 lakhs whereas it is now 181 lakhs, an increase of nearly 82 per cent. As regards the Police, more than one speaker deplored the failure of the Police to trace the perpetrators of the three notorious outrages, during the last two years. I share their disappointment, but not their pessimism. In every country in the world there are crimes undetected for many months and sometimes years; but eventually the culprits are brought to justice. Other honourable members, especially Chaudhri Afzal Haq, have dealt with corruption in the Police force. In this connection I would draw the attention of honourable members to the remarks contained in the latest report

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on Police Administration regarding corruption and the comments of the Local Government on that report. They will find that Government is anything but negligent in this important matter. A very considerable improvement has been effected by the drastic remedies applied. Certain honourable members suggested that the Police officers might be sent to London to study the methods of detection of crime. They will be interested to know that officers of the Indian Police when on leave are frequently deputed to learn the most up-to-date methods in Scotland yard. Two honourable members who have every right to speak on behalf of Rawalpindi have drawn the attention of the Government to what they described as the riot cess which has been imposed on the city. It will be remembered that in consequence of the riots of 1926 additional police was quartered on the inhabitants of Rawalpindi, under section 15, of the Police Act, for a period of three years. And in addition to this, a further levy under section 16-A of the Police Act was imposed for the purpose of awarding compensation to those who suffered from the effects of the riot. I understand that honourable members ask the Government to remit this levy. I can assure them and other members who mentioned this matter that that suggestion will be very carefully considered. *(Hear, hear).*

I need not delay the House longer. It is something to hear that honourable members have found the budget speech and the memorandum attached thereto clear and easy to follow. On behalf of the Finance Department, I thank them for their appreciation. *(Applause).*

The Council then adjourned till 2 P.M. on Wednesday the 6th March, 1929.

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