THE

Punjab Legislative Council Debates.

October 20th to October 27th 1923.

Vol. V.

OFFICIAL REPORT.



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1923.

PRINCIPAL OFFICERS OF THE PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

President.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. A. Casson, C.S.I., I.C.S.

Deputy President.

Manohar Lal, Esq., M. A., Bar.-at Law.

Secretary to the Council—Sardar Abnasha Singh.

Assistant Secretary to the Council—Hakim Ahmad Shujaa.

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PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

ALPHABETICAL LIST OF MEMBERS.

A.

Abdul Hamid Khan, Khan Bahadur Diwan (Nominated Non-Official).

Ahmad Yar Khan, Daulana, Mian [Multan East (Muhammadan), Rural].

Akbar Ali, Pir [Ferozepore (Muhammadan), Rural].

Ali Akbar, Chaudhri [Kangra-cum-Gurdaspur (Muhammadan), Rural].

Ali Haidar Shah, Khan Sahib Pir Sayad [Rawalpindi (Muhammadan), Rural].

Allan Khan Drishak, Sardar [Dera Ghazi Khan (Muhammadan), Rural].

Amar Das, Lala [Rawalpindi Division and Lahore Divisi on North (Non-Muhammadan), Rural].

Amir Khan, Khan Sahib [Lyallpur North (Muhammadan), Rural].

Ata Ullah Khan, Chaudhri [Gujranwala (Muhammadan), Rural].

Atma Ram, Lala [South-East Towns (Non-Muhammadan), Urban].

Anderson, Mr. G. (Nominated Official).

B.

Bakhtawar Singh, Sardar [Hoshiarpur and Kangra (Sikh), Rural].

Balbir Singh, Rao Bahadur Lieutenant [Gurgaon (Non-Muhammadan), Rural].

Balwant Singh, Sardar [Jullundur (Sikh), Rural].

Bans Gopal, Chaudhri [Karnal (Non-Muhammadan), Rural].

Bali Ram, Mian [Hoshiarpur (Non-Muhammadan), Rural].

Boyd, Mr. D. J. (Nominated Official).

C.

Calvert, Mr. H. (Nominated Official).

Chhotu Ram, Rai Sahib, Chaudhri [South-East Rohtak (Non-Muhammadan), Rural].

Coldstream, Mr. J. (Nominated Official).

D.

Dasaundha Singh, Sardar [Ludhiana (Sikh), Rural].

Daulat Ram, Kalia, Pandit [East and West Central Towns (Non-Muhammadan), Urban].

Dilbagh Singh, Sardar Sahib, Risaldar [Lyallpur (Sikh), Rural].

F.

Fazl Ali, Khan Bahadur, Chaudhri [Gujrat West (Muhammadan), Rural].

Fazl-i-Husain, the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Mian (Minister, Muhammadan Landholders).

Firoz Khan, Noon, Malik [Shahpur West (Muhammadan), Rural].

Forster, Lt.-Col. W. C. H. (Nominated Official).

G.

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

Ganpat Rai, Mr. [Lahore and Ferozpore-*cum*-Sheikhupura (Non-Muhammadan).

Ghasi Ram, Chaudhri [North-West Rohtak (Non-Muhammadan), Rural].

Ghulam Muhammad, Chaudhri [Gujrat East (Muhammadan), Urban].

Ghulam Muhammad Shah, Sayad [Shahpur East (Muhammadan), Rural].

Gibson, Mr. A. J. (Nominated Official).

Gopal Singh Labana, Sardar Bahadur (Nominated Non-Official).

Gopal Singh, Captain, Sardar (Nominated Non-Official—Indian Army).

H.

Hara Singh Bedi, Bawa [Multan Division and Sheikhupura (Sikh), Rural].

Hardit Singh Bedi, Bawa (Sikh Landholders).

Hari Chand, Rai Bahadur Lala [West Punjab Towns (Non-Muhammadan), Urban].

Harkishan Lal, the Hon'ble Lala (Minister, Punjab Industries).

Harnam Singh, Rai Sahib Sardar [Rawalpindi Division and Gujranwala (Sikh), Rural].

Heard, Colonel R. (Nominated Official).

Husain Shah, Sayad [Jhang (Muhammadan), Rural].

I.

Irving, Mr. Miles (Nominated Official).

J.

Jamal Khan, Sardar [Baloch Tumandar (Landholders)].

K.

Karim Ullah Khan, Malik [Jhelum (Muhammadan), Rural].

Kartar Singh, Sardar [Ferozepore (Sikh), Rural].

Kesho Ram, Lala [Amritsar City (Non-Muhammadan)].

Kharak Singh, Chaudhri [Amritsar-*cum*-Gurdaspur, Rural].

King, Mr. C. M. (Nominated Official).

L.

Lajpat Rai, Rai Sahib, Chaudhri [Hissar (Non-Muhammadan), Rural].
Lal Singh, Sodhi [(Sikh), Urban].
Latifi, Mr. A. (Nominated Official).

M.

Manohar Lal, Mr. (Punjab University).
Mant, Mr. R. A. (Nominated Official).
Medhi Shah, Khan Bahadur, Sayad [Lyallpur South (Muhammadan), Rural].
Mela Ram, Rai Sahib Misar [Jullundur-*cum*-Ludhiana (Non-Muhammadan), Rural].
Moti Lal, Kaistha, Mr. [Kangra (Non-Muhammadan), Rural].
Maynard, the Hon'ble Sir John (Member, Executive Council).
Muhammad Abdullah Khan, Khan [Muzaffargarh (Muhammadan), Rural].
Muhammad Akbar Khan, Khan Bahadur Raja [West Punjab Towns (Muhammadan), Urban].
Muhammad Amin, Chaudhri [Sialkot (Muhammadan), Rural].
Muhammad Amin Khan, Khan Bahadur Malik [Attock (Muhammadan), Rural].
Muhammad Hayat Khan, Chaudhri [Gurgaon-*cum*-Hissar (Muhammadan), Rural].
Muhammad Hussain, Sayad [Montgomery (Muhammadan), Rural].
Muhammad Irshad Ali Khan, Nawabzada [South-East Towns (Muhammadan), Urban].
Muhammad Jamil Khan, Rana [Jullundur (Muhammadan), Rural].
Muhammad Raza Shah Gilani, Sayad [Multan West (Muhammadan), Rural].
Muhammad Saif Ullah Khan, Khan [Mianwali (Muhammadan), Rural].
Muhammad Shah Nawaz, Mian [Lahore (Muhammadan), Rural].
Muharram Ali Chishti, Maulvi [Lahore City (Muhammadan), Urban].

N.

Nabi Bakhsh, Chaudhri [Amritsar (Muhammadan), Rural].
Najabat Khan, Malik [Sheikhupura (Muhammadan), Rural].
Narendra Nath, Diwan Bahadur Raja [Punjab Landholders (General)].
Nawab Din, Murad, Mr. [East and West Central Towns (Muhammadan), Urban].

O.

Owen, Dr. C. A. (Nominated Non-Official—Anglo-Indian).

P.

Panna Lal, Rai Bahadur Lala [North-East Towns (Non-Muhammadan), Urban].

R.

Raghbir Singh, Lieutenant Sardar [Amritsar (Sikh), Rural].
Raja Singh, Rai Sahib, Chaudhri [Ambala Division (Sikh), Rural].
Rallia Ram, Mr. K. L. (Nominated Non-Official—Indian Christian).
Randhir Singh, Sardar [Sialkot-*cum*-Gurdaspur (Sikh), Rural].
Roberts, Mr. Owen (Nominated Non-Official, Anglo-Indian).

S.

Sangat Singh, Sardar [Lahore (Sikh), Rural].
Scott, Mr. E. A. (Nominated Official).
Sewak Ram, Rai Bahadur Lala [Multan Division (Non-Muhammadan), Rural].
Shafi Ali Khan, Chaudhri [Ambala Division (North-East) (Muhammadan), Rural].
Sundar Singh, the Hon'ble Sardar Bahadur Sardar (Member, Executive Council).

T.

Thakar Das, Rai Sahib Lala [North-West Towns (Non-Muhammadan), Urban].
Tollinton, Mr. H. P. (Nominated Official).
Townsend, Mr. C. A. H. (Nominated Official).

U.

Uttam Chand, Lala [Lahore City (Non-Muhammadan)].

W.

Wali Muhamman Khan, Khan Bahadur Rai [Hoshiarpur-*cum*-Ludhiana, Rural].

Y.

Yusaf Shah, Khan Bahadur Khwaja [Amritsar City (Muhammadan), Urban].

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PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

EIGHTH SESSION.

Saturday, the 20th October 1923.

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:—

R. A. Mant, Esquire,
H. P. Tollinton, Esquire,
C. A. H. Townsend, Esquire,
H. Calvert, Esquire,
J. Coldstream, Esquire,
E. A. Scott, Esquire, and
Owen Roberts, Esquire.

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIR.

PANEL OF CHAIRMEN.

Mr. President: I have to announce to the Council that I have appointed the following gentlemen to serve on the panel of Chairmen for the present session:—

Diwan Bahadur Raja Narendra Nath,
Rai Bahadur Lala Hari Chand,
Mian Muhammad Shah Nawaz, and
Rai Sahib Sardar Harnam Singh.

CONGRATULATIONS TO HIS MAJESTY THE KING-EMPEROR ON THE BIRTH OF A GRANDSON.

Mr. President: I have pleasure in informing the Council that the Government of India have transmitted to the India Office to be laid before His Majesty the resolution of this Council passed on the 17th March last offering its respectful congratulations to His Most Gracious Majesty the King-Emperor of India on the birth of a grandson.

GOVERNOR'S AND GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S ASSENT TO BILLS.

Mr. President: I have to acquaint the Council that His Excellency the Governor and His Excellency the Governor-General have been pleased to give their assent to the following measures:—

1. The Punjab Municipal (Amendment) Act, 1923.
2. The Punjab Industrial Loans Act, 1923.
3. The Repealing (Punjab Loans Limitation) Act, 1923.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

POSTING OF EXTRA ASSISTANT COMMISSIONERS.

2473. Mr. Ganpat Rai: (*a*) Will Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that, according to usual practice, Extra Assistant Commissioners are not posted to districts of which they are residents?

(*b*) Will Government be pleased to ascertain how many Extra Assistant Commissioners are posted at the present time to districts (*i*) in which they own land or (*ii*) in which they have personal interest?

(*c*) Will Government be pleased to take early steps to transfer these officers to other districts?

Mr. C. A. H. Townsend: (*a*) The general rule is as stated.

(*b*) At present three Extra Assistant Commissioners in the Punjab are stationed in districts of which they are residents, and Government is satisfied that in each case the reasons why they should remain in their districts are sufficient.

LOCAL ALLOWANCE TO CIVIL *NAZIRS* AND *NAIB SHARAFS*.

2474. Khan Sahib Sayad Ali Haidar Shah: (*a*) Is it a fact that Government servants in Lahore, Lyallpur, Amritsar and Rawalpindi Districts, getting a salary of between Rs. 25 and Rs. 100 per mensem, are given a local allowance of Rs. 5 per mensem?

(*b*) Is it a fact that civil *Nazirs* and *Naib-Sharafs* do not get this allowance?

(*c*) If the answers to (*a*) and (*b*) are in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to consider the desirability of giving local allowance to Civil *Nazirs* and *Naib-Sharafs*?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: (*a*) Such an allowance has only been sanctioned for clerks on certain standard rates of pay.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) The question will be considered.

MEMBERS OF THE BAR AS EXTRA ASSISTANT COMMISSIONERS.

2475. Pandit Daulat Ram, Kalia: Is it a fact that the Government no longer nominates members of the Bar as Extra Assistant Commissioners on the recommendation of the High Court? If so, what other course has been adopted for recruiting Extra Assistant Commissioners from the Punjab Bar?

Mr. C. A. H. Townsend: The question is still under consideration.

ROAD ENGINEER.

2476. Diwan Bahadur Raja Narendra Nath: (1) Will the Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) the circumstances which lead to the constitution of a special experimental division under the control of the Road Engineer;

(*b*) the duties of the Road Engineer attached to the Communications Board ;

(*c*) whether he has the consultative capacity of an expert only, or has in addition been invested with executive work ?

(II) Will the Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) the special qualifications of the present incumbent for this work, stating the time he has actually been in charge of road construction and whether it is contemplated to entrust the Road Engineer with the execution of the road programme of the Communications Board ?

(*b*) whether it is a fact that in making this appointment the claims of some of his seniors waiting for a Divisional charge were overlooked ?

The Honourable Lala Harkishan Lal :

I. (*a*) The Road Project and Experimental Division was created, and the Road Engineer placed in charge of it, in order to make the ordinary accounts and other rules applicable to the Road Engineer, his office, and his activities.

(*b*) The duties of the Road Engineer, who is also a Secretary to the Communications Board, apart from his duties in the latter capacity, are as follows :—

(*i*) To supervise the working of the stone metal quarries in the Province, to arrange contracts for quarrying and to distribute the metal amongst consumers, that is to say, Public Works Department, Buildings and Roads Branch, District Boards and Municipal Committees.

(*ii*) To discover, if possible, some more economical form of road crust than that at present in use in the Province, and to work out some economically possible methods of improving kachha roads, in which connections the Road Engineer is at present carrying out certain experiments.

(*iii*) To scrutinize District Board road projects which come up to the Board of Communication for administrative approval, and to advise the Board thereon, to advise District Boards generally when called upon on matters connected with their road system, and to be responsible to the Communications Board that grants-in-aid made by it for works of communications are properly and economically applied by the District Boards concerned, to the works for which they have been given :

(*iv*) Generally to study and work out possible improvements in the road system of the Province, including the use of improved methods and materials and also the planning of new roads for construction when funds are available.

(*c*) The Road Engineer has chiefly a consultative capacity. He is in addition, vested with executive functions in the control and management of quarries, and in carrying out of certain experiments which cannot conveniently be executed by other agencies.

II. (*a*) The present incumbent is an officer of over 13 years' service, in the first 9½ years of which his charge included road work involving both construction and maintenance, since then he has been Under-Secretary to Government, Punjab, before taking up his present appointment. This officer has made a special study of roads as a result of which, when last on leave, he was placed on deputation for four months with the Ministry of Transport in England and also in the United States of America to study the question further. The question of the agencies by which the road programme of Communications Board is to be carried out, has not yet been considered by Government. The Communications Board will no doubt make proposals on this matter when submitting the programme.

(*b*) The answer is in the negative. The present incumbent has held divisional charge (when not on leave) since December 1916 ; the appointment was made in November 1921.

2477. *Cancelled.*

WATER-LOGGING OF LAND BETWEEN NANUANA AND KOT KHUDAYAR.

2478. **Sardar Randhir Singh :** (*a*) Is it a fact that the land on both sides of the Jhang Branch of the Lower Chenab Canal between Nanuana and Kot Khudayar have become water-logged ?

(*b*) If so, will the Government take any steps to remedy the evil ?

(*c*) Will Government be pleased to state whether it proposes to compensate the zamindars so effected by water-logging. If so, when and in what way ?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia : (*a*) Water-logging in patches in about one-third of the reach mentioned was noticed in 1908, but has since decreased considerably. In the remaining two-thirds of the reach there has never been any water-logging, nor is there likely to be any in the future.

(*b*) Remedial measures have been in operation since 1914 and are still in progress. Further measures are continued as funds admit. Years of heavy rainfall necessitate an acceleration of progress in remedial measures, and as the year 1922 was a year of heavy rainfall, additional allotments of funds have been earmarked for expenditure on further remedial measures in 1923.

(*c*) The question of compensation is still under consideration.

SIKH HEAD CONSTABLES IN THE PUNJAB POLICE.

2479. **Sardar Randhir Singh :** (*a*) Would Government be pleased to state the number of Head Constables in the Punjab Police ?

(*b*) How many of them are Sikhs ?

(*c*) Would Government be pleased to ask the officers concerned to have more Sikh Head Constables ?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : (*a*) The number of Head Constables in the Punjab Police is 2,703.

(*b*) Of these 258 are Sikhs.

(*c*) Vacancies in the rank of Head Constables are filled by the promotion of suitable Constables, and, less frequently by the selection of candidates for direct appointment, merit and ability to perform the duties of a Head Constable being the guiding principles in each case. Government is not prepared to direct that promotions and appointments should be made on a communal basis.

DASKA-GUJRANWALA ROAD.

2480. Sardar Randhir Singh : (*a*) Is Government aware that Daska-Gujranwala Road is in a very bad condition in the Sialkot District ?

(*b*) If so, would Government help the Sialkot District Board to enable it to repair the above-mentioned road ?

The Honourable Lala Harkishan Lal : (*a*) Government on enquiry learns that parts of the road mentioned are in a bad way.

(*b*) The honourable member is advised to refer the matter to the District Board concerned.

EXCISE OFFICERS NOMINATED AS EXTRA ASSISTANT COMMISSIONERS.

2481. Sardar Balwant Singh : (*a*) Will Government please state the number of officers of the Excise Department who have been nominated as Extra Assistant Commissioner candidates by the Financial Commissioners since 1915. How many of such officers were (*i*) Hindus, (*ii*) Muhammadans and (*iii*) Sikhs ?

(*b*) Is it a fact that no Sikh has so far been nominated an Extra Assistant Commissioner from the Excise Department ? If so, will the Financial Commissioners consider the advisability of nominating a suitable Sikh candidate when making nominations during the current year ?

Mr. C. A. H. Townsend : (*a*) The number of Excise Inspectors accepted by the Financial Commissioners as Extra Assistant Commissioner candidates since 1915 is eight.

Their classification by religions is—

(*i*) Hindus two.

(*ii*) Muhammadans six.

(*iii*) Sikhs nil.

(*b*) The answer to the first part of this question is in the affirmative. As regards the second part, the nomination Roll of a Sikh Excise Inspector is pending before the Financial Commissioners and his claims will be considered along with others on the occurrence of a vacancy among the accepted candidates for the post of Extra Assistant Commissioners.

MUNSIFFS IN TAHSIL HEADQUARTERS.

2482. Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram : Will Government be pleased to consider the advisability of moving the High Court to see the desirability of establishing *Munsiffs* in the Tahsil Headquarters ?

Mr. C. A. H. Townsend : Subordinate Judgeships are already established at the headquarters of most tahsils in the province. Where there is no Subordinate Judgeship at the headquarters of a tahsil, the reason is either that the amount of civil work would not justify the establishment of such a Court or that there is some other place in the tahsil which is easier of access and more convenient for litigants.

IRRIGATION OF KAMALIA.

2483. Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram : Is it a fact—

(*a*) that the irrigation of Lower Chenab Canal can be extended to Kamalia and its vicinity ;

(*b*) that a survey has been made for this purpose ?

If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to consider a scheme for extending this irrigation to Kamalia ?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia :

(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Yes.

At present three extension schemes are under consideration, *viz.* :—

(*i*) Pir Mahal Distributary.

(*ii*) Khikhi Distributary Extension.

(*iii*) Burala Branch Extension (Kamalia Scheme).

The estimate of scheme (*i*) is nearing completion.

Schemes (*i*) and (*ii*) will be completed or well advanced before scheme (*iii*) is taken up as they are likely to be more remunerative.

PUNITIVE POLICE IN VILLAGES UCHHALA AND MARDWAL OF KHUSHAB TAHSIL.

2484. Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : (*a*) Is it a fact that the Government have recently placed punitive police in the two villages of Uchhala and Mardwal of Khushab Tahsil, District Shahpur ?

(*b*) If so, will the Government be pleased to state the amount of money that will be realized from each village for the maintenance of such police for the whole term during which the police will remain in these villages ?

(*c*) Will the Government kindly give the reasons for posting punitive police in these villages ?

(*d*) Has the posting of this punitive police anything to do with the *Khilafat* movement ?

(*e*) Is it a fact that the Thal and Sun *Ilaqas* have done exceedingly well during the war in the matter of recruitment for military service ?

(*f*) Will the Government kindly see their way to remove this punitive police from the two villages ?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: (*a*) Yes. In February of the current year.

(*b*) Punitive Police have been sanctioned for three years and for this period Rs. 6,851 will be recovered from Uchhala and Rs. 14,646 from Mardwal.

(*c*) Punitive Police have been posted to Uchhala and Mardwal owing to the criminal and seditious proclivities of the villagers and to their open defiance of Government and its officials.

(*d*) Yes. The spirit of lawlessness and defiance of constituted authority which led to the posting of punitive police in these villages was in large measure engendered by the *Khilafat* movement.

(*e*) The Sun *Illaqa* did well in the matter of recruitment for military service, but recruiting was strenuously opposed by the villagers of Mardwal and Uchhala. The Thal did not do well in this respect.

(*f*) The conduct of the villagers is still far from satisfactory. They have done their utmost to frustrate the work of the punitive police, whose presence is very necessary to keep the local criminal under close surveillance. The abolition of the punitive police in these villages is at present out of the question.

SMALL TOWNS COMMITTEE AT JATOI.

2485. Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram: With reference to the answer to my question No. 2176* put in the Council on 28th February 1923, regarding a Small Towns Committee at Jatoi, has the Honourable the Minister for Education received further representations signed by several people of Jatoi, District Muzaffargarh, that they do not wish to have a committee there?

If so, will Government be pleased to give up the idea of a Small Towns Committee there?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain: The reply to the first part of the question is "Yes". As to the second part, the honourable member is referred to the answer given to the second part of Council Question No. 2176.

INDIAN RECRUITED BRANCH OF THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

2486. Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram: With reference to the answer to my question No. 2236† put in the Council on 1st March 1923, regarding the recruitment for the Indian recruited branch of the Public Works Department, will Government be pleased to state how many such appointments have been made in the Irrigation Branch?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadar Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia: Since the introduction of Standing Order No. 27, dated 1st July 1920, to the Public Works Department Code, nine appointments to the Indian recruited branch of Indian Service of Engineers have been made in the Irrigation Banch of the Public Works Department, Punjab.

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* Vol. IV, page 897.
† Vol. IV, page 926.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram: Will Government be pleased to give a statement of the names of such officers who have got these appointments?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh Majithia: I want notice of the question.

COMMUNAL REPRESENTATION IN SHUJABAD MUNICIPALITY.

2487. Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram: Will the Honourable Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the population of Shujabad Municipality, District Multan, consists, according to the last census, of 6,730 persons, of whom 4,311 are Hindus and 2,177 are Muhammadans;

(*b*) whether hitherto the Municipal Committee had on it four Hindus and two Muhammadans;

(*c*) whether it is proposed under the new arrangements to reduce the number of the Hindus by one, and to increase the number of Muhammadans by one;

(*d*) And, if so, what the reasons are for this change?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain:

(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) No.

(*c*) and (*d*) It has been decided by the Local Government that the elected strength is to be six, of whom two are to be Muhammadans on the population and voting strength basis.

PEOPLE OF SANAWAN AND LOCAL ZAMINDARS.

2488. Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram: Did the Honourable the Finance Member receive any representation from the people of Sanawan, District Muzaffargarh, sometime in the month of March last, stating that—

(*a*) they are being given too much trouble by some local zamindars and therefore

(*b*) their life and property is not secure?

if so, what steps have Government taken in the matter?

Mr. D. J. Boyd: The representation referred to cannot be traced.

COMPENSATION TO PERSONS DETAINED BY POLICE IN CONNECTION WITH MURDER CASES IN JULLUNDUR DISTRICT.

2489. Sardar Sangat Singh: (*a*) Is it a fact that a number of persons arrested by the police in connection with the recent murder cases in the Jullundur District were let off after detention for some days? If so, will Government be pleased to consider the advisability of granting compensation to such of those persons as were detained by the police unnecessarily?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to issue instructions that no persons should in future be arrested unless there are definite reasons for so doing?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: (*a*) Up to the middle of June when enquiries were made regarding this question eleven persons out of a total

of 186 had been released after arrest and a brief detention by the Police in connection with the enquiry into the outrages committed in the Doaba.

Each of these cases have been examined and it has been found that in two cases the arrests were due to a mistake in identity in consequence of the similarity of names and places of residence, in eight cases releases have been made, although innocence has not been established, under the provision of Section 497 of the Criminal Procedure Code pending further enquiries. In one case release was made on grounds of humanity as the person under arrest was found to be suffering from disease.

No persons have been detained by the Police without justification and the question of granting compensation therefore does not arise.

(*b*) No such instruction is necessary.

ACTION TAKEN BY GOVERNMENT ON RESOLUTION *RE* RELEASE OF GURU-KA-BAGH PRISONERS.

2490. Sardar Sangat Singh: (*a*) Will Government be pleased to state what action, if any, has been taken by Government on the resolution passed by this Council on 8th March 1923 regarding the release of Sikh prisoners?

(*b*) Is it a fact that the release of a portion of the Guru-ka-Bagh prisoners recently announced by Government was not as a result of Government's accepting the resolution passed by the Council?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: (*a*) The majority of the prisoners convicted of offences connected with the affair at Guru ka-Bagh were released under the operation of the rule by which sentences were reviewed after two-thirds of the period of imprisonment had been completed. The remainder were released in the circumstances described in the *Communiqué* of the 27th April 1923, of which a copy is appended to this answer.

(*b*) In deciding to give the Guru-ka-Bagh prisoners the benefit of the two-thirds rule, and in the final release of the remainder, Government gave due weight to the resolution of the Punjab Legislative Council.

PRESS *COMMUNIQUÉ*.

ON the occasion of the recent Hindu-Muhammadan riots at Amritsar, certain Akalis, acting under the instructions of the *Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee*, rendered useful assistance to the authorities in maintaining order pending the arrival of military reinforcements. In recognition of the good conduct of the *Akalis* on this occasion, His Excellency the Governor in Council has decided to release all Sikh prisoners convicted in connection with the Guru-ka-Bagh incident of August and September, 1922, who are still in jail. An exception will be made in the case of persons who have been guilty of serious prison offences while in jail. It is estimated that the total number of prisoners in question is between 1,100 and 1,200.

Attested.

LAHORE:
The 27th April, 1923.

M. L. BARNES,
Senior Assistant Secretary to Government, Punjab.

ARREST OF CERTAIN SIKHS FOR KEEPING *KIRPANS*.

2491. Sardar Sangat Singh: Has Government noticed the *Communiqué* (No. 488) issued by the *Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee* in which it is alleged that some Sikhs have been arrested for keeping *kirpans*? Will Government be pleased to look into the matter and issue general instructions that Sikhs wearing *kirpans* or so-called swords should not be arrested?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia: If the honourable member will mention any specific case, enquiry will be made.

REMOVAL OF THE *KIRPAN* WORN BY BHAI DHANNA SINGH OF GARHSHANKAR.

2492. Sardar Sangat Singh: Is it a fact that at the time when the house of Bhai Dhanna Singh, Secretary, *Akali Jatha*, Garhshankar, was recently searched, the Sub-Inspector of Police conducting the search took away with him the *kirpan* worn by Bhai Dhanna Singh? Was he authorised to do so? If not, what action has been taken against the Sub-Inspector?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: The facts are that the house of one Nihal, Jat, of Sandra, was searched by the Sub-Inspector of the Balachaur Police Station in the Hoshiarpur District in connection with a case of murder. In the course of the search a sword, three feet in length in a leather belt, was recovered from a box, the key of which was produced by Nihal, who explained that the sword belonged to his son, Dhanna Singh. The lambardars of the village stated that they had seen Dhanna Singh wearing a short *Kirpan* with black slings; but that he had never been seen wearing the sword in question. Dhanna Singh was not present at the time of the search and absented himself for some time afterwards. He was, however, eventually arrested and sent up for trial under section 19 of the Arms Act. The case is still pending.

ALLEGED ILL-TREATMENT OF B. KARTAR SINGH IN MULTAN JAIL.

2493. Sardar Sangat Singh: Will Government be pleased to make a statement after making necessary enquiries about the allegations against the Multan Jail Officials of ill-treatment towards Bhai Kartar Singh, Editor, *'Akali-te-Pardesi.'*

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: In consequence of various complaints which appeared in the Press regarding the treatment of *Akali* prisoners in the Multan Jails, Government ordered a magisterial enquiry by a Magistrate of the 1st class. His conclusions have already been published in a Press *Communiqué*, dated the 19th May, 1923. Government do not propose, in the absence of special reasons, to make further enquiry into individual cases.

SHOE BEATING OF *AKALI* PRISONERS IN JAILS.

2494. Sardar Sangat Singh: Has Government noticed a *Communiqué* No. 490 issued by the *Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee* in which it is alleged that the *Akali* prisoners in the jails are beaten with shoes on their sacred *keshas*? Will Government be pleased to enquire into the matter and issue instructions to stop this punishment which offends the religious susceptibilities of the Sikhs?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: Government has seen the *communiqué* mentioned. A magisterial enquiry, held with regard to the treatment of *Akali* prisoners in the Multan Jails, showed that complaints of the nature referred to in that *Communiqué* were groundless and Government is not prepared to order further enquiry into individual cases.

OPENING OF AN ANGLO-VERNACULAR MIDDLE SCHOOL AT FATEHABAD.

2495. Rai Sahib Chaudhri Lajpat Rai: Is it a fact that there is not even an Anglo-vernacular Middle School in the Fatehabad Tahsil of the Hissar District? If so, will the Government kindly consider the question of opening an Anglo-vernacular Middle School at Fatehabad, the headquarters of the tahsil, to afford educational facilities to the Fatehabad Tahsil people?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain:—

(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Anglo-vernacular Middle Schools are not maintained by Government, but by the District and Municipal Boards and by private bodies. The wishes of the honourable member have, however, been brought to the notice of the local body concerned for consideration.

SHORTAGE OF WATER SUPPLY OF THE HISSAR MINOR OF THE WESTERN JUMNA CANAL.

2496. Rai Sahib Chaudhri Lajpat Rai: (*a*) Has Government received any complaint as regards the shortage of water supply of the Hissar Minor of the Western Jumna Canal and of its *Rajbahas*?

(*b*) If so, will the Government be pleased to direct the officers concerned to improve its condition?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh Majithia:—

(*a*) There is no Hissar Minor, but there is a Hissar Distributary on the Western Jumna Canal. Report regarding shortage of supply on this Distributary has been recently received by Government.

(*b*) A scheme to improve the supply is being worked out.

GOVERNMENT HIGH SCHOOL, AMBALA.

2497. Rai Sahib Lala Ganga Ram: (*a*) Is it a fact that a large number of students has left the Government High School, Ambala City?

(*b*) If so, will the Government be pleased to enquire into the reasons of their withdrawal and place on the table the results of the enquiry?

(*c*) Will the Government be pleased to state the educational qualifications of the Headmaster of the Government High School, Ambala City?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain:—

(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The reasons for the withdrawals are explained in the Inspector's letter, which is placed on the table.

(*c*) F. A., S. A. V.; and has been a Headmaster since 1916-17.

No. 651, dated 18th June, 1923.

From—ATMA RAM, Esq., M.A., I.E.S., Inspector of Schools, Ambala Division,

To—The Director of Public Instruction, Punjab.

WITH reference to your letter No. 7473-E., dated the 4th June, 1923, I have the honour to state that leaving out 81 boys who were struck off the rolls on the abolition of the Primary Department, 31 withdrawals took place from the Government High School, Ambala, since the beginning of the current school year (two of these boys are reported to have discontinued studies, five left the school on account of the transfer of their fathers or guardians, six were temporary withdrawals, while as many as 16 got transfer certificates for being admitted to other schools). On the other hand, 27 fresh admissions took place, so that on the 9th of June the school was poorer only by four students. The Headmaster informs me that admissions are being made to the extent of one or two students each day. The rumour regarding the entire abolition of the school on account of the establishment of a college from May 23 had a very unsettling effect upon the minds of guardians and boys and the abolition of the primary department gave colour to the rumour.

PERMISSION TO INTERVIEW *GIANI* JAI SINGH.

2498. Sardar Sangat Singh: Is it a fact that a reply prepaid wire was sent to the Superintendent of Multan Jail by the *Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee*, requesting permission to interview *Giani* Jai Singh (an *Akali* prisoner of that jail), who was dangerously ill, and that the Superintendent of the Jail refused the permission three days after the receipt of the telegram?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: The reply is in the affirmative. The Superintendent was ill at the time of receipt of the telegram. Prisoner *Giani* Jai Singh was not dangerously ill.

FORCING OF BHAI MAKHAN SINGH TO AFFIX HIS THUMB IMPRESSION ON A CERTAIN FORM.

2499. Sardar Sangat Singh: Is it a fact that Bhai Makhan Singh (an *Akali* prisoner in Multan Jail) was beaten severely for refusing to sign a certain form, and that he was forced to affix his thumb impression on the form? If so, will the Government be pleased to state whether the local officers were authorised to do so, and if not, what action has the Government taken or proposes to take against the officials concerned?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: Reference is invited to the answer to question No. 2493,* which applies to this question also.

STANDING CROSS FETTERS TO *AKALI* PRISONERS.

2500. Sardar Sangat Singh: Is it a fact that *Akali* prisoners in the Punjab jails are given standing cross fetters six and-a-half feet high, while prisoners other than *Akalis* are given standing cross fetters only four feet high? If so, will the Government please give reasons for this differentiation?

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* Vol. V, page 10.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: The question is presumably meant to refer to the punishment of standing handcuffs described in paragraph 615 (*e*), Jail Manual. All prisoners are treated alike in the infliction of this punishment. The staple is never higher than the shoulder, nor lower than the waist.

ILL-TREATMENT OF *GIANI* JAI SINGH IN MULTAN JAIL.

2501. Sardar Sangat Singh: Is it a fact that *Giani* Jai Singh, an *Akali* prisoner in the Multan Jail, was ducked in water by the Jail officials for shouting *Sat Sri Akal*, and when he became senseless he was severely beaten with fists and shoes and was admitted into the hospital only many days after the injury? If so, will the Government be pleased to give reasons therefor?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: Reference is invited to the answer to question No. 2493* which applies to this question also.

ILL-TREATMENT OF BHAI GAJA SINGH.

2502. Sardar Sangat Singh: Is it a fact that Bhai Gaja Singh, an *Akali* prisoner in the Multan Jail, was caught by four Jail officials for shouting *Sat Sri Akal* and was dragged by the hair up to the hospital where he was severely beaten with fists and ducked in a small pool of foul water till he became senseless and then was taken to a cell? If so, will the Government be pleased to say whether they have taken or propose to take any action against the Jail authorities for this conduct of theirs?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: Reference is invited to the answer to question No. 2493,* which applies to this case also.

AKALI PRISONERS IN MULTAN JAIL.

2503. Sardar Sangat Singh: Is it a fact that in the District Jail, Multan, the *Akali* prisoners were not allowed to go out to answer calls of nature, but were provided latrine pots in their camp on the very place where they used to take their meals? If so, will Government take necessary action to prevent such action in future?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: The reply is in the negative.

BHAI HARNAM SINGH, PRISONER IN MULTAN JAIL.

2504. Sardar Sangat Singh: Is it a fact that Bhai Harnam Singh, an *Akali* prisoner in the Multan Jail, was suffering from dysentery on the 16th April last, and that he was refused permission by the Jail officials to go out to answer calls of nature? If so, why?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: Enquiries have been made from both Multan Jails. The replies show that no prisoner of the name of Harnam Singh was suffering from dysentery on the date mentioned. The reply, therefore, is in the negative.

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*Vol. V, page 10.

NAKED *AKALI* PRISONERS IN JAILS.

2505. Sardar Sangat Singh: Is it a fact that some of the *Akali* prisoners are naked in jail? If so, will the Government be pleased to state the circumstances in which this has happened?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: The answer is in the negative.

ILL-TREATMENT OF RELEASED *AKALI* PRISONERS.

2506. Sardar Sangat Singh: Has Government noticed a *Communiqué* issued by the *Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee* in which it is alleged—

(*a*) that the *Akali* prisoners released from Campbellpur Jail were beaten at Rawalpindi by the Police and the British Infantry with butt ends of rifles so severely that they became senseless;

(*b*) that besides making them senseless bayonets were thrust in their bodies, causing injuries and bleeding;

(*c*) is it a fact that some of the *Akalis* were dragged by their *kesheas* and kicked in their private parts?

(*d*) was there a gun fired in the air? If so, why?

(*e*) was any medical aid given to the injured *Akalis* referred to in the above questions? If not, will the Government please state the reasons?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: The attention of the honourable member is invited to the two *Communiqués* issued by the Punjab Government on the 3rd May and 17th May, respectively, of which copies are laid on the table. These *Communiqués* answer parts (*a*), (*b*) and (*c*) sufficiently. With regard to parts (*c*) and (*d*), the suggestions contained therein are believed by Government to be groundless.

PRESS *COMMUNIQUÉ*.

Two incidents have occurred of unlawful behaviour on the part of recently released *Akali* prisoners at Rawalpindi.

About 173 prisoners were released from the Rawalpindi Jail on the evening of the 28th of April. They were informed that they would not be allowed to march through Catonments to the Railway Station, but inspite of this warning they attempted to do so in Military formation. The Police accordingly had to use force to make them proceed by the road approved by the authorities. The police succeeded in their object without difficulty. A few of the *Akalis* were knocked down, but none were hurt.

The second incident was more serious. Four hundred and sixty *Akalis* were released from the Campbellpore Jail on the 29th of April and were given tickets to Amritsar. At Hasan Abdal they pulled the communication cord, stopped the train and broke their journey, thus rendering their tickets invalid, under Railway Regulations, for the journey to Amritsar. They subsequently proceeded by a later train to Rawalpindi and were there detrained and required to give up their tickets. They were ordered to leave the

Railway Station, but, though they cleared off the platform, they refused to leave its precincts with the result that large crowds assembled and the whole of the station premises were blocked. The police attempted to disperse the *Akalis* by force, but they still refused to leave and eventually a company of British Infantry, with a force of Cavalry, had to be employed. These forces succeeded in clearing the *Akalis* away to a Dharmsala some 500 yards away from the station, where they were allowed to remain. The Police and the Military behaved with great restraint, using no force that was not thoroughly justified. No reliable estimate has been received of the number of the *Akalis* injured owing to their defiant attitude, but it is believed that very few have sustained serious injuries.

Attested,

I. SALT,

LAHORE :
The 3rd May 1923.

Junior Assistant Secretary to Government, Punjab.

PRESS *COMMUNIQUÉ.*

IN a *Communiqué* of the 3rd May an account was given of the lawless behaviour of certain *Akalis* at Rawalpindi on the occasion of their release from the Rawalpindi and Campbellpore Jails. Accounts of the affair, which have appeared in the Press, have grossly exaggerated the injuries sustained by the *Akalis* during their removal from the neighbourhood of the Railway Station, where they were blocking the traffic and obstructing the public from entering the station. At the request of the Commissioner the Officer Commanding the troops in Rawalpindi deputed Major McNeill, I.M.S., to examine the injured *Akalis*. Arrangements for the inspection were made through the Additional District Magistrate, who agreed to a condition made by the *Akalis* that they should receive an hour's notice before the Medical Officer's visit. Major McNeill and his party found 428 *Akalis* all lying on beds and were informed that they were unable to move. Shortly after his inspection, however, a number of these men were seen walking about Rawalpindi City, and the same evening they all left Rawalpindi by trains. The result of Major McNeill's inspection is given in his report which follows.

Report by Major McNeill.

On the afternoon of the 4th of May I visited the following places between 3 P.M. and 5-30 P.M. :—

(1) Arya Samaj Hospital or Dispensary.

(2) Serai Saiglan.

(3) Bara Dari.

I was accompanied by Additional District Magistrate, Abdul Majid Khan, M.B.E., Khan Abdul Kayum Khan, Deputy Superintendent, Police, Sardar Sahib Mehtab Singh, Tahsildar. Also by the officiating Civil Surgeon, Lala Ram Lall, Assistant Surgeon, and Sub-Assistants, Chand Narain, Gian Chand and Mukand Lall, Drs. Dina Nath, Jagat Ram, Ishar Singh, and several other local practitioners were also present, the first two at the hospital, Dr. Sher Singh at all places.

At the Arya Samaj Hospital or Dispensary, where there were said to be 51 cases, I was told all the more seriously injured cases were collected. These I asked to be allowed to see and to be allowed to examine in their presence. I was then shown the under-noted :—

(1) Chanan Singh—Said to be suffering from traumatic pleurisy with effusion. I could find no evidence of this.

(2) Ishar Singh—Said to have corneal ulcer with iritis and hypopyon, due to injury. Has contusion of lids of left eye, marked chemosis and a corneal ulcer. Has very marked trachoma both eyes with old opacities on corneas.

(3) Jaya Singh—Said to have fracture of fifth rib, left side contusions of chest and abdomen. Plaster applied well below side of fifth rib. No evidence of fracture. Has contusion only. Was examined by their local practitioners, who could not find a fracture.

(4) Amar Singh—Said to have fracture of the Hyoid bone. No evidence of such ; has usual soft crepitus when larynx moved from side to side ; has no marked swelling.

(5) Ratan Singh—Said to have contusions. Contusions present, nothing of note.

(6) Jagat Singh—Said to have contusions of neck. Slight contusions of neck present.

(7) Amar Singh—Said to have fracture of seventh rib incised wound of chest wall and contusion.

I found no fracture, nor could their medical attendants demonstrate and agreed that there was now no evidence of such. Small incised wound ¾ to 1 inch in length over left side of chest in lower part near axillay line, superficial. Contusion chest, not serious.

(8) Harnam Singh—A few abrasions present.

(9) Sewa Singh—Said to have contusions. None seen.

(10) Narain Singh—Said to have sub-conjunctival hæmorrhage ulcer right thigh, abrasions root of nose and contusions. No sub-conjunctival hæmorrhage found. Has small superficial wound right thigh. Has abrasions on nose, left eye-lids and left thigh and has contusions right buttock.

(11) Bhagwan Singh—Said to have contusions of neck and scratches on knee. These present.

(12) Khushal Singh—Said to have contusions sacral region and penis. Has slight abrasions on sacrum.

(13) Hari Singh—Said to have contusion hip and inflammation of left spermatic cord and testis. No evidence as regards the first, but slight thickening lower part of left cord; probably chronic.

(14) Nand Singh—Said to have fracture of fourth rib and contusion of patella. No evidence of fracture nor could this be demonstrated by their medical attendants.

(15) Harbans Singh—Said to have multiple incised wounds over thighs and body. Found about 10 to 12 superficial incised wounds on thighs and legs, none serious nor collectively so.

(16) Harnam Singh—Has superficial incised wound about one inch long inner side of right thigh.

(17) Mathra Singh—Said to have contusions. None found.

(18) Bhagwan Singh—Small incised wound left ear, which had been stitched. Small superficial incised wound on left side of back and abrasion on back; none serious.

(19) Lal Singh—Has small superficial incised wound left axillary anterior fold. Small abrasions left arm, small incised wounds superficial, ¼ to ½ inch in length, left side of body.

(20) Balwant Singh—Has two small superficial wounds on the left buttock scabbed over; also a few abrasions.

The above includes all cases labelled serious by their medical attendants. In no case did I find a fracture of ribs as stated by them and each case was examined by one or two of their own attendants in my presence. They also could not demonstrate a fracture, and agreed at this time there was no evidence of such. In each case sticking plaster had been applied on a place not corresponding to the site of fracture recorded by them. The majority of the other cases were seen by the Sub-Assistant Surgeons.

II.—At the Serai Saiglan there were a large number of cases on *charpais*, one or two men on each, said to be 281 in all. I again asked to see the more serious cases and was shown :—

(1) Ranjit Singh—Said to have marked contusion neck, the result of strangulation. No evidence of such.

(2) Guman Singh—Nothing found.

(3) Gian Singh—Found one small superficial incised wound on the left arm. Small superficial wound ½ inch long on the right buttock.

(4) Ram Singh—Contusion, blistered by iodine; abrasion over head of left fibula.

(5) Vasar Singh—Forehead blistered with iodine.

(6) Dharm Singh—Contusions and abrasions below of knee.

(7) Budh Singh—One small incised wound over left cheek bone. Stitched. Bruise left lower lid.

(8) Raghbir Singh—Contusion right arm.

(9) Narain Singh—Contusion right elbow.

(10) Tara Singh—Small wound right ankle.

(11) Nikka Singh—Nothing found.

(12) Jawahar Singh—Scratches on back and other parts of the body.

(13) Mohkam Singh—Contusions and scratches on right hip.

(14) Nihal Singh—Abrasion on back.

(15) Ralla Singh—Abrasion on back and right side.

In addition to those noted I was shown a large number of cases on whose bodies on various parts tincture of iodine had been painted. On many of them I found no evidence of the contusions, which they were said to have had.

Not a single case which was shown to me here could be called serious.

III.—At Bara Dari there were said to be 93 cases. I looked at a number of those who had had tincture of iodine applied to various parts of their bodies, and in many I could find no signs of contusions which they were supposed to have.

I saw the following, who were the most serious of the cases here :—

(1) Rup Singh—Small superficial wound on right thigh.

(2) Hazara Singh—Three contusions.

(3) Santa Singh—Two small incised wounds, one inch long, about one inch apart on the left arm about the middle.

Three stitches had been applied in all.

Small abrasions on the back in addition.

(4) Sarain Singh—Abrasions upper arm.

In no case was there any wound or contusion which could be classified as serious.

At the hospital and the Serai Saiglan I was shown several men who were said to have received contusions in the perineum, and on admission could not pass urine themselves.

This was said to have been withdrawn by means of a catheter. There was no evidence of this beyond the statement of those present, and all the men acknowledge that they could pass urine themselves now.

RAWALPINDI : A. C. McNEILL,

The 5th May, 1923. *Major, I.M.S.*

ATTESTED.

SIMLA : E. SALT,

The 17th May, 1923. *Junior Assistant Secretary to Government, Punjab.*

RELEASE OF *AKALI* PRISONERS OF GURU-KA-BAGH.

2507. Sardar Sangat Singh: Is it a fact that a few *Akali* prisoners of Guru-ka-Bagh have not yet been released? If so, will the Government please give reasons therefor? Is it a fact that special orders have been issued in regard to the detention of these prisoners?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: All prisoners convicted of offences directly connected with the Guru-ka-Bagh affair have been released. The District Magistrate of Amritsar has been asked to examine the cases of any prisoners confined for failure to give security which has been demanded by the courts because of their actions or speeches connected with that affair. It is believed that practically all such prisoners have now been released. If any remain, they can obtain their release on furnishing security.

REMOVAL OF SARDAR KHARAK SINGH AND SARDAR JASWANT SIGH FROM DERA GHAZI KHAN JAIL.

2508. Sardar Sangat Singh: Is it a fact that the Dera Ghazi Khan Jail is an infected area in these days? If so, will Government consider the advisability of removing Sardar Kharak Singh and Sardar Jaswant Singh from the Dera Ghazi Khan Jail to some healthier place?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: The jail was infected for a time, but is now free.

BRUTAL TREATMENT OF *AKALI* PRISONERS IN MULTAN.

2509. Sardar Sangat Singh: Will the Government kindly enquire into the allegation made by the *Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee* in their *Communique* that Mr. Beatty, the Superintendent of Police, Multan, brutally thrashed the *Akali* prisoners for singing *Shabd* on their way to the Central Jail and place the result of their enquiry on the table?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: In the absence of any *prima facie* evidence of the truth of the allegation the Government are not prepared to institute a special inquiry.

STRENGTH AND EMOLUMENTS OF JAIL ESTABLISHMENT IN THE PROVINCE.

2510. Pir Akbar Ali: Will Government kindly lay on the table a statement showing the strength and emoluments of the Jail Establishments of the Provincial jails of all classes in the following form:—

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: The statement is laid on the table:—

		Europeans, including Anglo-Indians.	Hindus, including Sikhs.	Muhammadans.	Total.
Jailors, 1st grade.	Number	*Nil*	4	3	7
	Emoluments	...	Rs. 300-10-400	Rs. 300-10-400	Rs. 300-10-400
Jailors, 2nd grade.	Number	1 (Female)	9	8	18
	Emoluments	Rs. 150-10-250	Rs. 150-10-250	Rs. 150-10-250	Rs. 150-10-250
Deputy Jailors.	Number	...	5	1	6
	Emoluments	...	Rs. 75-5-100 plus D. A. 25	Rs. 75-5-100 plus D. A. 25	Rs. 75-5-100 plus D. A. 25.
Assistant Jailors, 1st grade.	Number	...	23+1 (Indian Christian).	18	42
	Emoluments	...	Rs. 75-5-100	Rs. 75-5-100	Rs. 75-5-100
Assistant Jailors, 2nd grade.	Number	...	28	11	39
	Emoluments	...	Rs. 50-5-75	Rs. 50-5-75	Rs. 50-5-75
Candidates	Number	...	6+1 (Indian Christian).	7	14
	Emoluments	...	Rs. 50	Rs. 50	Rs. 50

DIRECT ROAD BETWEEN KAMALIA AND LAHORE.

2511. Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram: With reference to the answer to question No. 1927* put in the Council on 1st November 1922, as regards a direct road between Kamalia and Lahore, will Government be pleased to enquire from the local authorities whether the unmetalled road connecting Kamalia with Lahore *vid* Harappa, etc., is or is not a direct road? If on enquiry it is found that it is not a direct road, will Government be pleased to move the Railway authorities to open one side along the railway line between Shorkot Road and Chicheki-Mallian for public traffic?

The Honourable Lala Harkishan Lal: In the opinion of Experts the road between Kamalia and Lahore is still *direct* as it was when the honourable member asked this question in November 1922. No useful purpose will be served by instituting enquiry as suggested by the honourable member.

MUNICIPAL COMMISSIONERS SENTENCED TO IMPRISONMENT FOR POLITICAL OFFENCES.

2512. Rai Sahib Chaudhri Raja Singh: Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a list showing—

(*a*) the number of municipal commissioners in the province who have been sentenced to imprisonment for committing political offences;

(*b*) the number of such municipal commissioners who have been sentenced to more than three months' imprisonment;

(*c*) the number of municipal commissioners who have been removed from the membership of the various municipal committees in the province for deliberately courting imprisonment?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain: It is regretted that the question cannot be answered as the class of cases referred to is not defined and the enquiry into the history of all the Municipal Commissioners in the Province would entail an amount of labour which the Government does not consider justified.

REMOVAL OF LALA TARA CHAND FROM THE AMBALA MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE.

2513. Rai Sahib Chaudhri Raja Singh: With reference to the Punjab Government Notification No. 12890, dated the 17th April, 1923, published in the *Punjab Government Gazette*, dated 20th April, 1923, removing Lala Tara Chand from membership of the Ambala Municipal Committee, will Government be pleased to state if any other municipal commissioner has been similarly dealt with by the Government? If not, will Government be pleased to re-consider the case of Lala Tara Chand?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain: The answer to the first part of the question is in the affirmative; the second, therefore, does not arise.

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*Vol. IV, page 475

SUB-REGISTRARS OF RAJANPUR AND JAMPUR.

2514. Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram: Will Government be pleased to state why the Hindu Sub-Registrars of Rajanpur and Jampur, respectively, have been brought under reduction, while an extension has been given to a Muhammadan Sub-Registrar of Dera Ghazi Khan?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain: The offices of the departmental Sub-Registrars at Rajanpur and Jampur have been brought under permanent reduction in view of the small number of documents registered during 1922, that is to say, 106 and 499, respectively, which do not justify the maintenance of the offices at the public expense. The work in future will be done by the Tahsildars concerned as a part of their ordinary duties. The number of documents registered at the office of the departmental Sub-Registrar of Dera Ghazi Khan in 1922 was 1,01[illegible], which does justify its retention.

The honourable member should know that the test applied is the amount of work in the tahsil and not the community of the incumbent for the time being.

REMOVAL OF PROFESSOR RUCHI RAM SAHNI'S PORTRAIT FROM THE GOVERNMENT COLLEGE HALL.

2515. Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram: Arising out of the answer to my question No. 2460* regarding the removal of the portrait of Professor Ruchi Ram Sahni from the Lahore Government College Hall, will Government be pleased to state if the portrait has since been restored to its original place? If not, will Government be pleased to consider the desirability of its restoration?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain: Lala Ruchi Ram Sahni's portrait was taken down under the Principal's orders; and, on the material before him, there was justification for this order.

2. In regard to Question No. 2460, put by the honourable member, the Principal was already making enquiries, on the conclusion of which he has informed Government that he has decided to revise his order.

APRIL CLOSURES ON THE LOWER JHANG BRANCH.

2516. Khan Bahadur Sayad Mehdi Shah: (*a*) Will the Government please state the purpose for which the April closures on the Lower Jhang Branch were made?

(*b*) If they were for repairing purpose, could they not have been done earlier in winter?

(*c*) Has the Government estimated the total amount of loss sustained by the zamindars to their gardens, sugarcane and vegetables?

(*d*) Does the Government propose to compensate the zamindars for the losses caused by the closures during April?

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* Vol. IV, page 1524.

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia :—

(*a*) The ten days' closure in April was made for certain urgent work in the Khanki and Hafizabad Divisions.

(*b*) The necessity for these works did not arise till it was too late for a winter closure.

(*c*) No damage was done to crops or gardens on this account.

(*d*) This question does not arise.

REVISION OF THE CONSTITUTION OF LOCAL BODIES IN THE PUNJAB.

2517. Mr. K. L. Rallia Ram: (*a*) Is it a fact that very great discontent and dissatisfaction prevail amongst various communities on account of the revision of the constitution of local bodies in the Punjab?

(*b*) Will Government be pleased to state the reasons which have led them to make a change in the existing constitution of local bodies?

(*c*) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table copies of the correspondence which they have had with the various local bodies on the subject before finally revising their constitution?

(*d*) Will Government be pleased to give the principle which it has followed in the matter?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain: (*a*) The question is somewhat vague. Discontent and dissatisfaction do prevail among certain communities in certain places, where they believe or are led to believe that their vested interests have been disturbed or the rights to which they were entitled have not been granted to them.

(*b*) & (*d*) The honourable member's attention is invited to the Note which appeared in the *Punjab Gazette*, dated 17th August, 1923.

(*c*) Government have had no correspondence with local bodies on the subject. It is not in the public interest to lay on the table the correspondence which Government has had on the subject with local officers.

COMMUNAL REPRESENTATION IN LAHORE MUNICIPALITY.

2518. Mr. K. L. Rallia Ram: (*a*) Will Government be pleased to state the principle on which they have given seats to various communities in the Lahore Municipality?

(*b*) Did the Government consult the Lahore Municipality before finally giving its decision on the subject?

(*c*) If not, will the Government be pleased to state the reasons for not consulting the Lahore Municipality?

(*d*) Did the Government consult the District Magistrate of Lahore? If so, will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a copy of his recommendations?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain: (*a*) The honourable member's attention is invited to paragraph 4 of the note on the re-constitution of local bodies, which gives information on the point and a copy of which has already been supplied to him.

(*b*) & (*c*) No. Originally the local officials were consulted, and they appear to have in some cases consulted and in other cases not consulted local bodies. On the receipt of the opinions of local officers proposals were published for inviting objections and before fixing the constitution finally these objections were fully considered.

(*d*) Local Government consulted the Commissioner who consulted the District Magistrate. It is not in the public interest to lay on the table the correspondence which Government has had on the subject with its local officers.

COMMUNAL REPRESENTATION IN LAHORE MUNICIPALITY.

2519. Mr. K. L. Rallia Ram: (*a*) Is it a fact that while Sikhs, with a population of 11,000, have been allowed two seats in the Lahore Municipality, the Indian Christians, with a population of 6,000, have not been given a single seat?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to state what communities are intended to be represented by one seat allotted to others in the re-distribution of seats?

(*c*) On what principle has a seat been reserved for the European British subjects?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain: (*a*) No. Information as to the population of Indian Christians as distinguished from Christians generally is not available. Moreover, Indian Christians, Parsis and Jews have been allowed one seat.

(*b*) The honourable member's question is not intelligible.

(*c*) Keen demand of the community and the justice of the claim coupled with the difficulty of securing their representation.

GRANT-IN-AID TO SCHOOLS IN THE PUNJAB.

2520. Rai Bahadur Lala Panna Lal: (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to place on the table a list of the schools in the Punjab that applied for grant-in-aid during the last 3 years and state to which of those grant-in-aid was allowed?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to state the reasons for which the grant was refused in the case of the other schools?

(*c*) Has the principle of communal interests been applied to those cases? If so, in what manner?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain :—

(*a*) & (*b*) A statement giving the necessary information is laid on the table.

(*c*) The honourable member's question is not intelligible. If he intended to suggest that some communities have received much more than others, then it is true; but this has been due to the rules under which grants-in-aid were given.

List of schools in the Punjab that applied for grant-in-aid during the last three years.

No.	Name of School.	Whether grant allowed or refused.	Remarks.
	JULLUNDUR DIVISION.		
1	Z. A.-V. Middle School, Sultah ...	Allowed ...	Middle Department.
2	S. D. High School, Hoshiarpur ...	Do.	Secondary do.
3	S. D. High School, Una ...	Do.	High do.
4	D. A.-V. High School, Hariana ...	Do.	Upper Middle and High.
5	Khalsa High School, Garhdiwala...	Do.	Middle Department.
6	Islamia High School, Hoshiarpur	Do.	Secondary do.
7	Khalsa High School, Bandala ...	Do.	High do.
8	Hennessey High School, Jullundur Cantonment.	Do.	Secondary do.
9	A. S. Middle School, Nakodar ...	Do.	Middle do.
10	Khalsa A.-V. Middle School, Jandiala.	Do.	Upper Middle.
11	C. B. B. High School, Ludhiana ...	Do.	High Department.
12	Mission Vernacular Middle School	Do.	
13	Arjan Das High School, Dharmkot	Do.	High Department.
14	Manohar Lal Memorial High School, Ferozepore Cantonment.	Do.	Secondary do.

No.	Name of School.	Whether grant allowed or refused.	Remarks.
16	Islamia High School, Ferozepore Cantonment.	Allowed ...	High Department.
16	Malwa Khalsa Middle School, Ferozepore City.	Do. ...	Upper Middle Department.
17	Islamia A.-V. Middle School, Fazilka.	Do. ...	Ditto.
18	Khalsa Middle School, Baddon ...	Refused ...	For want of funds.
19	H. P. A.-V. Middle School, Ludhiana.	Do. ...	Ditto.
20	Mathra Das A. S. High School, Moga.	Do. ...	Ditto.
21	Bhupindra Khalsa High School, Moga.	Do. ...	Ditto.
22	D. A.-V. High School, Dasuya ...	...	Application not forwarded by the Inspector for want of funds.
23	Khalsa High School, Anandpore ...	...	Ditto ditto.
24	P. A. S. High School, Khanna ...	...	Ditto ditto.
25	Khalsa High School, Muktsar ...	...	Ditto ditto.
	MULTAN DIVISION.		
26	S. D. High School, Lyallpur ...	Allowed.	
27	Muslim High School, Lyallpur ...	Do.	
28	Islamia High School, Chak 333 ...	Do. ...	Middle Department.
29	Bar Khalsa High School, Chak 41	Do.	
30	Dhanpatmal A. S. High School, Lyallpur.	Do.	
31	Khalsa Middle School, Lyallpur...	Do. ...	Lower Middle. Grant to the Upper Middle Department refused as the department is not yet permanently recognised.
32	Islamia High School, Chiniot ...	Do.	
33	Bhiratri High School, Leiah ...	Do.	
34	Mission A.-V. Middle School, Khushpur.	Refused ...	On account of financial stringency.
35	Hindu A.-V Middle School and Pathshala, Chiniot.	Do. ...	Ditto ditto.
36	A. S. High School, Karor ...	Do. ...	The School was recognised on the condition that no application for a grant-in-aid will follow.

No.	Name of School.	Whether grant allowed or refused.	Remarks.
37	Hindu High School, Dera Ghazi Khan.	Refused ...	The Schools have been asked to amalgamate and told that a request for a grant towards the amalgamated school will be favourably considered.
38	A. S. High School, Dera Ghazi Khan.	Do. ...	
39	Muslim A.-V. Middle School, Dera Ghazi Khan.	...	Pending.
	LAHORE DIVISION.		
40	Sant Singh-Sukha Singh Khalsa A.-V. Middle School, Amritsar.	Allowed ...	Primary Department. Middle Department provisionally recognised.
41	Khalsa A.-V. Middle School, Naushehra Panwan.	Do.	
42	Majha Khalsa A.-V. Middle School, Kairon.	Do.	
43	G. A. D. Khalsa High School, Tarn Taran.	Do.	
44	G. G. S. Khalsa High School, Sarhali Kalan.	Do. ...	High Department. Middle already aided.
45	Arya A.-V. Middle School, Naushehra Panwan.	...	The application was not forwarded by the Inspector as the Code rules governing the award of grant-in-aid were not observed.
46	Muslim High School, Batala ...	Allowed ...	High Department. Middle already aided.
47	A.-V. Middle School, Bare Nanga.	Do.	
48	Khushi Chand Arya High School, Sialkot.	Do.	
49	Arya A.-V. Middle School, Kalaswala.	Refused ...	On account of financial stringency.
50	Khalsa A.-V. Middle School, Kalaswala.	Do. ...	On the ground that the school was not permanently recognised.
51	Hindu A.-V. Middle School, Sangla	Do. ...	On grounds of educational policy as one school is sufficient for Sangla. Besides both these institutions are at present temporarily recognised.
52	Muslim High School, Sangla ...		
53	Khalsa A.-V. Middle School, Saini Bar, Chak No. 7.	Do ...	Financial stringency.
54	Khalsa A.-V. Middle School, Nawanpind.	Do.	Ditto.

No.	Name of School.	Whether grant allowed or refused.	Remarks.
55	Cantonment Aided High School, Lahore Cantonment.	Pending ...	High Department only. Middle already aided.
56	Islamia High School, Sialkot ...	Do.	
57	Muslim A.-V. Middle School, Baddomalli.	Do.	
	Rawalpindi Division.		
58	V. B. High School, Jalalpur Jattan.		
59	S. D. High School, Jalalpur Jattan.	Pending ...	The Department desires that all the three schools should be amalgamated, but their managements do not come to terms. Hence the case of these three schools is yet awaiting decision.
60	Islamia A.-V. Middle School, Jalalpur Jattan.		
61	D. A.-V. High School, Shahpur City.	Refused ...	Does not fulfil the conditions of award of grant. There is also a Khalsa High School at the place. The Department desires that these two schools should amalgamate, as two schools are not required there.
62	S. D. High School, Sargodha ...	Allowed.	
63	Khalsa A.-V. Middle School, Mitha Tiwana.	Do.	
64	Khalsa High School, Sahiwal ...	Refused ...	Does not fulfil the conditions for grant. Numbers on the roll very small. There is also a Khalsa High School at Faruka at a distance of 7 miles.
65	S. D. High School, Bhown ...	Allowed.	
66	D. A.-V. Middle School, Bhown ...	Do.	
67	Khalsa High School, Gujar Khan	Do.	
68	Islamia High School, Gujar Khan	Do.	
	Ambala Division.		
69	Khalsa A.-V. Middle School, Chaunkaur.	Allowed.	
70	Gaur Brahman High School, Rohtak.	Do.	
71	Jat Hero's Memorial High School, Rohtak.	Do.	
72	Muslim High School, Sadhaura ...	Do. ...	High Department. Middle already aided.

No.	Name of School.	Whether grant allowed or refused.	Remarks.
73	Khalsa High School, Kharar ...	Allowed ...	Middle Department. Application for the High Department pending.
74	Brayne Memorial High School, Nuh.	Do.	
75	S. D. High School, Pundri ...	...	Not recommended by the Inspector.
76	Jain A.-V. Middle School, Ambala City.	Pending.	
77	D. A.-V. High School, Shahabad...	Do. ...	High Department. Middle already aided.
78	Hindu A. S. Middle School, Sadhaura.	Do. ...	Upper Middle. Lower Middle aided.
79	Islamia A.-V. Middle School, Simla	Do. ...	Ditto ditto.
80	Khalsa High School, Kurali ...	Do.	
81	Anglo-Sanskrit High School, Pundri.	Do. ...	High Department. Middle already aided.
82	Arya Lower Middle School, Rohtak	Do.	

GRANT FOR STARTING S. L. C. CLASSES IN CERTAIN SCHOOLS.

2521. Rai Bahadur Lala Panna Lal: (*a*) Is it a fact that the Government issued a circular some 3 years ago asking aided schools to start S. L. C. classes and promising to give special grants for typewriters and other equipments required for starting the class ?

(*b*) Is it a fact that several schools in Ambala, Jullundur and Ludhiana districts started the classes on this assurance and applied for special equipment grant ?

(*c*) Is it a fact that some of these applications have either been rejected or postponed for the last 3 years ?

(*d*) If so, will the Government be pleased to state why the promised grant has been refused or delayed so long ?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain: Attention is directed to my reply to question No. 1463*.

RELEASE OF LALA LAJPAT RAI.

2522. Rai Bahadur Lala Panna Lal: (*a*) Is it a fact that Lala Lajpat Rai is lying seriously ill in the jail ?

(*b*) Is it a fact that his medical advisers think that immediate shifting to some sanitarium is absolutely necessary to save his life ?

(*c*) If so, will the Government be pleased to release him and cancel the remaining term of his imprisonment ?

* Volume IV, page 15.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: (*a*) Lala Lajpat Rai is unwell, but is not seriously ill.

(*b*) Government has no information to this effect.

(*c*) Government is not prepared to remit the balance of his sentence.

USE OF THE WORD 'BANIAH' IN OFFICIAL PAPERS.

2523. Rai Bahadur Lala Panna Lal: (*a*) Is it a fact that the Aggarwal community of the province resents the use of the word "Baniah" for Aggarwal in official papers?

(*b*) If so, will the Government be pleased to direct that the word "Aggarwal" or "Wash" be used for "Baniah" in official papers in future?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: (*a*) The Punjab Government are not aware of any resentment on the part of the Aggarwal community.

(*b*) Does not arise.

IMPROVEMENT OF AMBALA CITY WATERWORKS.

2524. Rai Bahadur Lala Panna Lal: (*a*) Is it a fact that a scheme for the improvement of Ambala City Water Works has been before the Government for some time?

(*b*) If so, will the Government be pleased to state when the scheme will be carried out? If it is not possible to carry out the scheme, what are the difficulties in the way?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain: (*a*) The honourable member's attention is invited to the answer given to Council Question No. 1629* on the 3rd August, 1922.

(*b*) A part of the scheme, that is to say, the 40 feet diameter experimental well, is expected to be shortly completed. The Sanitary Board is contributing to the cost of a deep-boring undertaken by the Military Department, on the results of which the type of additional wells will be finally decided.

2525. *Cancelled.*

IMPROVEMENT OF INDUSTRIES.

2526. Rai Bahadur Lala Panna Lal: (*a*) Will Government be pleased to ascertain whether it is a fact that the Governments of Madras, Bombay and United Provinces have allotted ten lacs of rupees for the improvement of industries in those provinces?

(*b*) Will the Punjab Government do the same?

The Honourable Lala Harkishan Lal: (*a*) The Punjab Government have no information as to what sums of money have been devoted to the development of Industries by the Local Governments named by the honourable member.

(*b*) The sums to be devoted to the development of Industries in the Punjab will depend on the financial resources of the Province and on the sanction of this Council.

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* Volume IV, page 178.

IMPOSITION OF NEW TAXATION.

2527. Rai Sahib Lala Thakar Das: Adverting to the resolution relating to the appointment of a committee to consider ways and means of increasing the revenues of the province, will the Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) what steps it has taken and what conclusions it has arrived at in regard to ways and means of increasing the revenues;

(*b*) whether it intends to impose any new taxation;

(*c*) If so, how much of the deficit in the budget of the current financial year it is hoped to make up if new taxes are imposed;

(*d*) what would be the incidence of the new taxes, *i.e.*, what classes of necessaries, comforts and luxuries will these new taxes ultimately effect, and to what extent; and

(*e*) if it would consider the desirability of so to impose new taxes as would leave untouched, the necessaries and comforts of the poor and the middle classes of the population of the province?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: (*a*) The Punjab Government decided to refer the question of ways and means for increasing the revenue of the Province to the Standing Finance Committee, whose resolution on the subject has been published in Part V of the Gazette of 20th April, 1923.

(*b*) Bills for amending the Stamp Act and the Court-fees Act and for imposing a tax on motors are being presented at the present session of the Council.

(*c*) It is anticipated that if these taxes are imposed the deficit on revenue account for the current year will amount to 53 lakhs instead of 63 lakhs as budgetted for.

(*d*) The proposed taxes ultimately affect users of motor vehicles in the case of the proposed motor taxation and in the case of other bills they affect the cost of transfers and of litigation, respectively.

(*e*) Government proposes to keep the considerations mentioned always in view.

RETRENCHMENT IN GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS.

2528. Rai Sahib Lala Thakar Das: With regard to the statement of the Honourable Sir John Maynard made on March 21st, 1923, in this Council in connection with the debate on the Government's resolution *re* "appointment of a committee to consider ways and means of increasing revenue" that "all Ministers and Members intend to go through each Department to see what retrenchments can be made," will the Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) which of the Departments have been gone through till now;

(*b*) what retrenchments have been made or are intended to be made;

(c) what is the number and nature of posts abolished or intended to be abolished ;

(d) the services of how many Hindus, Sikhs, Muhammadans and others, respectively, have been or are likely to be thus dispensed with ;

(e) how much money will be and has been thus saved with regard to each separate community ?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : The possibility of retrenchments has been examined in all departments. Statement marked A laid on the table shows the action taken with regard to each recommendation of the Retrenchment Committee and independent action taken by Government regarding curtailment of expenditure with the details asked for so far as available.

Statement showing action taken by Government re curtailment of expenditure—

(*a*) on the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee; and

(*b*) independently.

Summary of the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee which have been or are proposed to be given effect to by Government.

Reference to the Report of the Retrenchment Committee.			Budget Head.	Recommendation of the Retrenchment Committee.	Extent to which recommendation has been or is proposed to be given effect to by Government.
Appendix No.	Serial No. of the Appendix.	Resolution No.			
B	1	19	5.—Land Revenue...	That an experiment be attempted on a unit of area not less than one rajbaha, whereby all the assessment staff be under the Collector, and the Canal staff be responsible for the maintenance of the canal and for the maintenance of the stipulated head of water at outlets.	(*b*) The amalgamation of the Land Revenue and Canal Revenue Staff will be carried out experimentally on the Western Jumna Canal with a view to effect reduction in establishment. The experiment in question, which will shortly come into force, may lead to reduction in the number of revenue posts.
B	2	25	Ditto ...	That the average size of Patwari circles can usually be increased in areas such as new colony areas where killabandi exists and tenures are simple. Similarly it may be found possible to substitute 8-yearly for 4-yearly jamabandis in such areas.	(*a*), (*d*) & (*e*). It is impossible to give a detailed forecast at this stage. (*b*) The question of increasing the area of Patwaris circles and consequently the question of reducing Patwaris and Kanungos in the districts of Shahpur, Sheikhupura, Gujrat, Lyallpur, Montgomery and Jhang is under consideration. (*c*) No information can be given as to the number of Patwaris and Kanungos to be brought under reduction. (*d*) & (*e*) Information cannot be given until the posts are actually reduced.

B	4	84	7.—Stamps ...	That commission on sales of stamps should be reduced especially in the case of Court-fee stamps. Government should enquire into the proposal that in future no commission on sales of stamps be paid to Treasurers or Agents provided no other license for vend be given within ½ mile of Government Treasuries or Sub-Treasuries.	(b) (i) Attention is invited to Punjab Government notifications Nos. 32858—59-B., dated 26th December 1922, under which rates of discount to vendors for the sale of judicial and non-Judicial stamps have been reduced with effect from 15th January 1923. Rates of discount of Rs. 3-12-0, and Rs. 2 prescribed in notification No. 32858-B., dated 26th December 1922, has further been reduced to Rs. 2-8-0 and Re. 1-4-0 in the cases of the towns of Lahore and Amritsar with effect from 1st April 1923. (ii) The matter regarding abolition of commission in some cases and raising the pay of official vendors is under consideration. The amount of probable savings cannot be estimated at this stage. (c) (d) & (e) do not arise.
B	6	18	9.—Registration (Head 22.—General Administration wrongly shown in the appendix of the report).	In future non-official Sub-Registrars should not be appointed, except in a very few tahsils and district head-quarters in which the registration work cannot be done by official agency.	(b) It has been decided that the offices of all Departmental and Honorary Sub-Registrars, the number of documents by whom during 1922, did not exceed 500, will be abolished with effect from the close of the current financial year, except those offices which are not situated at Tahsil Head-quarters, the cases of which will be considered on their merits at the conclusion of the current term of the present incumbents. Offices in which the number of documents registered in 1922 exceeded 500, but did not exceed 749, will not be closed immediately, but the case of each will be considered on its merits at the conclusion of the current term of the present incumbents;

Summary of the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee which have been or are proposed to be given effect to by Government—continued.

Reference to the Report of the Retrenchment Committee.			Budget Head.	Recommendation of the Retrenchment Committee.	Extent to which recommendation has been or is proposed to be given effect to by Government.
Appendix No.	Serial No. of the Appendix.	Resolution No.			
B—*concld.*	...	...	...	...	(c) (i) Posts of 4 Sub-Registrars, one Muharrir and 3 Chaprasis have been abolished, and (ii) 21 Sub-Registrars, 12 Muharrirs and 16 Chaprasis will be abolished with effect from 1st April 1924. (*d*) & (*e*). See statement attached at page 54. *Note.*—(1) In some cases the incumbents of the posts of Muharrirs and Chaprasis to be abolished are intended to be absorbed in other permanent vacancies in the district. Particulars about these posts are therefore not given in the statement. (2) As the posts of muharrirs and chaprasis are to be abolished at the close of the financial year, the religion of the persons to come under reduction is not at present known in some cases.

A	1	16	22.-E.—General Administration—District Administration, Pay of Establishment (Head 5.—Land Revenue wrongly shown in the report).	That, except in two or three districts where special necessity is proved, the post of Reader to Deputy Commissioner be abolished.	(*b*) The posts of Readers to Deputy Commissioners are to be abolished and a saving of about Rs. 12,800 per annum is expected. (*c*) Approximately 29 posts of Readers to Deputy Commissioners in different grades will be abolished. (*d*) & (*e*) Information cannot be given until the posts are actually reduced.
A	2	1	22-C. A.—General Administration—Civil Secretariat.	That the Financial Commissioner be made a Secretary to Government and undertake a part of those duties which the Revenue Secretary now performs, and that one post of Secretary to Government be abolished.	(*b*) The post of the Revenue Secretary to Government has been held in abeyance and thus a saving of Rs. 30,000 has been effected. (*c*) One post of Secretary to Government. (*d*) One European. (*e*) Rs. 30,000 have been saved with regard to the European Community.
A	3	2	22-D.—General Administration—Commissioners.	That the number of Commissioners be reduced from five to three.	(*b*) In view of the facts that the present Commissioners' Divisions are homogenous and suitable and any step which would increase the distances to which public would have to go to carry appeals or applications to Commissioners would be unpopular and that the five Commissioners are already hard worked, three of whom have been provided with Personal Assistants, it was considered that any increase in their work would seriously reduce their efficiency and decided not to reduce the present number of Commissioners, at any rate for some years to come. Moreover, under the orders of the Secretary of State it was not within the province of either the Provincial Retrenchment Committees or Local Governments to touch the question of the personnel or pay of Imperial Services.

Summary of the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee which have been or are proposed to be given effect to by Government—continued.

Reference to the Report of the Retrenchment Committee.			Budget Head.	Recommendation of the Retrenchment Committee.	Extent to which recommendation has been or is proposed to be given effect to by Government.
Appendix No.	Serial No. of the Appendix.	Resolution No.			
A—*concld.*	5	38	22—General Administration. (22-B.—General Administration—Legislative Council).	That the posts of Council Secretaries be abolished.	(*b*) Section 54 (4) of the Government of India Act leaves the appointments of Council Secretaries optional with His Excellency the Governor, but the Secretary of State clearly expressed his desire that they should be appointed in each Province. However, in view of the recommendation of the Retrenchment Committee; the acute financial stringency and in deference to the wishes of the Legislative Council it has been decided to abolish these posts temporarily with effect from 1st April 1923. (*c*) Four Council Secretaries. (*d*) One post was already in abeyance—services of two Muhammadans and one Sikh have been dispensed with. (*d*) Rupees 4,000 and Rs. 2,000 per annum have been saved with regard to Muhammadans and Hindus Communities in addition to Rs. 2,000 per annum on account of the post of Secretary already held in abeyance.

A	6	64	22—General Administration and various heads shown in first column of Appendix V of Detailed Estimates, 1923-24.	That the budget allotment for travelling allowance be reduced by one-third.	(*b*) Attention is invited to Appendix V of Detailed Estimates, 1923-24, which shows that a reduction of Rs. 9,06,611 in the budget of Rs. 47,95,107 for travelling allowance proposed by Heads of Departments, was moved by Government and accepted by the Legislative Council. It has, however, been absolutely necessary to ask the Council to restore a portion of this. (*c*), (*d*) and (*e*) do not arise.
B	5	4	22—General Administration.	That if it be a fact that the Indian Civil Service no longer attracts Englishmen, from England, and that the service is becoming rapidly Indianised and may become so completely in a short time, it seems unnecessary to continue a rate of salary for Indians entering the service that was intended to attract Englishmen from abroad, and it would seem that the appropriate scale should be ⅔rds the present scale.	(*b*) In view of the appointment of the Royal Commission and Secretary of State's orders which laid down that matter concerning personnel and pay of Imperial Services were not to be discussed by the Provincial Retrenchment Committees action by Government has been deferred till the report of the Commission is out (*c*) (*d*) and (*e*) do not arise.
B	7	48	22—General Administration (various Heads).	That all allowances now classed as special pay and compensatory allowance other than travelling allowance be closely scrutinised by Government with a view to ascertaining whether the allowance is strictly justified.	(*b*) Heads of Departments have been asked to justify the different cases of existing allowances before the Standing Finance Committee in case of voted expenditure and before Hon'ble Member for Finance or Minister incharge in regard to non-voted expenditure. (*c*) (*d*) and (*e*) do not arise.
A	4	3	24—Administration of Justice.	That the emoluments of Public Prosecutors be reduced by Rs. 50,000.	(*a*) A retrenchment of considerably over Rs. 50,000 per annum has been made during the current year in this item.

Summary of the recommendatoins of the Retrenchment Committee which have been or are proposed to be given effect to by Government—continued.

Reference to the Report of the Retrenchment committee.			Budget Head.	Recommendation of the Retrenchment Committee.	Extent to which recommendation has been or is proposed to be given effect to by Government.
Appendix No.	Serial No. of the appendix.	Resolution No.			
A	4	3	24—Administration of Justice. (24-B—Administration of Justice—Law officers, mufassil establishment). (23—General Administration wrongly shown in Appendix of the report.)	That the emoluments of Public Prosecutors be reduced by Rs. 50,000.	This involves the introduction of a new system in the pay of Public Prosecutors. The system is still on trial. It is hoped in connection with this system that the work of a clerk in the Law Department will be found to have been greatly lightened, and that his services may be employed in assisting the drafting clerk of the Legislative Department, who is at present over worked. It was proposed by the Retrenchment Committee that instead of having an Assistant Legal Remembrancer who should get a retaining fee and be allowed to engage in private practice a wholetime officer should be engaged on a salary of Rs. 1,500 a month. After much discussion this was found to be quite impracticable as no lawyer with anything like the requisite qualifications could be found to work at such a low salary. It was therefore settled that two half-time officers should be engaged, with retaining salaries of Rs. 750 each. In this way not only were certain reductions in fees paid to lawyers from Crown work affected, but assistance was given to the Secretary of the Legislative Department inasmuch as one of the Assistant Legal Remembrancers is employed in the work of Bill drafting. (c), (d) and (e) do not arise.

B		46	24—Administration of Justice.	That a considerable amount of savings might be effected by restricting the number of holidays allowed in Civil Courts to general holidays allowed for all public offices. The Committee are also of opinion that Civil Judicial Offices should have no vacation in September.	(b) Heads of Departments were addressed about abolishing the extra holidays enjoyed by Civil Courts and they have all agreed with the Committee's recommendation. His Excellency the Governor has now decided to ask the High Court if they have any objection to the proposed abolition of superfluous holidays. His Excellency has further decided that the September vacation should remain intact, but other small reductions are under consideration. Last Saturdays are sparingly to be given as holidays in winter. (c), (d) and (e) savings to be accrued cannot be estimated. (f)— (a) No grant-in-aid has since been sanctioned to a College in Lahore. (b) The cost of prizes is no longer defrayed by Government saving of Rs. 4,175, and a similar, though indirect savings in regard to aided schools (Rs. 4,175). (c) The allotment of Rs. 11,000 to be distributed by touring officers of high distinction has been reduced from Rs. 11,000 to Rs. 6,000. (d) The Institute of Commerce has been abandoned at a saving of Rs. 12,530. (e) Grants to Industrial Primary Schools have been abandoned, saving of Rs. 6,000. (f) The posts of Inspector of Drawing and Educational handwork, his Assistants, and office have been retrenched—saving of Rs. 7,704. (g) A committee on the simplification of courses has been appointed and has reported. The matter is under consideration.
A	S	45	31—Education ...	That expenditure on education be curtailed during the existing financial stringency (*vide* detail in the report at page 9.)	

Summary of the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee which have been or are proposed to be given effect to by Government—continued.

Reference to the Report of the Retrenchment Committee.			Budget Head.	Recommendation of the Retrenchment Committee.	Extent to which recommendation has been or is proposed to be given effect to by Government.
Appendix No.	Serial No. of the Appendix.	Resolution No.			
A—*concld.*	...	...	...	...	(c) Inspector of Drawing-European (retired). (d) Subject to (c) above) the services of no Government servant have been dispensed with. (e) It is impossible to estimate how these (and other savings effected before March last) savings affect the several communities.
A	7	43	32-Medical—(32-D. Medical—Medical College). (30—Scientific Department was wrongly shown in Appendix of the report).	That it is not necessary to fix the pay of Clinical Assistants to the Professors of the Lahore Medical College at a higher rate than that of Assistant Surgeons plus the usual Lahore allowance of Rs. 150 per mensem.	The matter is still under consideration.
A	9	44	33—Public Health...	That the budget allotment under the head "Public Health" be curtailed.	(b) The Retrenchment Committee accepted the proposals of the Public Health Department to effect a saving of Rs. 66,500 in the Budget estimates during the current financial year.

					By the introduction of the reorganization scheme of the Public Health Department, which came into force on 1st April 1923, a saving of Rs. 34,865 is expected to accrue to Government. The reduction of Rs. 20,025 made by the Legislative Council for travelling allowance and further reduction of Rs. 7,000 on account of reserves are not included. The former has been included under Head 22 (reduction of travelling allowance.) Further items on account of purchase of chemicals, etc., to the extent of Rs. 3,600 were reduced under the orders of the Hon'ble Minister for Education. The 5 posts of Divisional Inspectors of Vaccination costing Rs. 6,500 a year have also been abolished. The total savings thus amount to Rs. 44,965.
					(c) Five Divisional Inspectors of Vaccination.
					(d) Four Muhammadans and one Hindu.
					(e) Approximately Rs. 5,200 and Rs. 1,600 have been saved with regard to the Muhammadan and Hindu communities, respectively.
A	10	27	34—Agriculture	That Government cease to be responsible for any expenditure on Demonstration Agricultural farms.	(b) There is only one such farm financed by Government—the Bess Farm and its retention is only provisionally sanctioned for 1923-24 on condition that the total Government expenditure does not exceed Rs. 1,000 for the year.
					(c), (d) and (e) establishment employed on the Farm is paid by District Board hence do not arise.

Summary of the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee which have been or are proposed to be given effect to by Government—continued.

Reference to the Report of the Retrenchment Committee.			Budget Head.	Recommendation of the Retrenchment Committee.	Extent to which recommendation has been or is proposed to be given effect to by Government.
Apendix No.	Serial No. of the Appendix.	Resolution No.			
A—*concld.*	11	20	35—Industries ...	That the "Industries Bulletin" be discontinued.	(*b*) Publication of the "Industrial Bulletin" has been discontinued since 1st February 1928, a saving of Rs. 16,500 to Government. (*c*) Two posts one of editor and other of a typist (besides Rs. 800 per mensem on account of other expenditure.) (*d*) One Hindu and one Christian. (*e*) Rs. 900 and Rs. 5,000 have been saved with regard to the Hindu and Christian communities respectively.
B	9	8	35—Industries ...	That the gross expenditure of the Fisheries Department should not exceed Rs. 45,000 and that license fees should be raised from Rs. 3 to Rs. 6.	(*b*) The Fisheries Department grant has been kept at the lowest possible figure consistent with the functions of the Department and the license fees have been raised as proposed with a view to increase the income. (*c*), (*d*) and (*e*) no establishment reduced hence do not arise.
A	12	58	41—Civil Works ...	That annual repairs of Departmental buildings other than residential be effected by the Departments concerned.	(*b*) The Jail Department have taken over the repairs to their own buildings and budget provision of Rs. 31,395 made by the Public Works Department under the head "41—Civil Works" was with-

A	13	54	41—Civil Works ...	That budget grants for repairs to roads be reduced by 20 per cent.	drawn and after making 20 per cent. reduction as proposed by the Retrenchment Committee, a sum of Rs. 25,116 was transferred to the head "25—Jails and Convict Settlements" and placed at the disposal of the Inspector-General of Prisons for the purpose. The saving effected amounts to Rs. 6,279. Regarding the transfer of buildings of other Departments, Heads of Departments concerned were consulted in the matter and those having many buildings in their charge, *i. e.*, Medical, Judicial and Education, etc., objected to the proposal and among other, some of them opined that they could not carry out repairs any better or cheaper than the Public Works Department Agency. (*c*), (*d*) and (*e*) do not arise. (*b*) Every effort is being and will be made by the Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, Buildings and Roads Branch, to reduce expenditure to a minimum but with the great increase in motor traffic greater expenditure is obligatory in maintaining provincial roads efficiently to suit motor traffic. With the failure and gradual extinction of old local kankar quarries Public Works Department authorities have to go further afield for metalling material and they are now considering the best form of road crusts to suit motor traffic both from the view of longer life and also to obviate the dust nuisance in large towns of the province. It has been considered advisable to leave to the officers concerned to effect such savings as may be possible on maintenance, which in their judgment will enable them to keep the roads in good repair. (*c*), (*d*) and (*e*) do not arise.

Summary of the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee which have been or are proposed to be given effect to by Government—continued.

Reference to the Report of the Retrenchment Committee.			Budget Head.	Recommendation of the Retrenchment Committee.	Extent to which recommendation has been or is proposed to be given effect to by Government.
Appendix No.	Serial No. of the appendix.	Resolution No.			
A	14	54	41—Civil Works ...	That the reserve of unforseen charges and Major Works be excluded from the Public Works Department budget.	Certain reserves are necessary to keep work going, but they are largely balanced by anticipated savings.
A	15	54	41—Civil Works ...	That the grants to the Communications Board be reduced by Rs. 3,00,000.	(*b*) This recommendation has been given effect to so far as the grant for 1923-24 is concerned. Four lakhs were reduced as compared with budget for preceding year. (*c*), (*d*) and (*e*) do not arise.
A	16	6	41—Civil Works ...	That immediate effect be given to the proposals of Sir Ganga Ram, Member of the Sly Committee, for the amalgamation of Public Works Department and District Board Staff.	(*b*) No action has been taken. The matter is still under consideration of the Governor in Council. (*c*), (*d*) and (*e*) do not arise.
B	10	6	41—Civil Works ...	That in order to facilitate recourse being had to the expedient devised by the majority of the Sly Committee in future Government Engineers should be engaged on condition that their services would be subject to transfer to District Boards if necessary.	(*b*) No action has yet been taken. The matter is still under consideration of the Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture. (*c*), (*d*) and (*e*) do not arise.
B	11	53	41—Civil Works ...	(*a*) The Consulting Architect should be absorbed in the general cadre of the Public Works Department, Buildings and Roads Branch, as Superintending Engineer.	(*b*) This recommendation could not be carried out as under the Secretary of State's order it was not within the province of either the Provincial Retrenchment Committees or Local Governments to touch the question of personnel or

					pay of the Imperial Services. Moreover the Specialist (i.e., Sanitary, Architectural and Electrical) cadre has only recently been separated from the general cadre by the Government of India after years of deliberation.
					(c), (d) and (e) do not arise.
				(b) (1) The abolition of the post of Assistant Consulting Architect should be considered on the expiry of the existing contract.	(b) (1) This recommendation will be considered in due course when the present Assistant Consulting Architect's contract of service with the Secretary of State expires, viz., in the spring of 1925.
					(c), (d) and (e) do not arise.
				(2) Municipalities and District Boards should be charged for the services of Consulting Architect.	(2) The recommendation has been accepted and rules to this effect are being incorporated in the new rules governing the administration of Local Bodies.
A	17	31	46—Stationery and Printing.	That the budget allotment for Stationery and Printing be reduced by 20 per cent.	(4) The grant for "Stationery and Printing" for 1923-24 amounts to Rs. 10,18,000 while last year's Revised Estimate amounted to Rs. 10,75,000; thus the difference between the two figures, i.e., Rs. 57,000 is a saving to Government, besides a reduction of Rs. 11,500 moved by Government and accepted by Legislative Council under this head for the current financial year. With regard to the economy in paper and printing, undermentioned reductions have been made in the distribution of reports, &c.:—

		From	To
(1)	Agriculture Report, Part I	516	337
(2)	" " Part II	500	345
(3)	Veterinary Report ...	292	260

Summary of the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee which have been or are proposed to be given effect to by Government.—continued.

Reference to the Report of the Retrenchment Committee.			Budget Head.	Recommendation of the Retrenchment Committee.	Extent to which recommendation has been or is proposed to be given effect to by Government.
Appendix No.	Serial No. of the Appendix.	Resolution No.			
A—*contd.*	...	...	...	...	From To (4) Camel Specialist Report 213 207 (5) Fisheries Report 254 200 (6) Co-operative Societies Report ... 465 358 (7) Colonies Report .. 320 150 Owing to the world-wide range of official and other special recipients no further reduction could be made. All the above reports are now in octavo form. The volume of the annual report on Criminal Tribes Department has been reduced to less than one-fifth of what it was in 1921. The distribution of the Annual Police Administration Report has been cut down from 360 to 260. The publication of monthly gradation list of Police Officers serving in the Punjab has been discontinued. Besides the above a reduction in the number of copies of the English *Police Gazette*, the *Criminal Intelligence Gazette* and the Vernacular Excise Supplement to the *Police Gazette* is contemplated. Volume of the Annual Stamp Statements has been reduced. The number of Government proceedings and Circulars, etc., has been considerably reduced and distribution list revised accordingly. The matter is still engaging the attention of Government and every endeavour is being

					made to bring the expenditure on paper and printing to a minimum pitch so far as it is consistent with the proper transaction of official business. (c), (d) and (e) do not arise.
A.	18	...	46—Stationery and Printing.	That the Urdu Gazette be abolished	(b) After careful consideration it was decided not to abolish the printing of Urdu Gazette. (c), (d) and (e) do not arise.
B.	3	36	47—Miscellaneous (47-B-Miscellaneous petty establishment, Copying Agency establishment) shown under 5—Land Revenue in Appendix of the report by mistake.	That copyists in District Offices be entertained as Government servants on time-scale.	(b) Opinions of Local Officers are being considered and until such time as a final decision is reached it is not possible to give the statistics asked for in (c), (d) and (e).
B.	18	32	47—Miscellaneous ...	Pressure should be continued by Local Government on district officers to use stamps economically.	(b) The need for economy in the use of stamps is continually impressed on all Heads of Departments, &c. They were asked to express their views with regard to the curtailment of expenditure in this direction and replies from some of the officers are still awaited. The experiment has been made this summer of sending official Dak by peons instead of post by some Head-quarters offices and the amount of savings thus effected will be ascertained. Despatch of telegrams and trunk-call telephonic messages have been cut down. Registration of letters has been cut down to only important documents. On receipt of all the replies referred to above Government will carefully consider the matter in the light of the opinions expressed by Heads of Departments and issue necessary orders on the subject in order to make a substantial reduction in expenditure on service stamps. (c), (d) and (e) do not arise.

Action taken by Government independently with regard to the curtailment of expenditure in Departments shown below beside the recommendation made by the Retrenchment Committee.

Budget Head.	Particulars of curtailment of expenditure.
5-Land Revenue. 6-Excise. 7-Stamps. 22-General Administration. 34-Agriculture, Botanical and other gardens. 35-B.—Industries. Fisheries. *37-A—Miscellaneous Departments Inspector of Factories.	(*a*) Departments under the Financial Commissioners. (*b*) All possible retrenchments had previously been made partly as a result of Retrenchment Committee's Report and mainly as a result of the necessity of balancing the budget for 1923-24, but a further effort was made to go through each Department under the Financial Commissioners with a view to see if any other retrenchment could be effected. As a result the posts of Assistant Inspector of Factories and Additional Inspector of Factories have been brought under reduction and saving thus effected comes to approximately Rs. 5,000 per annum. It has been found impossible to make further retrenchments, those already made having reduced expenditure down to in some cases below, the limits of efficiency. (*c*) Two posts of Assistant Inspectors of Factories and Additional Inspector of Factories. (*d*) Two Hindus. (*e*) Approximately Rs. 5,000 have been saved with regard to Hindu community.
22.—General Administration ...	The post of Under-Secretary in the Finance Department held by an officer of the Indian Civil Service has been placed in abeyance its place being taken by that of a Deputy Secretary. Immediate saving Rs. 11,400.
24—Administration of Justice ...	(*a*) High Court of Judicature. (*b*) The Judges have observed strictest economy and most careful scrutiny of their expenditure. In regard to the extension of the High Court and its furnishing the Judges cut down expenses to a minimum by agreeing to make use of old stuff and cutting down the expenditure from over Rs. 90,000 to Rs. 48,000, the former figure being only what was estimated by the Government Architect for giving the Judges the same standard of comfort and dignified surroundings as members of the Legislature themselves enjoy. (*c*) There has been no retrenchment in the sense of abolishing appointments as the Judges have not yet come across any appointment which it would be a true economy to abolish. A thorough scrutiny of the work done by the clerical establishment of the High Court is about to be

*NOTE.—Administration control as Secretary to Government, Punjab.

Budget Head.	Particulars of curtailment of expenditure.
24—Administration of Justice—*contd.*	undertaken but it is not expected it will be possible to abolish any post until the arrears of work are considerably lightened. The Judges have also taken advantage of the fall in institutions to refrain from filling up to the full number of sanctioned posts of the Judicial cadre of the Punjab Civil Service. This has resulted in a saving of Rs. 13,214-11-0 from January last up to the end of September. Further savings are anticipated on this account during the remaining months of the year. Had these vacancies been filled 5 Hindus, 7 Muhammadans and 1 Sikh candidates would have been absorbed in them. The scheme for the revision of pay of European Bailiffs which was proposed by the Judges and has been sanctioned by Government has resulted in a saving of Rs. 9,013-3 year. A proposal for curtailment of section writing charges on account of copies supplied to Public Prosecutors is under consideration. This scheme, if adopted, will result in a saving of one lakh of rupees.
	(*d*) and (*e*). As the Judges have abolished no posts, the questions do not appear to arise.
25—Jails and Convict Settlements ...	(*a*) Jails Department.
	(*b*) The following measures have been taken by the Inspector-General of Prisons to curtail expenditure on travelling allowances of the Department :—
	(1) Warders at sub-jails have been ordered to remain in their posts for 1½ years instead of one year.
	(2) The practice of jail officials accompanying gangs of prisoners has been stopped.
	(3) Journeys for making purchases etc., have been restricted and are not undertaken without the previous sanction of Inspector-General of Prisons.
	(4) Superintendents of Head-quarters Jails have been ordered to reduce the number of transfers of Warders.
	(5) Transfers of prisoners are being reduced and every effort is being made to avoid expenditure as far as possible.
	(*c*), (*d*) and (*e*) do not arise as the heavy and strenuous work in the Department does not admit of any reduction of establishment.

Budget Head.	Particulars of curtailment of expenditure.
28—Police ...	(a) Police Department.
	(b) and (c) The Police budget for the year 1923-24 was curtailed to the extent of about 5 lakhs. Large cuts were made under the head of "Travelling and Conveyance Allowances," and over 600 men, temporarily sanctioned for fixed duties, were brought under reduction. It has however, been found as the result of experience that it was necessary to apply to Government, to restore the establishment thus reduced, and the necessity of appointing additional police has helped to nullify the reduction.
	(d) and (e) It is not possible to supply details on these points.
28-B—Police, District Executive Force, Reclamation of Criminal Tribes.	(a) Criminal Tribes Department.
	(b) *Central Office*—
	(1) Replacement of an Indian Civil Service Officer by an officer of the Punjab Civil Service as Deputy Commissioner for Criminal Tribes.
	(2) Abolition o the post of Deputy Superintendent.
	(3) Reduction of two peons.
	(4) Reduction of two temporary Clerks—savings Rs. 2,118 per mensem.
	Reformatory Settlements, Amritsar—
	(5) Abolition of the posts of 3 ploughers temporarily.
	(6) Reduction of the post of a shoemaker—savings Rs. 185 per mensem.
	Criminal Tribes Settlements under Government—
	(7) Abolition of the post of a peon at Chak 47/3 R. Settlement.
	(8) Substitution of a wholetime Bhishti by a part time one at Chhanga Manga Settlement Dispensary—savings Rs. 22 per mensem.
	Criminal Tribes Settlements under Societies
	(9) Reduction of 9 Assistant Superintendents in Agricultural Settlements.
	(10) Reduction of 9 peons in Agricultural Settlements—saving Rs. 661 per mensem.
	Total savings Rs. 2,986 per mensem. Ditto Rs. 35,832 per annum.

Budget Head.	Particulars of curtailment of expenditure.
26-B.—Police, District Executive Force Reclamation of Criminal Tribes—*concld.*	(c) Twenty-eight posts of Deputy Commissioners for Criminal Tribes, Deputy Superintendent, Assistant Superintendents, Preachers, Clerks, Peons, Shoemakers and Bhishti. (d)— (a) One European. (b) 3 Sikhs. (c) 13 Muhammadans. (d) 12 Hindus. (e) The following savings have been effected with regard to the communities noted below :— Rs. (a) Europeans ... 1,700 per mensem. (b) Sikhs ... 114 „ (c) Muhammadans 748 „ (d) Hindus ... 404 „ Total ... 2,966 per mensem. or Rs. 35,592 per annum.
31.—Education ...	(a) Education Department. (b) The following retrenchments have been made :— (a) Amalgamation of Chelmsford Training College with Ghora Gali School saving Rs. 5,000. (b) A revision of the system of Manual Training—savings Rs. 5,000. (c) Revision of Contingencies—savings Rs. 11,000. (f) Travelling allowance have been ratified on the reduced allotment. (e) A revision of the staffs of Government High School and Normal Schools has been made. It is impossible to name the savings in money as they have been most used to meet largely increased numbers. (f) A revision of allowances is under consideration. (g) A revision of grant-in-aid rules is under consideration. (c), (d) and (e) It is impossible to estimate how the savings made in (a) and (b) above effect several communities.
41—Civil Works ...	(a) Public Works Department, Buildings and Roads Branch.

Budget Head.	Particulars of curtailment of expenditure.	Rs.
41—Civil Works—*continued.*	(b) and (c) The following economies in staff have been effected with a view to retrenchment :—	
	(a) A European Assistant Executive Engineer who was posted to the Buildings and Roads Branch by the Secretary of State was rejected and he is now serving in the Irrigation Branch. Saving a salary for 12 months at Rs. 525 per mensem ..	6,300
	(b) An Assistant Executive Engineer (Muhammadan) was permitted to go to Irrigation Branch permanently. Saving in salary for 12 months at Rs. 675 per mensem ...	8,100
	(c) The resignation of an Assistant Executive Engineer (European) was accepted. Saving in salary for 12 months at Rs. 675 per mensem ...	8,100
	(d) An Executive Engineer (European) was permitted to go to the Imperial Circle, Simla, under the Government of India. Saving in salary for 12 months at Rs. 1,125 per mensem ...	13,500
	(e) An Executive Engineer (European) was permitted to transfer to Irrigation Branch permanently. Saving in salary for 12 months at Rs. 1,175 per mensem ...	14,100
	(f) An Executive Engineer (European) has been allowed to remain on deputation to Delhi Province. Saving in salary at Rs. 1,525 per mensem ...	18,300
	(g) An Executive Engineer (European) has been permitted to revert to Military duty. Saving in salary at Rs. 1,575 per mensem ...	18,900
	(h) An Assistant Executive Engineer (European) has been permitted to transfer to Irrigation Branch permanently. Saving in salary at Rs. 500 per mensem ...	6,000

Budget Head.	Particulars of curtailment of expenditure.
41.—Civil Works—*concluded* ...	(*i*) Recruitment of Assistant Executive Engineer from England has been stopped for 4 years and from Indian Colleges for 3 years. Probable saving in salary ... Rs. 9,000 (*j*) The filling of 5 vacancies in the Punjab Engineering Service has been held in abeyance for the present. Probable saving ... 15,000 (*k*) The following temporary non-gazetted establishment has also be abolished :— 16 Clerks; 4 Draftsmen; 18 Engineering Subordinates. (*d*) Hindus ... ... 18 Muhammadans ... ... 12 Sikhs ... ... 9 Europeans ... ... 7 Rs. (*e*) Hindus ... ... 11,282 Muhammadans ... ... 16,680 Sikhs ... ... 6,312 Europeans ... ... 85,200 All communities, *vide* (*i*) and (*j*) in answer to question 2528 (*c*) ... 24,900 Total ... 1,44,324
55—Irrigation ...	(*a*) Public Works Department, Irrigation Branch. (*b*) Expenditure on Maintenance of Canals has been cut down to the lowest possible limit consistent with a reasonable degree of efficiency. One temporary Division and 9 Sub-Divisions have been closed since 21st March 1923 and 2 permanent Divisions have been amalgamated with others. (*c*) The following offices and appointments have been closed down or reduced— Divisions ... 3 Sub-Divisions ... 9 Deputy Collectors ... 2 Assistant Munshi ... 1 (*d*) Nil, as men are needed for work expending on the Sutlej Valley Project. (*e*) There is no actual reduction in Establishments, that is, no particular individuals have been got rid of, *vide* (*d*) above, and therefore there is no saving on any community. However, the approximate saving due to the closure and amalgamation of the Divisions and Sub-Divisions mentioned at (*b*) above and on account of the abolition of posts of Deputy Collectors and of Assistant Munshi, *vide* (*c*) above, is Rs. 1,57,000, approximately.

Statement showing retrenchments made in the recent past, i.e., after 21st March 1923 to 1st August 1923), and also those to be made at the close of the current financial year.

	Sub-Registrars.			Muharrars.			Chaprasis.		
	Hindus.	Sikhs.	Muhammadans.	Hindus.	Sikhs.	Muhammadans.	Hindus.	Sikhs.	Muhammadans.
(D) (1) The Services—									
(1) Dispensed with* ...	2	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1
(2) Will be dispensed with†	5	3	12	2	...	8	1	1	9
(E) Money thus saved‡ and	1,159	...	1,615	...	...	...	...	...	168
Money that will be saved§	2,697	2,232	8,377	1,194	...	3,516	168	168	1,500

*The incumbent of an office died long before the office was abolished.
†The Muharrar and Chaprasis were provided with other appointments.
‡Post of Sub-Registrar at Isa Khel is vacant since long.
§Based on the expenditure of 1922 and 1920 in the case of Isa Khel.

2529. Rai Sahib Lala Thakar Das: (*a*) Will Government be pleased to state which of the recommendations of the retrenchment committee have been or are proposed to be given effect to by the Government?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a summary of necessary details of the work done in this behalf?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: (*a*) and (*b*). The answer given to the honourable member in reply to his question No. 2528 fully answers this question.

DAMAGES TO *RABI* CROPS IN THE SARGODHA COLONY.

2530. Malik Firoz Khan, Noon: (*a*) Is it a fact that on account of *kungi* and hail stone the last *rabi* crops were damaged in the Sargodha colony?

(*b*) Is it a fact that on account of rains in May 1923, the gathered crops in the whole of this colony have been seriously damaged?

(*c*) Has Government received any representation from the zamindars that they have suffered badly on account of the above-mentioned facts?

(*d*) If so, will the Government kindly remit or at least suspend the collection of whole or part of the land revenue for the *rabi* crop that is being collected now?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia:—

(*a*) Yes, some slight damage was done to Rabi 1923 crops in a portion of the Lower Jhelum Canal Colony, by *kungi* and hail-storm.

(*b*) Yes, some damage in portions of the Lower Jhelum Canal Colony was caused by rains in May 1923, to gathered crops.

(*c*) Representations from zamindars regarding damage caused by rains were received, while no representations relating to damage done by *kungi* and hailstorms were received at all.

(*d*) Remissions of land revenue and water rates on account of damage done by *kungi* and hailstorms have already been made, where necessary, such suspensions and remissions as the circumstances of the case require have been made or are under consideration.

LALA LAJPAT RAI.

2531. Mr. Ganpat Rai: (*a*) Is it a fact that Lala Lajpat Rai, ex-president, Punjab Provincial Congress Committee, who was convicted early last year and is now confined in Lahore Central Jail has been ill? If so, will Government be pleased to state the nature of the disease or diseases from which he is suffering and since how long?

(*b*) Is it a fact that more than one medical man has examined Lala Lajpat Rai? If so, what is their opinion as regards his health?

(*c*) What was the total period of sentence passed on Lala Lajpat Rai and how much of that sentence will he have undergone by 1st August 1923, and what was the nature of the offence for which he was convicted?

(*d*) Will Government be pleased to remit the balance of his sentence and release him? If not, why?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: The answer to part (*c*) of the question is :—

(*i*) 2 years.

(*ii*) 1 year, 6 months, 20 days.

(*iii*) Section 6 (1) of the Seditious Meetings Act, 10 of 1911.

Section 17 (1) of Act 14 of 1908, both sections read with section 117, Indian Penal Code.

With regard to the rest of the question reference is invited to the *communiqué*, dated the 17th August 1923, of which a copy is laid upon the table :—

PRESS *COMMUNIQUÉ*.

SINCE the middle of May 1923 when Lala Lajpat Rai was admitted to hospital in the Lahore Central Jail the Local Government have been keeping careful watch upon the state of his health and from the 1st of July weekly reports have been received from the Superintendent of the Jail. He has been carefully attended by the Superintendent and has been examined by three medical officers of Government in addition to the Superintendent of the Jail. Three or four private practitioners, including his family doctor, have also been allowed to see him from time to time. Lala Lajpat Rai has been accommodated in the European Ward of the Jail, has been allowed a generous diet and has been supplied with an electric fan. The weekly reports indicated that

he was suffering from Benign Tertian Malaria, from Bacillus Coli and from other unimportant intestinal troubles. But the unprogressive nature of his cough, the steadiness of his weight, his very fair appetite and the maintenance of his strength all tended to show that he was not suffering from phthisis and up to this date the tubercular bacillus, the only absolute proof of phthisis, has not been found. His weight began to decline slightly after the beginning of July but up to the 5th of August he had only lost 5 pounds as compared with his weight on admission. At the request of the Superintendent of the Jail a special examination has now been made by the Civil Surgeon of Lahore and the Professor of Clinical Medicine, King Edward Medical College, Lahore. They applied a somewhat unusual test which gave a strongly positive reaction. This test is not conclusive and is not accepted as such by the Public Health Regulations in England but having regard to the result of the test the examining consultants considered that the low fever from which Lal Lajpat Rai was suffering was probably due to a small focus of tubercle which cannot be definitely localized. In view of this report and of Lala Lajpat Rai's family medical history the Local Government have decided that he should be released and have accordingly remitted the balance of his sentence.

Attested.

SIMLA :

The 17th August 1923.

I. SALT,

Junior Assistant Secy. to Govt., Punjab.

CROWN *VERSUS* CONGRESS VOLUNTEERS.

2532. Mr. Ganpat Rai : (*a*) Has the attention of Government been drawn to a criminal trial Crown through Thakar Das *versus* Ganpat and 11 others known as Congress volunteers case and tried by Rai Sahib Lala Thakar Das, Magistrate, 1st Class, Lahore?

(*b*) Is it a fact that—

(*i*) originally the police sent up twelve persons as accused persons for trial ;

(*ii*) on 9th February 1923 prosecution against five of them was withdrawn ;

(*iii*) out of seven accused three did not defend themselves ;

(*iv*) out of four who defended themselves, two were acquitted and two, namely, Lalas Mulk Raj and Dina Nath, sentenced to six months' rigorous imprisonment ; and

(*v*) out of three who did not defend one was acquitted and two, *viz.*, Tirath Ram and Mela Ram, were sentenced to six months' rigorous imprisonment ;

(*c*) that Lalas Mulk Raj and Dina Nath appealed to the Sessions Judge, Lahore, and have been acquitted on 11th June 1923 ?

(*d*) Will Government be pleased to release Lalas Tirath Ram and Mela Ram, having regard to the findings of the Sessions Judge ?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: (*a*) The proceedings in court were reported in considerable detail in certain newspapers, and the case has been alluded to in the ordinary Police diaries and reports; the case itself was not of sufficient importance to be specially reported to Government.

(*b*) (*c*) Yes.

(*ii*) Yes; the withdrawal was at the request of the Police, who desired to eliminate any doubtful cases.

(*iii*) Yes.

(*iv*) Yes.

(*v*) Yes.

(*e*) Mulk Raj and Dina Nath were not acquitted on appeal; the Sessions Judge changed the conviction to one under section 323, Indian Penal Code, and sentenced them each to one month's rigorous imprisonment.

(*d*) The Sessions Judge merely held that the fight did not amount to riot—not that the accused were innocent. Tirath Ram and Mela Ram have not appealed and the Government see no reason to interfere with the sentences passed on them.

LALA DUNI CHAND.

2533. Mr. Ganpat Rai: (1) (*a*) Is it a fact that Lala Duni Chand, Bar.-at-Law and President, Punjab Provincial Congress Committee, who was tried by Shaikh Munir Husain, Magistrate, Lahore, and sentenced to eight months' simple imprisonment on 30th April 1923, was arrested on 7th February 1923?

(*b*) Is it a fact that Lala Duni Chand, when arrested was not handcuffed and was taken by a Sub-Inspector, Police, alone from his house to Anarkali Police Station, a distance of more than a mile?

(*c*) (*i*) Is it a fact that the trial of the case of Mr. Duni Chand, took place in a building within the boundary of Central Jail, Lahore; and that on the first day of the trial he was brought with iron chains on both hands?

(*ii*) If so, why was he so chained and under whose orders, and

(*iii*) who is responsible for this act?

(2) Is it a fact that Lala Duni Chand was remanded three times by different magistrates and they were unable to inform him of the nature of the charge against him?

(3) Is it a fact that Lala Duni Chand is suffering from bleeding piles since some years and he passes blood almost every week and requires special food and open air exercise?

(4) (*a*) Is it a fact that he was confined in the Lahore Central Jail since his conviction up to 11th June 1923?

(*b*) Is it a fact that he has been transferred to some other jail and, if so, to what jail?

(5) (*a*) Will Government please state whether Lala Duni Chand was taken from Lahore to his new place of confinement in motor car or railway or partly by motor car and partly by railway, and

(*b*) how many Police Officers and Constables accompanied him and what has been the total expense on account of such transfer?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: (1) (*a*) The 8th February and not the 7th was the date of arrest.

(*b*) The answer is in the affirmative.

(*c*) (*i*) Yes.

(*ii*) Lala Duni Chand, with the other accused in the case, was handcuffed by the Officer-in-charge of the Additional Police Jail Guard, but the handcuffs were removed as soon as the matter was brought to the notice of the Senior Superintendent of Police, Lahore, and orders were issued ensuring that the accused would not be handcuffed again.

(*iii*) The officer responsible for the handcuffing of the accused was a temporary Inspector of the Additional Police, a retired Subedar, who had no knowledge of the rules and orders of the Police Department.

(2) The case was remanded from time to time, as it was not found possible to complete the investigation in a short period. In fact, the case was incomplete when the trial started. These reasons were given in the applications for remand. Both the Magistrate and Lala Duni Chand knew that the charge against the latter was under section 17 (2), Criminal Law Amendment Act, the section under which he was arrested on a warrant issued by the District Magistrate.

(3) The prisoner suffers from piles for which he has received appropriate treatment and special food.

(4) (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Yes, Mianwali Jail.

(5) (*a*) Lala Duni Chand was taken as far as Shahdara by motor, and from there to Mianwali by rail.

(*b*) One Sub-Inspector and two Constables accompanied him. The total cost of his transfer has been Rs. 87-14-0.

Mr. Ganpat Rai: Sir, may I ask with reference to the answer to part (*iii*) of the question whether it is a fact that other superior officers were also present at the time of the handcuffing?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: I have no information on that point.

COMPLAINT AGAINST S. ABDUL HAMID KHAN, EX-MEMBER OF THE HOSHIARPUR MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE.

2534. **Mr. Ganpat Rai:** (*a*) Is it a fact that Shaikhs Ghulam Jilani, Fazl Muhammad and Din Muhammad of Hoshiarpur town presented, on 29th June 1922, a complaint to the Deputy Commissioner of that place that S. Abdul Hamid Khan, an *ex*-member of the Hoshiarpur Municipal Committee, is interested in the contract of sale of building sites belonging to the municipality within the meanings of the provisions of section 48 of the Punjab Municipal Act of 1911?

(*b*) Is it a fact that the Deputy Commissioner on 1st July 1922 after examining the complaints named above made over the complaint to Pir

Ghias-ud-Din, Magistrate, 1st Class, to try the said S. Abdul Hamid Khan under section 169, Indian Penal Code?

(c) Is it a fact that Pir Ghias-ud-Din, Magistrate, 1st Class, on 3rd August 1922, found that S. Abdul Hamid Khan was guilty of the offence, but as at the time of the commission of the offence he was technically a public servant therefore he could not be proceeded against without the sanction of the Commissioner of the Division under section 197, Criminal Procedure Code?

(d) Is it a fact that on 8th November 1922 the Commissioner of the Division was moved to grant the sanction, but that he has passed no orders up to this time, and, if so, why?

(e) Will Government be pleased to direct the Commissioner to pass orders immediately in the interest of public justice?

The Hon'ble Sir John Maynard: (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) The complaint was dismissed as necessary sanction to prosecute had not been obtained. The Magistrate did not find him guilty, although he held that the facts constituting the offence had been established.

(d) Yes, Sh. Ghulam Jilani, Fazal Mohammad and Din Mohammad applied to Commissioner for permission and the Commissioner by his endorsement, dated 8th December 1922, asked for the Deputy Commissioner's opinion. The Deputy Commissioner reported the facts on 25th June 1923, but expressed no opinion. He was again asked to give his opinion which he did in his note, dated 26th September 1923, recommending sanction. The Commissioner accorded his sanction the same day.

(e) The Commissioner has already passed orders.

AMALGAMATION OF THE REVENUE AND CANAL DEPARTMENTS.

2535. Khan Bahadur Sayad Mehdi Shah: (a) Is it a fact that Government contemplates the amalgamation of the Revenue and Canal Departments?

(b) If so, has the Government taken into consideration the differences in qualifications, grades and prospects of the members of the two departments?

(c) Will the Government be pleased to consider the desirability of safeguarding the various interests of the employees of the several grades in both the departments?

(d) Will the Government be pleased to issue a *communiqué* on the subject?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia:

(a), (b) and (c). Yes.

(d) The issue of a *communiqué* is not necessary.

APPOINTMENT OF A BOARD TO HEAR CANAL DEPARTMENT APPEALS.

2536. Khan Bahadur Sayad Mehdi Shah: (a) Is it a fact that appeals in the Canal Department are sent back for disposal to the officer against whose decision they are lodged?

(*b*) Is it a fact that about 90 per cent. or more of such appeals are rejected without hearing?

(*c*) Is it also a fact that some of them are kept pending for years?

(*d*) Does the Government contemplate any action to bring them in line with civil suits?

(*e*) Will the Government please consider the desirability of appointing a board to hear these appeals?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia: (*a*), (*b*) and (*c*). The reply is in the negative.

(*d*) The honourable member is referred to Rules 80 to 105 issued under Canal Act, VIII of 1873, which deal with the procedure adopted as regards appeals.

(*e*) In the opinion of Government Rules 80 to 105 of the Canal Act are adequate for dealing with all appeals, and no such board as that contemplated by the honourable member is desirable or necessary.

ADMISSION OF THE SONS OF MILITARY OFFICERS, ETC., IN THE GOVERNMENT COLLEGE.

2537. **Malik Firoz Khan, Noon:** (*a*) Is it a fact that there exists at the Government College a rule or some understanding by which only or mostly students who pass the Matriculation examination in the First Division are admitted to the 1st year class?

(*b*) If so, will the Government kindly see that such rule does not apply to the sons of military men and officers?

(*c*) Will the Government kindly consider the desirability of giving special facilities for the admission of the sons of military men and officers in the Government College?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain: (*a*) Third division candidates are not admitted. A Selection Committee (by means of personal interviews) now regulates the admission of first and second division candidates.

(*b*) The Vice-Principal (in the temporary absence of the Principal) reports that the Committee is favourably disposed towards applications from the sons of military men and officers (provided they are combatants) who have passed in the first or second division.

(*c*) A copy of this question and answer will be forwarded to the Principal.

RETIREMENT OF OFFICIALS ON ATTAINING THE AGE OF 55 YEARS.

2538. **Diwan Bahadur Raja Narendra Nath:** Will the Honourable Minister for Education be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the names of the officials who have been made to retire since 1921 on attaining the age of 55 in spite of Fundamental Rule 56 (*a*) and in spite of the recommendation of their immediate superiors bearing testimony to their efficiency?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain: As the recommendations made by the superiors of officers in such cases are confidential, it is regretted that the question cannot be answered. It may, however, be stated that the number of officials in the Education Department who have been made to retire since 1921 in spite of the option allowed by the latter sentence of Fundamental Rule 56 (*a*) and in spite of recommendation made for their retention by their immediate superiors is seven.

Diwan Bahadur Raja Narendra Nath: Might I have the names of offices who were made to retire?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain: You put the question in the next Council.

ADMISSION OF STUDENTS TO MEDICAL COLLEGE.

2539. Diwan Bahadur Raja Narendra Nath: Will the Honourable Minister for Education be pleased to state how many Sikh, Hindu and Muhammaden students applied for admission to the Medical College in 1922 and in 1923, and how many of them, though possessing the necessary qualifications, were refused admission under the rule of proportionate representation of various communities in the matter of admission?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain: I regret that the answer to this question is not yet ready. It will be communicated to the honourable member when ready.

Diwan Bahadur Raja Narendra Nath: May I expect it before the 27th?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain: It is impossible to say.

COMMUNAL REPRESENTATION AMONGST POLICE OFFICERS DURING THE RIOTS AT MULTAN AND AMRITSAR.

2540. Diwan Bahadur Raja Narendra Nath: Will Government be pleased to state what was the composition of police according to communities amongst officers and men in the cities of Multan and Amritsar when Hindu-Muhammadan riots broke out in those cities? If the disproportions were marked, what steps did local officers take to equalize proportions and what steps does Government propose to take in the same direction in respect of future enlistments?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: The following was the composition of the Amritsar and Multan City Police during the riots:—

MULTAN CITY.

Muhammadans.	
Inspector of Police	1
Sub-Inspectors of Police	2
Head Constables	18
Constables	177
Hindus.	
Sub-Inspectors of Police	2
Head Constables	5
Constables	7
European.	
Sergeant	1

AMRITSAR CITY.

Muhammadans.

Inspector of Police		1
Sub-Inspectors of Police		3
Head Constables		23
Constables		245
Total ...		272

Hindus.

Sub-Inspector of Police		1
Head Constables		7
Constables		38
Total ...		46

Sikhs.

Sub-Inspector of Police		1
Head Constables		3
Constables		24
Total ...		28

The proportion is approximately the same as elsewhere. Suitable Hindu recruits do not offer themselves for enlistment in the Police in sufficient numbers.

COMMUNAL REPRESENTATION IN MEDICAL COUNCIL.

2541. **Diwan Bahadur Raja Narendra Nath:** Will the Honourable Minister for Education be pleased to state whether on the Medical Council, constituted by the Punjab Medical Registration Act of 1916, there are (1) two members elected by the registered practitioners who are registered under the British Medical Acts and who number 140, (2) three members elected by the registered practitioners who are graduates or licentiates in medicine of the University of the Punjab and who number 338, (3) one member elected by registered practitioners who hold a diploma from a local Government declaring them to be qualified to perform the duties of a Hospital Assistant or a Sub-Assistant Surgeon and who number 864? (4) If so, will the Honourable Minister be pleased to state why the principle that representation should be in proportion to the number of voters sought to be enforced in the case of representation on local bodies has been deviated from in the case of representation in the Medical Council?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain: (1), (2), (3). Yes.

(4). It is regretted that the honourable member's question is not understood. If he desires to make the number of voters govern the amount of representation on the Council it is open to him to introduce a private Bill to amend the Medical Practitioners Act of 1916, to see if the Council agrees with him.

BILL LAYING DOWN THE PRINCIPLES OF LAND REVENUE ASSESSMENT.

2542. **Diwan Bahadur Raja Narendra Nath:** Will Government be pleased to state when Government intend to introduce a Bill laying down the principles of Land Revenue Assessment, thus carrying out the recommendation made in this matter by the Joint Parliamentary Committee?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia: The Bill has been drafted and is in the Press, preparatory to being submitted for the previous assent of the Governor-General in Council.

GRANT TO THE "MUSLIM OUTLOOK".

2543. **Diwan Bahadur Raja Narendra Nath:** Will Government be pleased to state whether it has sanctioned for the year 1923-24 a grant of the same amount as in the previous year to the paper known as the "Muslim Outlook" out of the Court of Wards fund of Mamdot Estate?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia: The answer is in the affirmative.

AMRITSAR RIOTS.

2544. **Lala Kesho Ram:** Will the Government be pleased to state if it is a fact that the Amritsar District authorities already apprehended outbreak of disturbances which eventually came off on 11th April 1923?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: The District authorities were aware that the state of tension between the Hindu and Muhammadan communities in the city made an outbreak of disorder possible, and took precautions accordingly.

INFLAMMATORY POSTERS AND AMRITSAR RIOTS.

2545. **Lala Kesho Ram:** (*a*) Is it a fact that some time before the Hindu-Muslim trouble in Amritsar some very inflammatory posters exciting one community against the other were issued by certain *Musalmans*?

(*b*) Is it a fact that this matter was brought to the notice of the District authorities, particularly the District Magistrate?

(*c*) If the answer to part (*b*) is in the affirmative, what action was taken by the officer or officers concerned?

(*d*) If no action was taken, will Government be pleased to state the reasons?

(*e*) Is it a fact that the Deputy Commissioner was told by certain respectable Hindus that these posters were likely to lead to trouble and were the direct cause of the prevailing tension among the two great communities?

(*f*) Did he take any action to prohibit their publication? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: Seven posters* which are laid on the table were issued by the Muhammadans in the last week of March and first week of April. Some of them were merely notices for meetings, others brought to the notice of the Muhammadan community that the Hindus were converting Muhammadans and appealed to them to realise the loss that their community would incur by the conversion of so many men.

On the other hand eight notices were put up by Hindus, out of which six were merely notices of meetings. In one of them the Hindus appealed to their community not to take notice of articles such as "Muhammadans, what do you want, protection of your religion or acceptance of Hinduism"? The writer of the notice argued that the conversions at Agra were nothing extraordinary, as the converts had observed all the rites and rituals of Hindus and that they were Muhammadans only in name. The last notice was simply to contradict wrong impressions given to the public about the Hindus. These notices did not appear likely to lead to disorder or breach of the peace.

(*b*) The putting up of the posters was brought to the notice of the District Magistrate.

(*d*) The following measures were taken by the District Magistrate:—

So long as communal activities were legitimate and not fraught with danger the District Magistrate limited his interference to constant communication with the leaders of the various parties, prevailing upon them to retain all activities in responsible hands, to restrain the irresponsible and to avoid activities likely to cause offence to other communities. The main activities were connected with Shudhi and the Angora Fund, which did not appear to make disorder imminent, and the control of shops in lanes. Suddenly, however, the situation took a turn for the worse on Friday, the 6th April. The Arya Samaj was then holding meetings and on that day its procession and Muhammadan procession met. Although no collision took place, the result was to exacerbate the feelings of both communities. The same day a procession carrying *lathis* was reported in the city and some apprehension was the result. The District Magistrate therefore called a public meeting of all the leading citizens for the 9th in order to fix on all law-abiding citizens the responsibility for allaying excitement and preventing disorder. The result was that the measures taken allayed in all communities the apprehensions of violent dissension. An agreement was reached to discourage processions and posters and the city was divided between members of both communities for the purposes of supervision.

(*e*) It is not a fact that Hindu gentlemen warned the Deputy Commissioner that these posters would lead to disorder, nor were they described as the direct cause of communal tensions. The most dangerous cause of tension was the Sabha Sudhar Galian, which was not mentioned in these posters.

(*f*) No action to prohibit publication of posters was taken. Any such action if legal would only have increased ill-feeling so long as the real cause of dissension were uncontrolled. The suitable action as regards posters was that taken in the meeting of the 9th April.

*Not printed.

Mr. Ganpat Rai: May I know, Sir, the meaning of the words "Sabha Sudhar Galian"? I am unable to understand it. I hope the honourable member will enlighten us.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: I am sorry to say, I do not know.

Mr. Ganpat Rai: Then may I ask whether the answer to this question was drafted by some subordinate at Amritsar? Has Government first-hand information or has it simply acted on the report of a subordinate who does not know the meaning of the words "Sabha Sudhar Galian"?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: I should like to have notice of that question.

Mr. Ganpat Rai: The question is so simple that no notice is necessary. I appeal to the Honourable the President in the matter.

Mr. President: I realise that the question arises out of the answers given but if the honourable member does not feel himself able to answer it at present, I cannot force him to do so.

RELEASE OF PERSONS CHALLANED UNDER SECTIONS 436 AND 395, INDIAN PENAL CODE, IN AMRITSAR.

2546. Lala Kesho Ram: Is it a fact that on 30th May Mr. Bourne had to release five accused who were challaned under sections 436 and 395, Indian Penal Code, in Amritsar and against whom the real witnesses were not put up by the police? Will the Government be pleased to state whether any action was taken against the officials concerned? If so, what?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard:

The reply to the first part of the question is in the affirmative.

The officer in fault has been dealt with departmentally.

OPEN AIR MEETINGS OF MUHAMMADANS AND AMRITSAR RIOTS.

2547. Lala Kesho Ram: (*a*) Is it a fact that towards the end of March and thereafter the *Musalmans* held open air meetings in the different bazars of Amritsar during night time and certain Maulvis imported from outside openly preached hatred against the Hindus?

(*b*) Was any report of these meetings submitted to the local police officers and the District Magistrate?

(*c*) Did the officers take any measures to prevent the continuance of such meetings?

(*d*) If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard:

(*a*) There were no such open air meetings in the bazars.

(*b*)—(*d*) Do not arise.

MUSLIM PROCESSIONS AND AMRITSAR RIOTS.

2548. Lala Kesho Ram: (*a*) Is it a fact that before the disturbances huge *Muslim* processions were organized at Khair Din's mosque in Amritsar on every Friday and passed through the City bazars singing songs?

(*b*) If so, was any objectionable language used in the songs?

(*c*) Did the local authorities take any steps to prevent such processions?

(*d*) Was any permission obtained from the police officers for conducting the processions or were the processions unauthorized?

(*e*) If these processions were unauthorized, was any action taken?

(*f*) If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard:

(*a*) No such processions were organized.

(*b*)—(*f*) Do not arise.

2549. Lala Kesho Ram: (*a*) Is it a fact that a number of Muhammadans marched out in procession on the night of 7th April at Amritsar without any occasion for it and passed through the city singing songs that openly excited *Musalmans* against the Hindus?

(*b*) Is it a fact that the District authorities were informed of this quite in time?

(*c*) Was any attempt made by the police to disperse the procession?

(*d*) If so, with what result?

(*e*) If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard:

(*a*) There was no such procession.

(*b*)—(*e*) Do not arise.

AMRITSAR RIOTS.

2550. Lala Kesho Ram: Is it a fact that the District Magistrate and the police reached the spot immediately when the disturbances broke out in Amritsar on 11th April 1923?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: The answer is in the affirmative.

2551. Lala Kesho Ram: Is it a fact that on or about the 11th of April 1923 at Amritsar in the presence of the District Magistrate and the police the fighting continued and no action was taken by the authorities? Is it a fact that even in the presence of the District authorities the Muhammadan mob armed with *lathies* passed them without any attempt being made to check or arrest them? Is it a fact that a mob went and attacked the Rama Cloth Market and looted certain shops in Katra Jaimal Singh and grievously hurt some Hindus?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : Fighting occurred in the presence of the authorities, who made every effort to stop it and to prevent it from spreading.

Every effort was made to disperse mobs armed with 'lathis.'

A mob attacked the Hindus at the entrance to the Rama Cloth Market, but were stopped almost immediately by the District authorities.

In Katra Jaimal Singh some shops were looted, but no Hindu there received grievous hurt.

CHALAN OF CERTAIN PERSONS UNDER SECTION 147 IN CONNECTION WITH AMRITSAR RIOTS.

2552. Lala Kesho Ram : Is it a fact that certain individuals were recently challaned at Amritsar under section 147 and they were discharged on account of want of identification ?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : Certain cases were sent for trial under section 147, Indian Penal Code, in Amritsar and failed because both Hindus and Muhammadans combined for the suppression of evidence, and refused to identify the accused or to make statements in Court.

It is not clear which particular case is meant by the questioner.

INVESTIGATIONS OF THE AMRITSAR RIOT CASES.

2553. Lala Kesho Ram : Is it a fact that investigations in the Hindu-Muhammadan riot cases at Amritsar were started one week after the occurrence ?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : In the April riots, owing to the anxiety of the leaders to effect a compromise there was a delay of about a week in starting investigations. In the May riots there was no delay.

DISTRIBUTION OF LATHIES BEFORE THE OCCURRENCE OF AMRITSAR RIOTS.

2554. Lala Kesho Ram : Is it a fact that before the occurrence of Hindu-Muhammadan riots in Amritsar, *lathies* were distributed by a person driving in a motor car ? If so, was any action taken to prevent this ? Has it been ascertained as to who distributed the *lathies* ; if so, what action has been taken against the person or persons concerned ?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : No evidence exists to support the story that *lathies* were distributed by a person driving in a motor car before the occurrence of the Hindu-Muhammadan riots.

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT OF BUSINESS.

Sardar Dasaundha Singh [Ludhiana (Sikh) Rural] : Sir, I beg leave to make a motion for adjournment of the business of the Council to discuss the prevalent matter of urgent public importance, *i.e.*, the situation arising out of the action of the Government in declaring the Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee, the Shiromani Akali Dal and the Allied Associations as unlawful assemblies.

Mr. President: I duly received notice of this motion for adjournment of the business of the Council which the honourable member desires to move; and I considered it fully. I have come to the conclusion that it is not in order.

Sardar Dasaundha Singh: May I respectfully ask the Honourable President to assign his reasons for so doing.

Mr. President: No—you cannot ask that.

THE COURT-FEES (PUNJAB AMENDMENT) BILL.

Mr. R. A. Mant (Officer on Special Duty): Sir, the powers and functions of a member of the Government have been delegated to me in regard to the introduction and passing of three taxation bills which are on the agenda to-day. I, therefore, introduce the Court-fees (Punjab Amendment) Bill.

Mr. R. A. Mant: Sir, I now move:

"That the Court-fees (Punjab Amendment) Bill be referred to a select committee consisting of the following:—

(1) Maulvi Muharram Ali, Chishti,
(2) Pandit Daulat Ram, Kalia,
(3) Sardar Randhir Singh,
(4) Mr. C. M. King,
(5) The Honourable Sir John Maynard,
(6) Diwan Bahadur Raja Narendra Nath,
(7) Mr. J. Coldstream, and
(8) The Mover;

and that the Council direct the committee to submit its report by the evening of 21st October 1923."

Sir, as this is one of the three bills which are on the agenda to-day having the object of raising revenue, I think it will be useful if I give the Council a brief statement of the financial position. It is more than 12 years since I first had the honour of making a statement of this kind before a Punjab Legislative Council; and if I ask the Council to look back for a moment to the year 1911 when a *quasi*-permanent settlement was introduced it is not in a spirit of idle reminiscence, but because I think that a glance at past conditions may help us to a better understanding of the conditions to-day. During the five years commencing with the 1st of April 1911, our receipts were sufficient to cover our current expenditure, and provided in addition a saving amounting to one crore of rupees which we made over to the Government of India in exchange for a recurring assignment of 8½ lakhs, this being the only form of investment which was open to the Provincial Government under the financial conditions prevalent at that time. The main reason for the comparative affluence of the Province at that period was the receipts from sales of waste lands, and throughout the time when I was responsible for the provincial finances, I laid stress on the point that these receipts were of the nature of capital and should not be utilised for current expenditure. I am glad to see from the last Budget Estimates that the present financial authorities take the same view. During the next few years, expenditure

was restricted by conditions arising out of the War, but the receipts from sales of lands continued to flow into the Treasury and by the 1st of April 1920, the provincial balance had risen to over 2½ crores. Most of this consisted of accumulated capital. The Government then began to make up some of the leeway of expenditure which had retarded progress during the War. Possibly at that time, the fact that a considerable portion of our resources was of a temporary nature was overlooked. At any rate heavy responsibilities were undertaken mainly on account of salaries which could not be met from annual revenue. The position was strengthened on the 1st of April 1921, when the Meston Settlement was introduced which was estimated to increase the Provincial resources by upwards of a crore of rupees each year and which actually increased during the year 1921-22 by 102 lakhs. But in spite of this increase, the revenue accounts for that year showed a deficit of two crores and by the end of March 1922, the provincial balance had fallen to a minus figure of one crore which had to be borrowed from the Government of India. In the following year, the revised estimates showed another deficit on revenue account of 130 lakhs which could only be met by taking another loan from the Government of India. When the Budget Estimates for 1923-24 were submitted to the Government of India, they provided for a deficit of 185 lakhs. The Government of India demurred to this figure, and they only agreed to finance us for another year if we undertook to reduce our expenditure budget and to raise additional revenue during the latter part of the year. The estimated deficit was eventually reduced by rigid curtailment of expenditure to 68 lakhs, of which 25 lakhs were due to repayment of previous overdrafts. We have thus fulfilled the first part of our undertaking to the Government of India. It is in pursuance of the second part that the proposals for new taxation are being laid before this Council to-day.

Before I come to the details of these proposals, the members will naturally want to know if the possibilities of retrenchment have been exhausted. The Government has been devoting constant attention to that matter. As I just said, Sir John Maynard made drastic reductions in the expenditure budget and further reductions were made by this Council. During the summer, Government has carefully examined the various recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee and has accepted them where it found it administratively wise to do so. It has also investigated the possibility of other avenues of retrenchment. After all, the measures of which the Retrenchment Committee were able to estimate the financial effect only amounted to a little over 37 lakhs, whereas to put our budget on a sound basis we should have to reduce expenditure or increase revenue by about a crore. I can assure the honourable members that it is idle to hope for equilibrium from retrenchment alone. The main reason for the increase of expenditure in recent years has been on account of salaries and whatever reduction may be found possible in this can only be very gradual.

Personally I think two mistakes were made in dealing with salaries not merely by the Punjab Government but by the authorities in India generally. In the first place it was too hastily assumed that the rise in prices brought about by war conditions was going to be permanent. The authorities in England were wiser in this matter. They gave their servants a temporary bonus which was to be reduced gradually as prices receded to normal levels. Whereas in India the increases of pay were generally given on a permanent basis. It will be very difficult to effect reduction now-

[Mr. R. A. Mant.]

But I think the Government will have to consider this question if the prices of food-grains stabilise themselves at pre-war levels. In the second place, I think the revision of pay of the higher services with a view to Indianisation was made on a wrong basis. Although the device of overseas pay was adopted the standard of pay in the Imperial services is generally the rate required for Europeans. I think it would have been the better course to fix the standard suitable for an Indian and then to add anything required to secure the services of Europeans? The distinction between these two angles of vision is really important because the rates of pay adopted in the Imperial services re-act on the scales of pay of the provincial services and I am inclined to think that these scales are in some cases too high under present conditions. But nothing can be done in the way of reduction until the Services Commission reports. Here again no retrenchment is possible.

Another possible way of relief lies in the reduction of the provincial contribution to central revenues, amounting to one crore and seventy-five lakhs a year. This is a matter which the Punjab Government have been continually pressing on the Government of India; but no reduction is possible in the current year, and as regards the next year the Government of India told us only a month ago that they are not in a position to make any statement regarding the prospect of reduction of this contribution. They added that they were not prepared to finance any revenue deficit by the Punjab Government in the year 1924-25. The position therefore is that we are obliged to raise additional revenue in the latter half of this year. And we shall probably require a larger increase to balance our budget next year.

I go back now to the point from which I digressed, namely, the methods by which Government propose to raise the extra revenue required. This question was referred to the Standing Finance Committee at the end of March and that Committee advised in favour of the following proposals :—

(1) doubling the mutation fee;

(2) taxing motor vehicles; and

(3) doubling the valuation land paying revenue for the purpose of the Court-fees.

The Government has already adopted the first of these recommendations, that is, doubling the mutation fees which is expected to bring in three lakhs a year. It is also proposed to raise another three lakhs a year by raising registration fees. The other two recommendations of the Standing Finance Committee require legislation and bills to give effect to them are on the agenda today. To these two the Government has added a third and that is the doubling of the stamp duty on conveyance of immovable property in municipalities and cantonments. The merits of these bills will be discussed as each is introduced. For the moment I will deal only with their financial aspect. It is not possible to give a very accurate estimate of the revenue which we are likely to secure. We have not complete statistics of land transfers, and both land transfers and land suits are liable to variation in number and value from year to year. In the case of motor taxation, the United Provinces have had to grant a large number of exemptions and we shall have to consider this

question if the Bill is passed. But taking the best data available we estimate that we should secure the following amounts in a full year by the new taxation :—

Tax on motor vehicles, three lakhs;

Increase in land valuation, 12 lakhs;

Increase in the stamp duty, on land transfers, 5 lakhs;

making 20 lakhs in all.

I realise that Government is asking a hard thing of the Council to pass extra taxation at its last session. Nobody likes extra taxation and the constituencies are apt to be unreasonable about it. I heard of one member of this Council being reproached when the rate of postage on letters was raised to one anna and it was no use his trying to explain that this was the villainy of the Legislative Assembly and not of the Punjab Council. But there are two points that I want to impress on the Council; the first is, we have got to raise additional revenue somehow. We have exhausted our credit with our bankers and they refuse to finance us any further. If the Council is not prepared to accept the proposals laid before it to-day we shall simply have to devise other means of raising the necessary funds. We have got to balance our budget somehow. The second point is that this unpleasant task of providing supplies is one of the functions of self-Government. I know that some members feel that this task ought to carry with it a wider exercise of some other functions of responsible government. We all hope that that will come in time. For the present the powers that the Councils exercise are nonetheless important, because the manner in which they exercise them will be regarded as an index of their fitness to assume wider responsibilities when the time comes for another step forward. I trust that this Council will rise to the occasion and will demonstrate by its readiness to meet its financial obligations that it is ready for further advance.

I turn now to the provisions of the Court Fees (Punjab Amendment) Bill. The main provision of the Bill is in clause 3, the effect of which will be to raise the valuation of agricultural land for the purpose of court fees from ten to twenty times the land revenue. This method of valuation is only a rough and ready expedient for determining the value of agricultural lands. In the case of other immovable property, such as houses and gardens, the stamp duty is assessed on the actual market value. I have got figures which show how far the present valuation of agricultural land falls short of the market value. In the year 1921-22 mortgage money paid for land in the Punjab averaged 209 times the land revenue. As regards sales, in some districts the figures are startling. In the Lahore district for instance the price paid in 1,921-22 averaged 1799 times the land revenue. In the Simla district the average was 1,307 times. The sale price for the province as a whole represents 292 years' purchase of land revenue. In the face of these figures the proposal in the Bill to standardise the valuation at twenty times the land revenue is so modest that I feel almost ashamed of it. (Cheers.)

3 P. M.

Mr. President: The question is—

"That the Court Fees (Punjab Amendment) Bill be referred to a select committee consisting of the following:—

(1) Maulvi Muharram Ali Chishti,

(2) Pandit Daulat Ram Kalia,

(3) Sardar Randhir Singh,

(4) Mr. C. M. King,

(5) The Honourable Sir John Maynard,

(6) [Diwan Bahadur Raja Narendra Nath,

(7) Mr. J. Coldstream, and

(8) The Mover;]

and that the Council direct the Committee to submit its report by the evening of 21st October, 1923."

Diwan Bahadur Raja Narendra Nath [Punjab Landholders—(General)]: Sir, I want to know if Government is in a position to give an assurance that it would consult the Council before introducing any measure of taxation which does not require legislation. If the Council gives its consent to the raising of the Court Fee and to the raising of Stamp Fee and also to the introduction of the Motor Tax, will the country be saved from other taxation of a general nature which Government can introduce without further legislation?

Mr. R. A. Mant: If, as I understand, the honourable Raja has in mind the raising of the water rates, the occupiers' rates—I cannot think of any other taxation of a general nature which Government can impose without reference to the Council—I can tell him this much that if our proposals for taxation are accepted, Government will not raise the water rates this year. For the coming *rabi* harvest the rates will not be raised. If it is proposed to raise them next year, the proposals will form part of the budget for next year and the Council, though I understand it does not pass the budget, will have an opportunity of expressing an opinion on the subject. It is too early yet to say, but we still hope that we may get a reduction in our Provincial contribution.

Mr. Ganpat Rai [Lahore and Ferozepore-cum-Sheikhupura (Non-Muhammadan)] (Urdu): Sir, I move—

"That this Bill be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon by 1st January, 1924."

Sir, the proposal before the House is that with regard to suits about agricultural land, the valuation, for the purposes of court fees, of land be enhanced from ten to twenty times the amount of the land revenue.

I propose that the Bill under consideration be published for the information of the public at large and for eliciting the opinion of those classes who are capable of forming an opinion thereon. I also propose that January 1st, 1924, be fixed as the date up to which the people be asked to submit their opinion. Sir, if this Bill was considered so very important, the Government ought to have held a session of the House in July last. In this case the members of the House would have been able to form an opinion, after due

consideration. I cannot approve this move on the part of the Government to bring before the House this Bill when the Council is on the point of death, so to speak. Sir, I fear that the public will accuse us, the elected members, of doing a hasty and wrong act. I therefore submit that the elected members should refuse to take this responsibility. However, as the Bill has come before the House, I cannot but propose that its consideration be postponed, at least for a time.

Mr. President: In the case of an ordinary session the amendment which the honourable member has proposed would be quite suitable for discussion, but I would like to point out that if this amendment is carried it practically amounts to a negation of the main proposition, because the Council will shortly be dissolved and all Bills will absolutely drop and they will have to be started *de novo*. The amendment in fact cannot be given effect to. I do not really see any advantage in it. It practically amounts to a negation and I think you should confine yourself to simply voting against the proposal.

Mr. Ganpat Rai (continued): Standing Order 40 (2) (*b*) says: "If the Member-in-charge moves that his Bill be referred to a select committee any Member may move as an amendment that the Bill be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon by a date to be specified in the motion."

Mr. President: I have already explained to the member that he is technically in order as far as that Standing Order is concerned, but I do not think he is in order under Standing Order 34 (4). The motion seems to me to be frivolous.

Mr. Ganpat Rai: All right, Sir, I beg leave to withdraw my amendment.

The amendment was by leave withdrawn.

Mr. Ganpat Rai (continued): Sir, I oppose the motion that the Bill be referred to a Select Committee. I am aware that there is financial stringency, but the trouble is that the dificit came into being with the birth of the new Council. Our first year's deficit came to about one crore and two lakhs. In the second year, the deficit increased still further; and now it amounts to two crores. I remember very well, Sir, that the budget prepared in the first year showed a surplus of one crore and thirty-seven lakhs. On the strength of this surplus, we were induced to sanction more and more expenditure. Various schemes were brought forward by the Government. These were made out to be very promising and calculated to fill the coffers of the Government, but, as a matter of fact, all these hopes and expectations came to nought. I might instance in this respect the case of forests. We were asked to sanction large sums of expenditure and were assured that it would be a paying investment. The result however is that we have, so far, only borne losses as regards the forests. Sir, the point is that we should first of all exhaust all sources of retrenchment, and only then consider the desirability of imposing new taxation. We are now told that the Government has up to date succeeded in making retrenchment to the tune of thirty-seven lakhs, but we do not know in which departments it has been done.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: May I interrupt the Honourable Member and say, Sir, that if he will only refer to a long statement printed

[Sir John Maynard.]

in answer to a question put to-day, he will find what steps have been taken in the way of retrenchment.

Mr. Ganpat Rai (continued) : Sir, I am aware that the Retrenchment Committee's Report has been published, and we also know how far the Government has accepted the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee, but I say, Sir, there are many more recommendations made in the Retrenchment Committee's Report which have not been given effect to by Government. I know that there must be many a source still left untouched. Sir, with regard to this claim of mine I submit that our resolution regarding the existence of overlapping in the departments, *i.e.*, Public Works Department, Irrigation, and District Boards and the appointment of a committee for the purpose of investigating and reporting on the state of things complained of, together with making recommendations in this behalf, has not been given effect to by you.....

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : Sir, I rise to a point of order. Is the Honourable Member in order in addressing me ?

Mr. Ganpat Rai (continued) : I cannot help addressing the Honourable Finance Member, Sir. I am very sorry. My position on the bench is such that I have to look towards him.

Mr. President : I think you used the word "you (*Ap.*)" In that case you were clearly addressing him.

Mr. Ganpat Rai (continued) : I meant the Government, Sir : Sir, there is no doubt that a month ago some of us were questioned as to whether or not we would care to work on the Committee. For my part, I replied that it would be well if the Committee were appointed as soon as possible.

Mr. President : The Honourable Member is referring to conversation which took place outside the House. Unless such a conversation has been written or published, it cannot be referred to in the House.

Mr. Ganpat Rai (continued) : Sir, I know that this is a matter which, strictly speaking, happened outside the Council, but we were questioned officially and I too answered officially.

Mr. President : You must refrain from speaking about anything which happened outside the Council, unless it has been published.

Mr. Ganpat Rai (continued) : Very well, Sir, I forego speaking about what happened outside the Council, and only say that the Government have so far failed to do anything in the matter. There would be plenty of reasons which would be given for not doing anything but these are bound to be not valid or of any real significance. I have told you already about forests. When Government are negligent in making retrenchment and are not careful with regard to the spending of money, how can they ask us to go on sanctioning further taxation. We are not going to sanction a single pice. But if the Government are bent on having the Bill passed, the result would be that the elected members will have to share the blame for it. The people are likely to think that the reformed Councils were being purposely made unsuccessful. At first the valuation of land for the purpose of court-fees was just five times the revenue. Next it was raised to ten times, but now it is proposed to be made twenty times.....

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: Sir, the statement made is misleading.

Mr. Ganpat Rai (continued): No, Sir, it is not miscalculation but it is argument. Sir, I hope that the Honourable Members will not let the people suffer to such an extent as the Government Bill proposes. We are asked to sanction taxation, for this is a function of those who hold the reins of responsible self-Government, but the trouble is that the responsibility for making retrenchment is withheld from us. This is not as it should be. The Bill comes to this. It imposes new taxation on the same thing twice in one year. Mutation fees have already been enhanced without consulting the Council. The same is the case with doubling the registration fees in connection with the transfer and mortgage of property. Instead of enhancing court-fees, the proper course for the Government is to get the co-operation of the members of this Council in the matter of a searching investigation into the sources of retrenchment, and to propose new taxation only when the Council itself whole heartedly supports it. If this Bill is not passed, this fact, of itself, will provide a stimulus for Government to go vigorously into the matter of making retrenchment. I therefore submit that the Bill be not referred to the select committee.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram [Multan Division (Non-Muhammadan), Rural] (Urdu): Sir, I thought that we had passed in this Council quite a lot of Bills, and it would be needless further to legislate. But it appears that it is thought desirable by Government to pass half-a-dozen more Bills. I do not consider it wise. We should give the people sufficient amount of time to consider any new taxation which we want to impose. We should tell them how it would go on with them. They do not at all know that the Government is proposing any such thing.....

Mr. R. A. Mant: May I point out, Sir, that the Bill is published in the *Gazette*.

Mr. President: The Honourable Mover says that the Bill is published in the *Gazette*.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram (continued): Yes, Sir, I am coming to that. I concede that the Bill has been published in the *Government Gazette* but people, ordinary people, are not in the habit of reading the *Government Gazette*. Moreover the ordinary rule about referring a Bill to a Select Committee is that the latter is given two months at least to report. Here there is no such provision made. Mr. Ganpat Rai's proposal that the Select Committee should make its report not before January 1, 1924, is quite right. We should not be in a hurry in such an important matter. These are election days and it would go hard with those of us who are seeking re-election to the Council. Our constituents will become dead against us. Moreover, Sir, "Hasty legislation is not sound." I therefore oppose the motion.

Chaudhri Ali Akbar [Kangra-*cum*-Gurdaspur (Muhammadan), Rural] (Urdu): Sir, instead of imposing new taxation, I should say the Government had better reduce the salaries of their highly paid servants. An increase of 40 per cent. was made on salaries when wheat sold at 5 seers to the rupee but now when wheat sells at 15 seers to the rupee it is

[Ch. Ali Akbar.]

needless to give increased salaries to Government servants. But, when I say this, I mean that only the highly-paid servants should be paid their original salaries. I do not recommend that salaries of low-paid servants be also reduced in the same way.

It has been said that this is the period of electioneering campaign for the members who are seeking re-election. This fact also has its weight. But even if we overlook it, the outstanding fact remains that unrest is rife and the Province is passing through a critical period. We should not add fuel to the fire by imposing new taxation. I therefore oppose the motion and recommend to the Government to withdraw it.

Rai Bahadur Lala Hari Chand [West Punjab Towns (Non-Muhammadan) Urban]: Sir, I want to put one question. Is there any special reason why the Honourable Mover wishes to hurry this Bill? What is the harm if the Bill is postponed according to the general wish of the members?

Mr. President: The Honourable member is not entitled to ask questions. But if the Honourable Mover wishes to answer, he may.

Mr. R. A. Mant: I think I have dealt with the subject in my main speech.

Rai Bahadur Lala Hari Chand: If it is postponed to the next Council, I don't think there will be any harm.

Mr. R. A. Mant: Sir, it is long since I listened to Urdu speeches and so perhaps I may have missed something; but so far as I have been able to gather from everybody who opposed this Bill I did not hear any argument against it on its merits. The arguments were largely what I foresaw, namely, that it was unfortunate, that it is hard to ask the members to pass taxation when they were going to the poll.

There is really very little for me to deal with. Mr. Ganpat Rai gave me rather a shock. We expended a lot of time in compiling information as to the actions taken on the report of the Retrenchment Committee. It took up, I think, twenty-six pages of the printed answers to questions to-day and apparently he did not read them. Mr. Ganpat Rai also referred to the fact that up till a few years ago the standard of valuation was five times the land revenue. The explanation of that you will find in the last Land Revenue Report. At the time of the British occupation the average value of land sales was six times the land revenue. A standard of five times was fixed in the Court Fees Act, 1870, and it remained unchanged, I think, until 1916, when it was raised to ten times. Well, I can only refer to the figures that I quoted in my opening speech that since the time when five times the land revenue was fixed as a standard, the actual value of land sold compared with the land revenue has arisen from six times to 292 times. He also referred to the fact that Court Fees were raised by 50 per cent. nearly a year ago. That also is correct. But I do not think it is a valid objection to this Bill, because the object of this Bill is to equalise or rather to reduce the disparity between the valuation of urban land and agricultural land. It will not raise the valuation of agricultural land to anything like the market value, but it will, as I suggested, reduce the disparity between the two.

Then again we are reproached for trying to rush these Bills through. Well, all I can say in reply to that is that we cannot help ourselves. The Council has only got another week's life and as I explained in my open-

ing speech we want the money this year. We have to raise additional revenue this year.

Mr. Ganpat Rai : Why did you not introduce it earlier in July ?

Mr. R. A. Mant (continued) : We introduced it in the first meeting we had. The Honourable Raja Narendra Nath asked me for an assurance that Government would not impose any general tax without consulting the Council. Well, I gave him that assurance in so far as the occupiers' rates are concerned. I do not want to say anything in the nature of a threat to the Council at all. I have told it frankly the position in which we stand. We have got to raise revenue and I hope that the Council will assist us by passing these Bills As I said in my opening speech, if they will not accept these proposals for taxation, we shall be compelled to devise some other means of raising funds.

Mr. President : The question is—

"That the Court Fees (Punjab Amendment) Bill be referred to a Select Committee consisting of the following :—

(1) Maulvi Muharram Ali Chishti,
(2) Pandit Daulat Ram Kalia,
(3) Sardar Randhir Singh,
(4) Mr. C. M. King,
(5) The Honourable Sir John Maynard,
(6) Diwan Bahadur Raja Narendra Nath,
(7) Mr. J. Coldstream, and
(8) the Mover ;

and that the Council direct the Committee the submit its report by the evening of 21st October, 1923."

The Council then divided : Ayes 23, Noes 32.

AYES 23.

The Hon'ble Sir John Maynard.
The Hon'ble Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia.
The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain.
The Hon'ble Lala Harkishan Lal.
Mr. R. A. Mant.
Mr. C. A. H. Townsend.
Mr. D. J. Boyd.
Mr. Miles Irving.
Mr. J. Coldstream.
Mr. A. J. Gibson.
Mr. A. Latifi.
Mr. C. M. King.
Mr. H. P. Tollinton.
Colonel R. Heard.
Lieut.-Col. W. C. H. Forster.
Mr. H. Calvert.
Mr. G. Anderson.
Mr. E. A. Scott.
Khan Bahadur Diwan Abdul Hamid Khan.
Mr. Nawab Din, Murad.
Khan Bahadur Khwaja Yusaf Shah.
Mr. Edward Ernest Clarke.
Mr. Owen Roberts.

NOES 32.

Mian Ahmad Yar Khan, Daultana.	Khan Muhammad Abdullah Khan.
Chaudhri Ali Akbar.	Khan Bahadur Raja Muhammad Akbar Khan.
Chaudhri Ata Ullah Khan.	Chaudhri Muhammad Hayat Khan.
Sardar Bakhtawar Singh.	Chaudhri Kharak Singh.
Lala Kesho Ram.	Sayad Muhammad Raza Shah.
Sardar Dasaundha Singh.	Nawabzada Muhammad Irshad Ali Khan.
Pandit Daulat Ram, Kalia.	Diwan Bahadur Raja Narendra Nath.
Chaudhri Ghasi Ram.	Mr. Ganpat Rai.
Chaudhri Ghulam Muhammad.	Rai Bahadur Lala Panna Lal.
Rai Bahadur Lala Hari Chand.	Lieutenant Sardar Raghbir Singh.
Bawa Hardit Singh, Bedi.	Rai Sahib Chaudhri Raja Singh.
Sayad Husain Shah.	Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram.
Rana Muhammad Jamil Khan.	Chaudhri Shafi Ali Khan.
Malik Najabat Khan.	Rai Sahib Lala Thakar Das.
Sardar Randhir Singh.	
Chaudhri Nabi Bakhsh.	
Mr. Moti Lal, Kaistha.	

Lala Uttam Chand.

The motion was lost.

THE PUNJAB STAMP (AMENDMENT) BILL AND THE PUNJAB MOTOR VEHICLES TAXATION BILL.

The Punjab Stamp (Amendment) Bill and the Punjab Motor Vehicles Taxation Bill which were on the agenda were not introduced.

THE PUNJAB LOCAL OPTION BILL.

The Honourable Lala Harkishan Lal (Minister for Agriculture): Sir, I beg to introduce the Punjab Local Option Bill.

The Honourable Lala Harkishan Lal: Sir, I beg to move—

"That the Punjab Local Option Bill be referred to a Select Committee consisting of the following:—

(1) Mr. K. L. Rallia Ram,

(2) Sardar Kartar Singh,

(3) Mr. N. D. Murad,

(4) Mr. C. M. King,

(5) [Rai Bahadur Lala Hari Chand,

(6) Mr. J. Coldstream, and

(7) the mover];

and that the Council direct the Committee to submit its report by the evening of 22nd October, 1923.

4 P.M. I do not think, Sir, that this Council requires a long dissertation on the subject of local option. It is in the memory of this Council, I believe, that early in the session of 1921 a resolution was passed to the effect that Local Option be enforced in places

governed by Municipalities and District Boards. The Government has now brought before the Council a Bill which goes further than the resolution itself. The Bill as laid before the House covers in addition to Municipalities and District Boards Small Towns as well. It makes a further advance in that it authorises Municipalities and District Boards to make rules with regard to certain matters which the original proposal did not contemplate, and in certain cases allows total prohibition. It no doubt falls short of that resolution in one respect, and that is in regard to foreign liquor. All I can say in regard to this is that this matter is in the hands of the Government of India, and this Government has not been able to obtain their sanction to legislate in regard to foreign liquors. That is the substance of the Bill, and I think it will meet with the general approval of this Council; and I leave this proposition for their consideration.

Mr. President: The question is—

"That the Punjab Local Option Bill be referred to a select committee consisting of the following:—

(1) Mr. K. L. Rallia Ram,

(2) Sardar Kartar Singh,

(3) Mr. N. D. Murad,

(4) Mr. C. M. King,

(5) [Rai Bahadur Lala Hari Chand,

(6) Mr. J. Coldstream, and

(7) The mover];

and that the Council direct the Committee to submit its report by the evening of 22nd October, 1928."

Mr. Owen Roberts (Representative of European and Anglo-Indian Communities): I suggest, Sir, that Mr. Clarke be added to the Select Committee on the Punjab Local Option Bill.

Mr. President: Have you obtained Mr. Clarke's consent?

Mr. Owen Roberts: Yes, Sir.

The Honourable Lala Harkishan Lal: I have no objection, Sir.

Diwan Bahadur Raja Narendra Nath: I propose, Sir, that the name of Rai Bahadur Lala Panna Lal be added also to the Select Committee.

The Honourable Lala Harkishan Lal: There is no objection.

Mr. President: I will put these amendments together.

The question is—

"That the names of Mr. E. E. Clarke and Rai Bahadur Lala Panna Lal be added to the Select Committee."

The motion was carried.

Mr. President: We will now proceed to consider the original motion as amended.

Mr. Ganpat Rai : [Lahore and Ferozepore-cum-Sheikhupura (Non-Muhammadan)] (Urdu) Sir : Efforts have been made for a long time to present this Bill in some form. On this occasion though the Bill has been introduced by the Honourable Lala Harkishan Lal (Minister for Agriculture) Mr. C. M King too deserves our gratitude because he has been anxious that if total prohibition cannot be introduced immediately there should at least be local option. Though Mr. Tollinton may not agree with me, I know that the public will welcome it because it will lead to a bettering of the condition of the country, it will improve their morals and will bring a reformation. For a quarter of a century efforts have been made to give effect to this desire and the motion now ought of be carried unanimously.

Mr. K. L. Rallia Ram (Representative of Indian Christians) : Sir, I rise to support the Bill which has been moved by the Honourable Minister for Agriculture. The very first feelings that crowd on my breast are those of gratitude to the Government, and especially to the Honourable Minister, Mr. King, and last but not the least to His Excellency the Governor. I can say that from the temperance point of view, we could never have a more favourable Government than the present one. This Bill is the outcome of that resolution which was passed more than two years ago on the floors of this House with a very preponderating majority ; and during the time that has elapsed since then public opinion has developed greatly in its favour. We know that the Bill is imperfect in many ways and that we shall discuss in the Select Committee. But we have no doubt that this is a great step ; and our sincerest thanks are due to these three gentlemen. I may say, Sir, that this is really a democratic Bill. I use the word "democratic" because democracy seems to be in the air and the very essentials of democracy are goodwill, toleration and co-operation between all classes of His Majesty's subjects, and there is no reform which has excited the sympathy, the co-operation and the goodwill of the people more than the present measure under discussion. Lately a meeting was held in the Forman Christian College which was very representative and which brought people from all parts of the Province. In that meeting one of the gentlemen remarked that he had never seen a meeting in his life before where he found that people of all classes were so well represented and all of them so permeated with the desire for the welfare of their country. I think that this Bill will not only lead to the welfare of the people but it will also bring people of different classes on a common platform of working. I hope that this Bill will be made really workable, and will give a very effective weapon in the hands of all temperance reformers, and will be a source of satisfaction to people who represent the various classes in this country.

Mr. President : The question is—

"That the Punjab Local Option Bill be referred to a select committee consisting of the following :—

(1) Mr. K. L. Rallia Ram,
(2) Sardar Kartar Singh,
(3) Mr. N. D. Murad,
(4) Mr. C. M. King,
(5) Rai Bahadur Lala Hari Chand,
(6) Mr. J. Coldstream,
(7) Mr. E. E. Clarke,

(8) Rai Bahadur Lala Panna Lal, and
(9) the Mover ;

and that the Council direct the Committee to submit its report by the evening of 22nd October, 1923."

The motion was carried.

THE PUNJAB OPIUM SMOKING BILL.

The Honourable Lala Harkishan Lal (Minister for Agriculture) : Sir, I beg to introduce the Punjab Opium Smoking Bill.

The Honourable Lala Harkishan Lal : Sir, I beg to move —

"That the Punjab Opium Smoking Bill be referred to a select committee consisting of the following :—

(1) Mr. K. L. Rallia Ram,
(2) Sardar Kartar Singh,
(3) Mr. N. D. Murad,
(4) Mr. C. M. King,
(5) [Rai Bahadur Lala Hari Chand,
(6) Mr. J. Coldstream, and
(7) the Mover];

and that the Council direct the committee to submit its report by the evening of 22nd October, 1923."

Sir, the good purpose that this Bill will serve, if enacted, is so patent to everybody in the Punjab and to the members of this Council that it requires very little explanation on this occasion from me.

Mr. President : The question is—

"That the Punjab Opium Smoking Bill be referred to a select committee consisting of the following :—

(1) Mr. K. L. Rallia Ram,
(2) Sardar Kartar Singh,
(3) Mr. N. D. Murad,
(4) Mr. C. M. King,
(5) [Rai Bahadur Lala Hari Chand,
(6) Mr. J. Coldstream, and
(7) the Mover];

and that the Council direct the committee to submit its report by the evening of 22nd October, 1923."

The motion was carried.

THE PUNJAB FISHERIES (AMENDMENT) BILL.

Mr. H. P. Tollinton (Financial Commissioner) : Sir, I beg to present the report of the select committee on the Punjab Fisheries (Amendment) Bill.

Mr. H. P. Tollintion : Sir, I also beg to move—

"That the Punjab Fisheries (Amendment) Bill as reported by the select committee be taken into consideration."

It is not necessary for me to make many explanatory remarks about the Bill as amended by the select committee. Honourable Members will observe that the select committee have, as it were, emasculated the Bill as originally produced before this Council. The original intention of the framers of the Bill was to take power to make rules applicable to private waters. But the select committee after full discussion decided that the application of rules to waters

[Mr. H. P. Tollinton.]

privately owned would be an unwarrantable interference and give rise to more trouble than the advantages that we expected to accrue from it. It therefore follows that the remaining parts of the Bill are really only two provisions. The first provision is to avoid inconvenience for the public. In one case certain offences which before had to be dealt with by prosecutions have now been rendered subject to compensation at the hands of certain fisheries officers. It saves thereby people who were accused of minor offences under the Act from having to make long journeys following the Magistrates on tour The offences are compounded on the spot and nobody is troubled. Another small addition we made was also aimed at protecting the public. In the definition of fishery officers we have provided that no policeman below the rank of a Sub-Inspector shall receive this power. For the rest the small alterations made by the Select Committee are merely verbal and do not require any comment. It appears now that the measure has become an uncontentious one and no members if they give their votes to this measure will be losing any votes at the elections thereby.

Mr. President: The question is—

"That the Punjab Fisheries (Amendment) Bill as reported by the select committee be taken into consideration."

Mr. Ganpat Rai [Lahore and Ferozepore-*cum*-Sheikhupura (Non-Muhammadan)]: Sir, I never thought that I shall have to say anything in support of this Bill, but the stigma which has been brought upon the members of the Select Committee by Mr. Tollinton prompts me to rise up and say that the Bill as amended has not been emasculated but rejuvenated. Now, what we found in the original Bill was that it wanted to take away private rights which existed under the Act of 1914. Surely I do not think the framer or the mover of the Bill ever intended to do so. If that was the case, I think no non-official member would have become a party to the passing of this Bill. Private rights of persons cannot be acquired without purchasing those rights. But the Bill as originally framed intended to convert private property into State property without payment of any compensation.....

Mr. President: I think the honourable member should stick to the object of the Bill now before the House.

Mr. Ganpat Rai (continued): Therefore it is not just to say that the members of the Select Committee have emasculated the Bill. On the other hand the Bill as amended is a great improvement on the old Bill and it deserves to be passed.

Mr. President: The question is—

"That the Punjab Fisheries (Amendment) Bill as reported by the select committee be taken into consideration."

The motion was carried.

Mr. President: We will now take into consideration the Bill clause by clause. The question is—

"That clauses 1 and 2 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was carried.

Mr. President: The question is—

"That clause 3 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was carried.

Mr. President: The question is—

"That clause 4 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was carried.

Mr. President: The question is—

"That this be the schedule to the Bill."

The motion was carried.

Mr. President: The question is—

"That this be the preamble to the Bill."

The motion was carried.

Mr. H. P. Tollinton: I now rise, Sir, to move—

"That the Punjab Fisheries (Amendment) Bill be passed."

Mr. President: The question is—

"That the Punjab Fisheries (Amendment) Bill be passed."

The motion was carried.

RESOLUTION *RE* ESTABLISHMENT OF A PROVINCIAL CO-OPERATIVE BANK.

The Honourable Lala Harkishan Lal (Minister for Agriculture): Sir, I beg to move—

"That this Council recommends to the Local Government—

(1) that a Provincial Co-operative Bank should be established;

(2) that the Local Government should agree to guarantee interest at 6 per cent. on debentures to be issued by the Bank to a total sum of twenty lakhs, and for a period not exceeding twenty-five years from the date of issue thereof, provided that the Bank enter into an agreement with the Local Government to redeem the debentures within the period named."

Sir, this is one of those resolutions which require no remarks in support thereof and which I am quite sure the members of the Council without any recommendation from me will accept. I should, however, just like to mention that the co-operative movement which is so popular and which is doing so much good to the poorer class and especially in the rural districts has made very great advance in this province and this province practically holds the first place in the whole of India. But still a great deal requires to be done. The figures that we have reached so far are that we can reckon about nine thousand and odd societies, about two-and-a-half lakhs of people as members and something like four crores of rupees as working capital. When we consider against this that there are 35,000 or thereabouts of villages in the Punjab, when we remember that the recent census reported about twenty million of population, and when we also have been told that the liabilities and indebtedness of the agricultural classes amount to something like sixty crores, the Council would realise what an amount of leeway has to be made up. This cannot be made up without more plentiful resources at the disposal of the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies and of those who are interested in this movement. The proposal to start a Bank on the lines which more

[Hon'ble Lala Harkishan Lal.]

or less can be gathered from the form of the agreement circulated to the members was submitted by the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies to the local Government as far back as the summer of 1921.

We submitted the scheme to a Conference of experts in which the representatives of the Imperial Bank and the representatives of the Accounts and Audit were called in to assist. The scheme was scrutinised and passed and it was subsequently referred to the Government of India. The letter that we have received from the Government of India imposes upon us a duty to come to this Council for obtaining sanction to the resolution. The letter of the Government of India told us : "That the Local Government themselves have power to give such a guarantee without their previous sanction or that of the Secretary of State in Council, and they have no objection to this being done if the Local Government consider it necessary, subject to the conditions and safeguards mentioned in your letter. In the light of Devolution Rule 27 (2) they suggest however that it might be well to obtain by resolution the approval of the local legislature to the course which it is proposed to follow. As the guarantee given by the Local Government will pledge provincial revenues, and Co-operative Societies are themselves a provincial transferred subject, the Government of India do not feel called upon to offer any criticisms on the details of the scheme put forward."

The Government of India asked us to come to this Council for sanction, and I have great pleasure in doing so, and I think I consider myself very fortunate to be associated with a scheme of this kind and I submit it to the Council to approve it.

Mr. President : The resolution proposed runs as follows :—

"That this Council recommends to the Local Government—

(1) that a Provincial Co-operative Bank should be established ;

(2) that the Local Government should agree to guarantee interest at 6 per cent. on debentures to be issued by the Bank to a total sum of twenty lakhs, and for a period not exceeding twenty-five years from the date of issue thereof, provided that the Bank enter into an agreement with the Local Government to redeem the debentures within the period named."

The question is that that resolution be adopted.

Maulvi Muharram Ali, Chishti [Lahore City (Muhammadan), (Urban)] (Urdu) : Sir, I hesitate to vote in favour of this resolution and have no inclination to support it. It is quite possible that I might have misunderstood it but this misunderstanding may perhaps be removed by a further discussion on the resolution. I venture to suggest a few points. Principally I have two objections to it. How far is it a sound policy for the Government to incur a responsibility of 25 lakhs rupees for a quarter of a century and involve itself so far while it is labouring under such deplorable conditions of financial stringency? I respectfully ask the Honourable Finance Member and Mr. Mant whether they too support this resolution. As Mr. Mant had himself once declared that the Government has become bankrupt by notifying the fact that their bankers had refused to advance money to them how can one who is himself such a miserable debtor becom a banker? It is simply rediculous. This is not a consistent policy on the part of Government. It employs itself as surety in lending loans for others while it is in heavy debt itself which it ought to pay before all. This is a dangerous policy and I do not understand the principles upon which it is based. My second point is that we should not meddle

with the commercial affairs of the province. Banks have been started by private enterprise and have achieved a good deal of success and are working efficiently. Why should the Government interfere with private enterprise and why should not the capitalist start this business? It is said that we ought to be self-reliant. Why should we then depend upon the Government? I have other objections too to this proposal but I do not want to prolong this controversy. The Government takes loans from one person and lends to another. When these matters come to the notice of the public nobody will be able to defend them reasonably. Taking into consideration all these points this resolution should not be passed. It should be wholly left to rich agriculturists who possess wealth in abundance. They should derive profits out of these private enterprises and let the Government superintend them. Government has interfered with many spheres of private enterprise. It is most improper that it should now practically become a money-lender (Sahukar).

I vote against this resolution regretfully, and although there is no instance in the annals of the Council where the Government may have withdrawn a resolution, yet I hope that after taking all these things into consideration this case will prove an exception to the rule.

Chaudhri Ali Akbar [Kangra-*cum*-Gurdaspur (Muhammadan), Rural]: Sir, unfortunately I had gone out and was unable to listen to all the speeches, but I can assert with confidence that these Co-operative Banks have proved positively beneficial for the agriculturists. This is not an unfair proposal. It has been put forward with a view to make the life of the poor agriculturists more pleasant. The Co-operative Societies which are already doing a little work advance insufficient money. If the person who needs rupees two thousand badly obtains only a thousand, it is worth nothing to him. To advance money in large amounts would be both profitable to the banks and useful to the agriculturists. The Sahukars (money-lenders) charge interest at the rate of 2½ per cent. per mensem. The agriculturists are crushed under this heavy burden. These Co-operatives Banks have infused a new spirit in the agriculturists, and consequently the Sahukars (money-lenders) complain that their business has fallen off. The agriculturists would readily pay if needs be to advance the cause of these banks since it saves them from the clutches of the Sahukars (money-lenders.) If due attention is not paid to the present Co-operative Societies, they would be ruined and their existence is absolutely necessary. There is a defect in this scheme which I referred to the Registrar, who I hope would take necessary steps to remove the difficulties. The Inspectors and the Sub-Inspectors of the bank are in name ordinary officers but they assume a dignity of Tahsildars when visiting the villages.....

Mr. President: The honourable member is not relevant.

Chaudhri Ali Akbar (continued): It ought to be laid down that these men should not interfere with local affairs. I vote in favour of this resolution since it aims at the improvement of the condition of the agriculturists.

Mr. Ganpat Rai [Lahore and Ferozepore-*cum*-Sheikhupura (Non-Muhammadan)]: Sir, my amendment is very simple. The debentures which will carry interest of 6 per cent. should be free of income-tax. I am moving this amendment.

Mr. President: I think that there is a difficulty about this. Income-tax is a subject which is not within the competence of the Local Government. It is a Central subject.

Mr. Ganpat Rai (continued): Sir, I anticipated that there would be some objection of this description. But I studied this question. The United Provinces Government when they raised their loan, it was free of income-tax.

Mr. President: But they may have got the sanction of the Government of India to this.

Mr. Ganpat Rai (continued): The other banks pay their dividend to the shareholders free of income-tax. I have a small number of shares in one or two banks, and I always get my dividend free of income-tax. Where is the difficulty in this case?

Mr. President: Mr. Ganpat Rai's proposal would come to this, I suppose, that the amount of interest should be so raised as to cover the income-tax.

The Honourable Lala Harkishan Lal: May I explain, Sir, that this resolution is not for payment of interest by Government; nor are we legislating for the bank. The bank will make its own rules. It would be useless for this Council to dictate to them that they should do this and that. They will, of course, offer the best terms they can. So far as this Council is concerned, the point is that in case the bank fails to pay its liabilities, this Government will be responsible to make up the 6 per cent. interest. We are taking a responsibility; and whether we should take a greater responsibility than this is a different question altogether. If we want debentures free of income-tax, then that is a proposal which ought to be put to the bank when the bank is issuing the debentures. It has not been perhaps understood by Mr. Ganpat Rai that the bank will not issue these debentures at one time. They may issue these debentures by instalments; and the interest may be varied. At one time it may be 4 per cent.; at another time it may be 8 per cent. or so. To lay down at this stage any hard-and-fast rule in regard to this is absolutely useless. All that we are asking the Council is that if the bank cannot pay 6 per cent. we will pay it. Nothing more.

Mr. President: In view of the explanation given, are you prepared to withdraw the amendment?

Mr. Ganpat Rai: After hearing the explanation, I think, Sir, that the resolution ought to be redrafted. I say that the guarantee should be 6 per cent. free of income-tax. If the meaning is as has been given by the Honourable Minister for Agriculture, then I say that the guarantee should be free of income-tax. I do not say that the bank will not be able to make their own terms, but I say that the guarantee should carry 6 per cent. interest free of income-tax. I am saying this in order to make this venture successful.

Mr. President: I am afraid the honourable member has not formally moved this amendment.

Mr. Ganpat Rai: Sir, I move the following amendment:—

"That after the words '6 per cent.' the words 'free of income-tax' should be inserted."

Mr. President: I had some doubts as to the meaning of this amendment and whether it was in order, but it is. It seems rather an absurd amendment. If the bank does not wish to issue their loans at 6 per cent. free of income-tax, this resolution would not compel them to do so. The effect of this amendment is merely to raise the limit of guarantee which this Council recommends Government to take upon its shoulders. The resolution proposes this guarantee at 6 per cent., and if the amendment is carried, Government will have to guarantee something more. After that explanation, I put the amendment to the House.

Mr. Ganpat Rai: Sir, may I say a few words in support of my amendment. Sir, the amendment which I have proposed is not absurd, as remarked by the Honourable President, but is a very reasonable one; and it requires a very serious consideration by the person moving this resolution. I am not making this amendment simply out of fun; I am not making this amendment in order to obstruct the starting of a bank. Therefore, I submit, that my amendment is not absurd. It is one which requires serious attention. It is not a State bank that is proposed to be started and people are not going to look upon it as such. It is in the interests of investors that I am moving this amendment in order to make the bank a success. It is to be a voluntary institution. It is not a command or law which will be passed that so many shares should be taken by each person paying income-tax. This is a purely commercial concern, and it should be looked at from a commercial point of view. Debentures will not be payable on demand. Debentures are not like Government Bonds. It has not been explained what is the difference between debenture and Government promissory notes. Government promissory notes can be sold as Negotiable Securities. Debentures are not so negotiable. For that reason also my proposal is a wise one and it is in the interest of Government that it should be accepted. The amendment should not be thrown out simply because the Government have not themselves inserted these words "free of income-tax." I hope the honourable members follow me and will support my amendment which is in the interests of both the Government and the people.

Mr. President: The original resolution proposed—

"That this Council recommends to the Local Government—

(1) that a Provincial Co-operative Bank should be established;

(2) that the Local Government should agree to guarantee interest at 6 per cent. on debentures to be issued by the Bank to a total sum of twenty lakhs, and for a period not exceeding twenty-five years from the date of issue thereof, provided that the Bank enter into an agreement with the Local Government to redeem the debentures within the period named"

To that an amendment has been moved—

"after the words 'six per cent.' the words 'free of income-tax' be inserted."

The question is that that amendment be made.

Sardar Randhir Singh [Sialkot-*cum*-Gurdaspur (Sikh), Rural] (Urdu): Sir, I sympathise personally with what Mr. Ganpat Rai has said. But the exemption of income-tax lies in the power of the Government of India and it would take a period of about five or six months to communicate with the said Government on the matter.....

Mr. President: The honourable member has misunderstood the position. It is not a question of recommending to the Government of India to forego the income-tax. It is simply this. If the Bank chooses to give a higher rate of interest, that is, 6 per cent. plus the amount necessary to cover income-tax then the Government is to be prepared to guarantee that larger sum instead of merely 6 per cent.

Sardar Randhir Singh: Then I have nothing to say, Sir,

Maulvi Muharram Ali, Chishti [Lahore City (Muhammadan), (Urban)] (Urdu): Sir, this amendment is brought forward by Mr. Ganpat Rai, who is a wise man and it would be wise for the Council to adopt it. The reasons have already been enumerated by the honourable member in detail. The Government too was ready and willing to accept it, as may be seen from the list of business for to-day as originally circulated.....

Mr. President: What was printed in the agenda was purely a misprint. You must not draw any inference therefrom that the Government ever contemplated guaranteeing 6 per cent. free of income-tax. It was only a slip in the Council office in the matter of printing. The words sought to be introduced by the amendment were by mistake printed as part of the original resolution. Later this was corrected.

Maulvi Muharram Ali, Chishti, (continued): I was assigning credit to the Government but it seems that Government deserves no such credit. It being our own recommendation I do not see that it can be injurious to the interests of the Government. I think that it would be useless to carry the original resolution without the amendment. I have already stated that I oppose this resolution. It is only in case of the resolution not being negatived that I am supporting this amendment, as it is the lesser of the two evils.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard (Finance Member): Sir, when I listened to Maulvi Muharram Ali, Chishti's first speech, that is, the speech on this particular resolution, when he pointed out the objections why Government should not guarantee interest on loans taken by other people in our present financial conditions, I said to myself "here is a man in this Council whom I should like to take in the Finance Committee, in order to save Government from monetary responsibilities." I however waited for a few moments and to my astonishment I find Maulvi Muharram Ali, Chishti, actually proposing to raise the amount of guarantee. The result of the proposal which has been brought forward by Mr. Ganpat Rai is to increase the amount of guarantee which Government has to give, that is to say, increase the obligation of the Government and thus undertake the risk of additional financial loss. I hardly think it is possible that my friend the Maulvi can intentionally have supported this suggestion. I am obliged to protest to this Council against any proposal to increase the amount of guarantee which the Honourable Minister (for Agriculture) has proposed to give.

Chaudhri Kharak Singh [Amritsar-*cum*-Gurdaspur (Rural)] (Urdu): I am astonished to hear the speech of Maulvi Muharram Ali. He on the one hand opposed the resolution on the ground that Government should not incur the obligation to guarantee six per cent. interest and on the other hand

supported the amendment whereby he wanted the Government to guarantee more than six per cent. interest. The Government often sustains losses in its transactions and the responsibility for these losses is attributed to individual officers, but the responsibility for the present amendment falls wholly on the Council. Maulvi Muharram Ali has said that the financial condition of the Government being not good, he is not in favour of guaranteeing 6 per cent. interest. I do not understand the reasons why the honourable member now supports an amendment, which gives interest at about 6½ per cent. As I do not favour this unnecessary responsibility I oppose the amendment.

Rai Sahib Lala Thakar Das [North-West Towns (non-Muhammadan), (Urban)] (Urdu): Sir, I oppose the amendment. I think that the economic progress of a country depends very largely on the encouragement which is provided by the Government. It is an established practice in Europe that the Governments concerned decide on the carrying out of a project after going thoroughly into the *pros* and *cons* of it and also after procuring expert knowledge as to the likely profits that would accrue from the project and the dividends effected from the investments to be made. I think that in the case before us the Government has done very well indeed and have brought forward their resolution after due consideration of all the issues involved. The Government, if they refuse to take any further responsibility than the guaranteeing of six per cent. interest, are quite in the right. I welcome whole-heartedly this encouragement of thrift and progress for the agricultural classes on the part of the Government. But I oppose the amendment for it is calculated needlessly to augment the responsibility of the Government which is sufficient as it is for the purpose aimed at.

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain (Minister for Education) (Urdu): I am not very conversant with the subject matter of the resolution, but this is not a defect which should hinder one from speaking. The first question regarding the establishment of the provincial co-operative bank was never dreamt of by any non-official member of the Council during the last three years.

Maulvi Muharram Ali, Chishti (Urdu): On this occasion too a non-official member is to be thanked for it.

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain (continued): But this scheme was originated by an official member and was looked upon with approbation by a non-official Minister. Therefore no non-official member should object to it. When the scheme is matured and is about to be carried out an amendment is brought forward and discussed. Apparently the amendment seems beneficial but this is a kind of seemingly friendly advice which would produce an opposite result. The honourable members may have experienced perhaps that a man would get away with his money in his pocket, if he offers to pay you four annas while you insist on five annas.

Mr. Ganpat Rai: Supposing we do not get even four annas.

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain (continued): Do not expect to get four annas in these cases surely. This amendment should be rejected since it involves the possibility of the scheme being shelved. I oppose this amendment.

Mr. D. J. Boyd: (Home Secretary), Sir, I beg to move —

"That the question be now put."

The closure was carried.

Mr. President: The original resolution was —

"That this Council recommends to the Local Government—

(1) that a Provincial Co-operative Bank should be established;

(2) that the Local Government should agree to guarantee interest at six per cent., on debentures to be issued by the bank to a total sum of twenty lakhs, and for a period not exceeding twenty-five years from the date of issue thereof, provided that the Bank enter into an agreement with the Local Government to redeem the debentures within the period named."

To this an amendment has been moved—

"That after the words "six per cent.," the words "free of income-tax" be inserted."

The question is that that amendment be made.

The amendment was lost.

Mr. President: Now the question before the Council is—

"That this Council recommends to the Local Government—

(1) that the Provincial Co-operative Bank should be established;

(2) that the Local Government should agree to guarantee interest at 6 per cent. on debentures to be issued by the Bank to a total sum of twenty lakhs, and for a period not exceeding twenty-five years from the date of issue thereof, provided that the Bank enter into an agreement with the Local Government to redeem the debentures within the period named."

Diwan Bahadur Raja Narendra Nath: [Punjab Land-holders (General)] (Urdu): I have listened to the speeches very attentively. The proposal so far as I have been able to understand is that Government should not guarantee the principal money but that it should guarantee interest only. When the principal money is offered by the lender without any guarantee, then what is the need for giving security for interest? A person who is willing to lend a lac of rupees without any guarantee, does not reasonably expect security for a sum of Rs. 6,000 which is due on account of interest. I understand that this will be a Bank for the province? A Central Co-operative Bank for Lahore is already in existence and working efficiently. People have confidence in it. It gives a reasonable rate of interest. It keeps fixed deposits too. There is not the least inconvenience to the public who have confidence in its dealing. The reason appears to be that it is supervised by a Government department. If Central Co-operative Banks for districts are carrying on their business satisfactorily without any guarantee from Government, where is the necessity of a guarantee for a Provincial Bank? On receiving an answer to the two questions raised by me, I shall be able to form an opinion on the resolution.

Mr. H. Calvert:—(Registrar, Co-operative Societies), Sir, I had some difficulty in understanding exactly the objection taken by Maulvi Muharram Ali Chishti to the first part of the resolution that a Provincial Co-operative Bank should be established. I think it might clear the error if I were to

indicate very briefly the functions which we hope the Provincial Co-operative Bank will perform and the place it will take in the co-operative movement of this Province, in order that at least in so far as the first portion of the resolution is concerned there will be no opposition at all. I will then just touch briefly on the question of the guarantee of interest at the time of financial stringency. I may say, Sir, that the question of starting a provincial bank for this Province has been under consideration for fully ten years. It was considered by my predecessor, Mr. Langley, who then thought that the time had not yet arrived to initiate such an institution. The question was then taken up further by the Committee on co-operation which was presided over by Sir Edward Maclagan, now His Excellency the Governor. The Committee which reported in 1915 proposed that there should be a Provincial Co-operative Bank in each Province. Eight years have now passed and this question has never been lost sight of, but there has always been difficulty owing to the very rapid changes in the development of the co-operative movement in defining exactly the kind of functions which we expected a Provincial Bank to perform. At the time of the Maclagan Committee there were provincial banks in five of the major provinces but practically all these provincial banks were performing work which in the Punjab has been done by central banks. It had always been Mr. Langley's aim to try and build up in this Province a series of strong central co-operative banks and Mr. Langley's aim I have tried to carry out for the last eight years. The number of central banks at the time of the Committee's report was 44 and it is now 110. The object of the provincial bank will be to control and supervise the financial side of the central banks, to co-ordinate their activities, to come to their aid in time of need and to dispose of any money temporarily left on their hands. Now, Sir, about six years ago, in 1917, there was practically no such thing as inter-lending between central banks. In 1917 the amount of inter-lending was 2½ lakhs of rupees. Last year the amount was 55 lakhs. I think it will be quite clear to the members that when the amount was two or three lakhs there was no need for a provincial bank to carry on that work. That work could be done and has been done in the office of the Registrar. But, Sir, now that this inter-lending has reached the figure of 55 lakhs or higher, I think it will be fairly clear to the members of this Council that some other agency becomes necessary and is the first function which will be handed over to the Provincial Bank.

Another important function will be to serve as a central reservoir for the rural needs of this Province. For 110 central institutions we have to keep 110 cash balances and these cash balance amount to between 5 and 10 lakhs of rupees. Besides that, we have to maintain in order to meet repayments of deposits, investments to a total of 18 lakhs of rupees. We have to keep this amount of money, about 25 lakhs of rupees, in order to make our central financial arrangements strong in order to bear any shock such as may result on the failure of a commercial bank. A function of a provincial bank ought to be to try and come to the aid of any central bank which has temporarily a large surplus of cash and utilise the money lying idle in central banks. At the present moment there is a surplus of one lakh with a single central bank. We cannot lend that because a certain part of this amount is due to be paid to depositors and other central banks are not prepared to take on this lakh for a short period of three or four months. What a provincial bank could do would be to take over a large part of this lakh and pay it into its overdraft

[Mr. H. Calvert.]

account and pass on to the Jullundur Central Bank such interest as it could afford. Central banks have to meet big demands for deposits and any temporary shortage in a particular locality is being met at present in a very clumsy way by temporary inter-lending. If we have a provincial bank that temporary shortage will be met from the provincial bank. The provincial bank is not intended to replace inter lending to central banks but to supplement it. The third function which this provincial bank will discharge is to come to the aid of those central banks which are unable to obtain sufficient financial assistance to meet their needs. The fourth function, and one with which debentures are more particularly concerned, is to enable our village societies to carry out works such as mortgage redemption and similar works which cannot be financed by a shorterm loan.

A large proportion of money in our banks is on terms of six months or one year, a greater portion on one year, and the money has to be paid after one year. We cannot approve of loans for land mortgage—redemption or land improvement. So we have taken a special power in this agreement to be able to lend money for the period of ten years from the provincial banks which can be passed on for loans for mortage redemption. Now, Sir, the actual development of this movement so far represents, of course, a mere beginning. The mere fact that in about five years, the operations of the central banks have increased from 100 lakhs to 500 lakhs of rupees gives an idea of the immense financial work that has been carried on. These financial resources are absolutely necessary in a country which is liable to sudden storms, sudden floods or sudden famines, which cause financial stringency. That I hope will make clear the need for a provincial bank.

Turning now to the next point. I gather that Maulvi Muharram Ali Chishti objected rather to this guarantee of 25 years on the basis of the argument of financial stringency. Well, Sir, the financial stringency is largely due to the comparative poverty of the provinces, and the best method to tackle poverty is not by evading responsibility but by going straight to the source and removing the cause. It has been explained, Sir, that Government is not undertaking to pay the interest on the debentures in all cases. Government undertakes a guarantee to the holder of the debenture to receive his interest. If the honourable member would look at the agreement he will see that if the provincial bank fails to pay the interest, the whole of its assets will be taken over by Government who will pay up the interest which it guarantees. Now, Sir, what exactly is that guarantee? Under the form of agreement the provincial bank can issue debentures up to a certain multiple of its paid-up capital. That is to say, the provincial bank must have assets of 1/16 of the amount of debenture which Government will seize. Then the provincial bank has to agree that it will not distribute dividend until the debentures are redeemed. That affords a further guarantee.

Further, Sir, this provincial bank will be almost entirely financed, as far as capital is concerned, by co-operative societies of various kinds. It is in the interest of these co-operative societies that this provincial bank should be a success; and I think the co-operative societies will support the provincial bank and prevent its assets from falling into decay; I think, Sir, if

our learned critics would examine the agreement, they will find that Government is very fully protected by the terms which the provincial bank is bound to enter into.

Then my learned friend, the Maulvi Sahib, raised another objection. He said why can't we do without the constitution of such a provincial bank when there are commercial banks? The answer to this is that there is no bank in the Punjab which is not based entirely on commercial credit; and the commercial banks in the Punjab are quite insufficient for the commercial needs of the Province, and certainly they have no funds to spare for the rural needs. The rural banks cannot look to any bank except the Imperial Bank for financing the needs of agriculturists.

Now, Sir, a further objection has been taken that the Government is undertaking too big a responsibility. Well, Sir, a new rural Credit Act of 1923 has been passed in England. If, Sir, we had that Act, we should be entitled to call upon Government to pay down in hard cash a sum three times our share capital or 150 lakhs. The Government of the Punjab would have to lend 150 lakhs of rupees at 4½ per cent. payable in 60 years. That, Sir, is the aid which the British Government is according to agriculture employing one and a half million people only. Here we are asked to support forty million people following agriculture as their occupation; and instead of asking Government 150 lakhs of rupees, we are asking a guarantee of interest on 20 lakhs.

Then, Sir, the question has been raised why if central banks can obtain all the capital they require without any guarantee, why should it be that the provincial bank requires this Government guarantee? There are two points about it. The initial idea of Government guaranteeing interest is in order to enable the debentures to be made the Trustee Securities. If we can get a guarantee of Government for interest, Government can amend the Indian Trusts Act and make these debentures Trustee Securities, then the Courts of Wards and District Judges who hold minors' money will be able to invest in them. The Government of Bombay has secured the same guarantee for the debentures of the Bombay Provincial Bank, and the debentures of the Bombay Provincial Bank have been made a Trustee Security by the amending of the Act. That, Sir, is the main reason.

My learned friend the Raja Sahib asked as to why if Government guaranteed interest, it did not also guarantee principal. The answer is that it is not necessary to guarantee the principal. It has been suggested, or I gather that the Raja Sahib was suggesting, that the central banks would be able to do the financing without the aid of the provincial bank. The Jullundur Central Bank did actually advance 17 lakhs of rupees last year to other central banks. So this bank was performing one of the functions of a provincial bank. The Lahore Central Bank advanced five lakhs. These two central banks are to some extent performing one of the function of a provincial bank, but as I explained, this is only one of the functions of a provincial bank. As the co-operative movement develops and gathers strength, we think the provincial bank will come to play a very large part in the rural advancement of this country; and I hope that the honourable members who opposed will now see that this is only one of a series of measures which have been designed to relieve the people of this province from a very crushing weight of debt. If they view the measure in that light, I hope they will withdraw their opposition.

The Honourable Lala Harkishen Lal:

I move, Sir,

"That the question be now put."

Mr. President: The question is:

"That the question be now put."

The motion was carried.

Mr. President: The resolution proposed runs as follows:—

"That this Council recommends to the Local Government—

(1) that a Provincial Co-operative Bank should be established;

(2) that the Local Government should agree to guarantee interest at 3 per cent. on debentures to be issued by the Bank to a total sum of 20 lakhs, and for a period not exceeding 25 years from the date of issue thereof provided that the Bank enter into an agreement with the Local Government to redeem the debentures within the period named."

The question is that that resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried.

Mr. President: I remind the honourable members that the Council meets on Monday at 11 A.M. I propose to sit on Monday from 11 A.M. to 1 P.M. and from 2 P.M. to 4 P.M.

The Council then adjourned till 11 A.M. on Monday the 22nd October 1923.

91 PLC—425—31-10-23—SGPP Lahore.

PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Monday, the 22nd October 1923.

THE Council met at the Council Chamber at eleven of the clock. Mr. President in the chair.

OATH OF OFFICE.

The following member was sworn in:—Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

AMRITSAR RIOTS AND CONDUCT OF HEAD CONSTABLE SHAH MUHAMMAD.

2555. **Lala Kesho Ram:** Is it a fact that complaints reached the District authorities at Amritsar about one head constable, Shah Muhammad, who incited the Muhammadan mob on 12th April 1923 to kill Hindus? Has any action been taken against him? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard:—Complaints were preferred by certain Hindus to the Deputy Commissioner while on duty in Amritsar City against Head Constable Shah Muhammad, but in the course of the investigation which succeeded the riots no evidence was forthcoming to support the allegations of misconduct and no occasion has therefore arisen for action against this police officer.

AMRITSAR RIOTS AND CONDUCT OF POLICE.

2556. **Lala Kesho Ram:** (*a*) Is it a fact that disturbances which began at Amritsar on 11th April 1923 continued unabated till the 13th April and after that attacks on individual Hindus were made till at last the outbreak again started on 6th May and culminated in Katra Khazana Riot on 8th May?

(*b*) Is it a fact that during all these disturbances not a single person has been arrested red-handed? Was it because the police was ordered only to disperse and not to arrest? Or was it because the police was loth to arrest any one?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard:—

(*a*) Disturbances occurred from the 11th to the 13th of April. Thereafter up till the May riots one case occurred in which Muhammadans are alleged to have attacked a Hindu.

(*b*) As regards the April riots there was some delay in starting investigations and making arrests owing to the anxiety of the leaders of both communities to effect a compromise.

In the May riots arrests were made at once on the spot.

COMMUNAL REPRESENTATION IN THE CONSTABULARY OF AMRITSAR DURING THE RIOTS.

2557. Lala Kesho Ram: Will the Government be pleased to state the exact number of police constables at the time of the disturbances in Amritsar and what was the number of Hindus, Muhammadans and Sikhs among them respectively?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: On the 11th April 1923, *i.e.*, the time of the disturbances in Amritsar, there were the following constables in the City Police Force :—

Muhammadans	245
Hindus	38
Sikhs	24
Total ...	307

PROSECUTION OF AMRITSAR RIOT CASES.

2558. Lala Kesho Ram: Is it a fact that at Amritsar the Deputy Superintendent of Police in charge of court cases and appearing for the Crown is a Muhammadan? Is it a fact that in cases where Muhammadans are accused, the Hindus approached the authorities with a request that they be allowed to send in their own lawyer to prosecute those cases and their requests were not listened to?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: It is a fact that the Court Inspector at Amritsar, who has been given the Honorary rank of Deputy Superintendent, is a Muhammadan, but the prosecution of the Amritsar riot cases is in the hands of the Assistant Legal Remembrancer aided by an Indian Christian Public Prosecutor and the Court Inspector. In certain cases against Muhammadan accused, it was suggested to the Deputy Commissioner by the Hindu leaders that they should be allowed to send their own lawyers to prosecute, but this suggestion was not adopted by the Deputy Commisioner.

COMMUNAL REPRESENTATION AMONGST INDIAN POLICE OFFICERS AT THE TIME OF AMRITSAR RIOTS.

2559. Lala Kesho Ram: Will the Government be pleased to state if it is a fact that out of 13 Indian police officers in Amritsar city during the disturbances, 11 were Muhammadans and one Sikh and only one Hindu?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: There were fourteen Indian Police Officers of and above the rank of Sub-Inspector working at different times in the city during the disturbances. Of these, seven were Muhammadans, three Hindus and four Sikhs.

AMRITSAR RIOTS AND TREATMENT OF HINDU COMPLAINTS BY POLICE.

2560. **Lala Kesho Ram:** (*a*) Is it a fact that during the time of the disturbances at Amritsar the police there would not take down the complaints made by Hindus and consequently they were sent by registered post to the authorities?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to state the exact number of complaints made by the Hindus and how many of them have been enquired into and how many are still pending enquiry?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: (*a*) No. A certain number complaints were received by registered post, which were duly investigated.

(*b*) Fifty-seven complaints were preferred by Hindus. Thirty-six of them have been enquired into. In the remainder the complainants did not want investigation.

HINDU CASUALTIES IN AMRITSAR RIOTS.

2561. **Lala Kesho Ram:** Will the Government be pleased to state the exact number of Hindus killed and wounded during the recent Hindu-Muhammadan riots at Amritsar and how many of those who were wounded received grievous hurt and whether these cases of grievous hurts have been enquired into; if so, with what result?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: Some persons injured did not report to the Police but went direct to the hospital or to private practitioners; figures regarding them are not available.

According to the Police records one hundred and thirty-four Hindu were injured. Of these nine received grievous hurt. Only one of these died after a month in hospital.

All grievous hurt cases were enquired into. Three cases remained untraced; one is under investigation; the remainder were sent for trial and are pending in Court.

AMRITSAR RIOTS AND LOOTING OF SHOPS.

2562. **Lala Kesho Ram:** Will the Government be pleased to state the exact number of shops looted during the recent disturbances at Amritsar and how many of them belonged to Hindus and how many to Muhammadans and whether the authorities have enquired into those cases of looting, and if so, with what result?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: Twenty-three shops are reported to have been looted, of which nineteen belonged to Hindus and four to Muhammadans. Cases as regards two of the Hindu shops and one of the Muhammadan shops have been sent for trial. The remaining twenty cases occurred during the April riots and were untraced as a result of the compromise effected by the leaders of the two communities.

AMRITSAR RIOTS AND CLOSURE OF HINDU BUSINESS CENTRES.

2563. **Lala Kesho Ram:** Is it a fact that Hindu business centres at Amritsar remained closed for over a month for want of security and owing to insufficient protection?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : The answer is in the negative.

REGISTRATION OF MUSLIM MARRIAGES BY NIKAH KHWANS.

2564. Khan Muhammad Saifullah Khan : (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state in which districts in the Punjab the system of registration of *Muslim* marriages by *Nikah Khwans* is in force ?

(*b*) Will the Government please lay on the table a statement showing the decrease or increase in the number of criminal cases in such districts where the system is in force ?

(*c*) Is the system extended to an area on the application of the inhabitants of that place or the Government use their own discretion in the matter ?

(*d*) Were rules regarding the registration prepared after consulting eminent *Muslim Ulemas* ?

(*e*) Has the Government received any representations in favour of or against the system since its enforcement ?

(*f*) Will the Government be pleased to consider the desirability of abolishing the system altogether ?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : (*a*) A list of Districts in which a system of marriage registration is in force is laid on the table. The registration is in some cases not performed exclusively by *Nikah Khwans*.

(*b*) Owing to the fact that the system was introduced in the various districts at different times over a long period of years, the information called for is not readily available.

(*c*) In most cases on the application of the inhabitants.

(*d*) The introduction of a system of registration is an administrative matter, and not one of principle. Whether the local *Ulema* supported or opposed the movement, is not known.

(*e*) Representations regarding the system have been received, mostly in favour of it.

(*f*) In view of (*a*) above, no.

List of Districts in which a system of marriage registration is in force—

(1) Ambala (not confined to *muslim* marriage).
(2) Karnal.
(3) Gurgaon (confined to Meos of the district).
(4) Hissar (Hansi town only).
(5) Hoshiarpur
(6) Jullundur
(7) Ludhiana
(8) Ferozepore

} Concerns all communities.

(9) Mianwali.
(10) Attock.
(11) Shahpur.
(12) Rawalpindi.
(13) Lyallpur.
(14) Muzaffargarh.
(15) Dera Ghazi Khan (worked under the Kazi's Act).
(16) Montgomery.
(17) Jhang.
(18) Lahore.
(19) Sheikhupura.
(20) Sialkot.

ENTRUSTING REGISTRATION WORK TO TAHSILDARS OR NAIB-TAHSILDARS.

2565. **Khan Muhammad Saifullah Khan**: Will the Government please consider the advisability of getting registration work done by Tahsildars or Naib-Tahsildars in charge of those Tahsils where Sub-Registrars' posts fall vacant hereafter as a trial for some time with a view to see if the work can be done by them satisfactorily?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain: A copy of Punjab Government letter No. 17754 (Home—Regn.), dated 21st June 1923, is laid on the table for the information of the honourable member.

No. 17754 (Home—Regn.), dated Lahore, the 21st June 1923.

From—A. LATHE, Esq., O.B.E., I.C.S., Secretary to Government, Punjab, Transferred Departments,

To—The Inspector-General of Registration, Punjab.

SUBJECT:—*Proposal to abolish the posts of certain Sub-Registrars.*

IN reply to your letter No. 57, dated 6th April 1923, I am directed to convey the orders of the Punjab Government (Ministry of Education) on the proposal referred to above.

2. The offices of all departmental or honorary Sub-Registrars, the number of documents registered by whom during 1922, as shown in the statement attached to your letter under reference, did not exceed 500, will be abolished with effect from the close of the current financial year. This paragraph does not apply to offices which are not situated at a Tahsil headquarters, the retention of which will be considered in each case on the expiry of the current term of the present incumbent. I am to request that you will take steps to inform all incumbents of posts which are to be brought under reduction under the terms of this paragraph that their services will no longer be required after the close of the year.

3. Offices in which the number of documents registered during 1922 exceeded 500, but did not exceed 749, will not be closed immediately, but the case of each will be considered on its merits at the conclusion of the current term of the present incumbent.

4. Offices in which the number of documents registered during 1922 was 750 or more will be retained.

5. The work of the Sub-Registrars whose offices are brought under reduction will be done by the Tahsildars or Naib-Tahsildars of the Tahsils in which the sub-districts concerned are situated.

ARMS LICENSES.

2566. Khan Muhammad Saifullah Khan: Will the Government be pleased to state the total number of licenses for keeping arms granted for self-protection to different communities in the districts of Campbellpur, Mianwali, Muzaffargarh, Dera Ghazi Khan and Multan?

Mr. D. J. Boyd: Communal considerations do not in any way affect the grant of licenses for keeping arms. In the circumstances the Government is not prepared to order enquiries which entail a considerable expenditure of time from the districts mentioned.

OPENING OF CIVIL HOSPITALS ON SUNDAYS.

2567. Khan Muhammad Saifullah Khan: (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to give reasons for closing civil hospitals on Sundays?

(*b*) Will the Government please see (*i*) that civil hospitals remain open on Sundays for a shorter time than on other days, or (*ii*) that at least regular out-door patients are attended to on those days?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain.

(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) An enquiry will be made into this matter.

RISE IN SALARIES OF CLERKS TO CIVIL SURGEONS.

2568. Khan Muhammad Saifullah Khan: Will Government be pleased to state under what circumstances it has raised the scale of pay of Civil Surgeons' clerks?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain: The scale of pay of Civil Surgeons' clerks was raised as part of the general scheme sanctioned in 1921 for the revision of pay of all non-gazetted Government servants, on account of increase in the cost of living.

RATES OF FEES PAID TO THE ASSISTANT SURGEONS.

2569. Khan Muhammad Saifullah Khan: Will the Government be pleased to consider the advisability of putting up notice boards in all civil hospitals showing authorised rates of fees to be paid to the Assistant Surgeons on medico-legal cases and other private examinations?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain: Practically all the Civil dispensaries in the Punjab are under the control of local bodies whose attention is being invited to the honourable member's suggestion.

NON-OFFICIAL VISITORS OF JAILS.

2570. **Khan Muhammad Saifullah Khan:** Will the Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of non-official visitors who have visited different jails in the year 1922-23 ?

(*b*) the average annual number of visits of each non-official during that year ;

(*c*) the general recommendations made by them ;

(*d*) the action taken by the Government on those recommendations ?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: The labour involved in ascertaining the facts would be excessive. If the honourable member desires information on any particular detail the Government will be glad to obtain it for him

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SUPPLY CONTRACTORS.

2571. **Khan Muhammad Saifullah Khan:** (*i*) Is it a fact—

(*a*) that in some places paid supply contractors are men of small means and are unable to take the responsibilities of a contractor ;

(*b*) that these contractors only get their supplies from zaildars and pay them when they get money from the touring officers and are thus only intermediary men ;

(*c*) that in certain villages they get their own supplies also at the zaildar's expense ?

(*ii*) Will the Government be pleased to state what objections there are for the contractors (*a*) to serve all touring officers irrespective of whether they are gazetted officers or not ; (*b*) to supply necessary articles of food to touring officers at places where there are no Dâk Bungalows ?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia: A reply to part (*i*) (*a*), (*b*), and (*c*) of the question can be given if the honourable member will specify the place or places that he has in mind.

Part (*ii*) (*a*). Tahsildars and Naib-Tahsildars, Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors of Police, Zilladars of the Canal Department and inferior non-gazetted officers are required to visit villages in out-of-the-way places where it would be impossible for a contractor on a reasonable remuneration to provide them with the necessary supplies. Further, such officers are as a rule able to obtain their requirements from small village shops, and there is no need for them to have recourse to a special supply agency. Accordingly the new system has been confined to gazetted officers who are usually able to confine their tours to places which can easily be reached by contractors.

Part (*ii*) (*b*). The practice is for Deputy Commissioners to publish a list of the places in each Tahsil at which arrangements for supplies through contractors can be made. These places must necessarily be accessible and generally should contain bungalows, in order that contractors may be able to make permanent arrangements for supplies. The honourable member is

incorrect in supposing that the list only contains places where Dâk Bungalows exist.

If it is necessary for an officer to camp at a place not scheduled as an approved centre it is possible for him to obtain supplies from the contractor by arrangement.

RECRUITMENT OF LAWYERS TO THE PROVINCIAL CIVIL SERVICE.

2572. **Rai Sahib Lala Ganga Ram:** (*a*) Is it a fact that Provincial Civil Service has been divided into two different branches, *viz.*, Judicial and Executive? If so, will the Government please lay on the table the rules for recruitment for both the branches of the service?

(*b*) Is it a fact that no recruitment will in future be made for the Executive Branch from the Bar of the Province or that rules have been so framed that the members of the Bar have practically been debarred from entering this branch of service? If so, will the Government please revise the rules and provide necessary facilities for lawyers to enter this branch of the service?

(*c*) Is it a fact that the age limit for admission to the Judicial Branch of the Provincial Civil Service has been lowered from 35 to 30 and that of Executive Branch from 30 to 25? If so, will the Government please reconsider the matter and raise the limits to 35 and 30 as before?

(*d*) Have any appointments been made to the Provincial Civil Service under the new rules? If so, will the Government please state what procedure was adopted in making the nominations and on whose recommendations were the candidates accepted?

(*e*) Is it a fact that no appointments have been made to the Provincial Civil Service during the last two years; if so, why not?

Mr. C. A. H. Townsend: (*a*) Effect has been given to the separation of the Executive and Judicial Branches of the Punjab Civil Service, the rules for recruitment thereto are under the consideration of Government.

(*b*) As the matter is under consideration it is not yet possible to answer this part of the question.

(*c*) The reply is in the affirmative so far as the Judicial Branch is concerned. Government sees no reason to reconsider the decision. As regards the Executive Branch, the age limit has always been twenty-five.

(*d*) No.

(*e*) The reply is in the negative; appointments have been made to the Punjab Civil Service during the last two years.

AMBALA DISTRICT BOARD ELECTIONS.

2573. **Rai Sahib Lala Ganga Ram:** (*a*) With reference to the answer to question No. 2466* put in the last session of the Council, is it a fact that nomination of candidates had been made for the district and every other preparation for election fully completed and that ballot had actually been held in two tahsils before the elections were postponed? If the reply be in the affirmative, does the Government still maintain that candidates and

* Vol. IV, page 1528.

voters were not put to trouble and expense and that they do not deserve any compensation for the same, and if so, will the Government please state its reasons for holding that view ?

(*b*) Will the Government please lay on the table the orders of the Government which it is stated were misunderstood and the correspondence which has up till now passed between the Ambala District Board and the Local Government on the subject of the reconstitution of the Board ?

(*c*) Will the Government please state whether the elections were started under any rules in force at the time or whether they were started without any authority ? If they were started under some rules in force at the time, were these rules cancelled or suspended before passing the orders of postponement, and if not, had the Local Government any authority to postpone the elections which were proceeding under the rules in force ; and if it had any authority, will the Government please quote it ?

(*d*) Is it a fact that the Ambala District Board had by its repeated resolutions expressed the desire that the system of communal representation or any other system of representation leading to the fixing of the number of seats for each community be not introduced in its constitution and that elections be allowed to go on as before ? Is it also a fact that Government has thrust the system on them ? If so, will the Government give reasons therefor ?

(*e*) Is it a fact that the Ambala District Board has by its latest resolution on the subject maintained exactly the same electoral circles in Tahsils Ambala, Jagadhri and Naraingarh as before and has only changed the electoral circles in Rupar and Kharar Tahsils by giving them a seat more ? If so, will the Government consider the advisability of confirming and notifying the results of the elections already made in Tahsils Jagadhri and Ambala and order the remaining elections to proceed in Jagadhri and Naraingarh on the basis of nominations already made ?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : (*a*) & (*c*) The honourable member's attention is drawn to the answer already given to his question No. 2466*.

(*b*) Government regret their inability to comply with the honourable member's wish; because such correspondence is confidential.

(*d*) Government are not aware of any such resolution of the Ambala District Board. The greater part of the honourable member's question is not clear, but perhaps he is now satisfied with the information given in the Note on the reconstitution of Municipal Committees and District Boards in the Punjab, a copy of which has already been supplied to all members of this Council.

(*e*) After careful consideration the revised constitution of the Ambala District Board was duly confirmed by notifications Nos. 3614-S. and 3615-S., dated 18th September 1923, published in the Gazette dated the 21st September 1923, a copy† of which is laid on the table. The honourable member's suggestion as to the advisability of confirming and notifying the results of the incomplete elections in Jagadhri and Ambala Tahsils will be carefully considered.

* Volume IV, page 1526.

† Not printed.

RECOGNITION AND GRANT-IN-AID TO SCHOOLS.

2574. Rai Sahib Lala Ganga Ram: (*a*) Will the Government please state how many private schools for boys have applied for recognition during the last five years, giving the name of the community which runs the institution, and how many of them are still unrecognized and unaided, stating reasons for their non-recognition and for their not having been awarded grant-in-aid?

(*b*) Has any school been recently opened in Nuh in Gurgaon District? If so, when? Has it been since recognized and awarded grant-in-aid? If so, what were the reasons for such a speedy action?

(*c*) Is it a fact that several schools in Ambala Division have been running for the last four years or so and they have not yet been recognized or awarded any grant-in-aid? If so, will the Government please state the reasons for not recognizing them and awarding grant-in-aid to them?

(*d*) Will the Government please state what amount was awarded by way of grant-in-aid in the last year to private-aided institutions, giving the figures for each district in the province and the aggregate amount earned by schools of each community in the districts?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain: (*a*) The information is laid on the table.*

(*b*) The honourable member probably refers to the Brayne-Meo School at Nuh. This school was an Anglo-vernacular Middle School, but high classes were added in April last. The school has been recognized and placed on the grant-in-aid list. This action was due to the desire of Government to encourage depressed or backward classes, and to help the Meos who had done so much to help themselves.

(*c*) The information required is embodied in the statement given under (*a*).

(*d*) The statement* is laid on the table.

RECRUITMENT TO THE PROVINCIAL EDUCATIONAL SERVICE AND COMMUNAL REPRESENTATION.

2575. Rai Sahib Lala Ganga Ram: Will the Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) How many candidates were registered for appointment to the Provincial Educational Service since January 1921 and how many of them have been appointed since their acceptance as candidates?

(*b*) How many appointments have been made to the Provincial Educational Service since January 1921, giving the number of Hindus, Muhammadans and Sikhs, Agriculturists and non-Agriculturists;

(*c*) Are there any candidates on the register who were accepted earlier than those who have since been given appointments? If so, what are the reasons for keeping them back?

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* Not printed.

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain: (*a*) The names of 118 candidates have been registered, of whom ten have been appointed to the Provincial Educational Service. Candidates are registered, but there is no list of "accepted" candidates.

(*b*)

Hindus	18
Muhammadans	9
Sikhs	6
Indian Christians	3
Total	31
Agriculturists	5
Non-Agriculturists	26
Total	31

(*c*) Yes. Inclusion on the register does not give priority of appointment over others whose names are placed later on the register. An effort is made to make the best and the most suitable appointments.

COMMUNAL STRENGTH OF SERVICES.

2576. Rai Sahib Lala Ganga Ram: Will the Government please lay upon the table in the accompanying form information regarding the strength of the several communities in the Province in the various branches of the services?

Community.	Extra Assistant Commissioners.	Provincial Educational Service.	Jailors.	Inspectors of Police.	Public Prosecutors.
Hindus — Jats					
Hindus — Others					
Muhammadans					
Sikhs — Jats					
Sikhs — Others					
Indian Christians.					
Others ...					

Mr. C. A. H. Townsend: The collection of the information asked for by the honourable member would involve an expenditure of time which Government does not, in the circumstances, consider justified.

ALLOTMENT OF SEATS TO DIFFERENT COMMUNITIES ON THE KAMALIA MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE.

2577. **Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram:** (*a*) Arising out of the answer to my question No. 2461* put in the Council on 23rd March 1923, will Government please state—

(*i*) Whether the recommendations of local officers as to the proportion of seats to be allotted to different communities on the Kamalia Municipal Committee have yet been received;

(*ii*) Whether any decision has been made by Government?

(*b*) Will Government consider the advisability of allotting four seats to Hindus, three seats to Muhammadans and one seat to the Sikhs?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain: (*a*) *i* and (*ii*) Yes.

(*b*) Government have on the basis of population as modified by the voting strength allotted three seats to *Muslims* and four seats to Hindus (including Sikhs and others). The entire number of Sikhs in Kamalia is only 316 out of a total population of 8,916.

CHOS ACT.

2578. **Mian Beli Ram:** (*a*) With reference to the answer to my question No. 2435† at the meeting of the Council on 20th March 1923, will the Government be pleased to state whether the Commissioner of Jullundur has submitted any report regarding the Siwalik hills and Chos in the Hoshiarpur district; if so, whether any action has been taken thereon; if so, what; and if not, what action the Government proposes to take on it?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to reverse the policy of the Act named the Punjab Land Preservation (Chos) Act, 1900, and to substitute a new law keeping intact the rights of owners and providing means of preserving, protecting and improving the area on popular lines with the co-operation of the people concerned? If so, will the Government be pleased to indicate when they will take action in this direction?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia: (*a*) The report of the Commissioner has been received, and Government has appointed a Committee to consist of the Deputy Commissioner, Hoshiarpur, as Chairman, the honourable member himself and Mr. L. B. Holland, Deputy Conservator of Forests, as members to consider the workin of the Chos Act.

(*b*) Pending receipt of the report of the Committee, Government is unable to indicate in what direction action may be taken.

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*Vol. IV, page 1524.
†Vol. IV, page 1447.

SHAH NAHR.

2579. Mian Beli Ram: With reference to the answers to questions Nos. 2436 and 2437* at the Council meeting of 20th March 1923, has Government received any recommendations or proposal from local authorities to improve the present Shah Nahr of the Dasuya Tahsil or to construct a new canal instead in order to extend irrigation and make it available throughout the year? If not, will Government be pleased to take some action as suggested in my question No. 1812 of the 11th August 1922 at an early date?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia: Owing to other engagements of an urgent nature the Deputy Commissioner has not been able to report. His report is still awaited.

PANCHAYATS IN THE HOSHIARPUR DISTRICT.

2580. Mian Beli Ram: Has Government been pleased to take any action to give effect to the Panchayat Act in the Hoshiarpur district and if so, what action has been taken?

(*b*) When did Government call for proposals to establish panchayats in the Hoshiarpur district and what has been done by the local authorities in this matter?

(*c*) Will Government be pleased to expedite the establishment of panchayats in places where people demand it?

(*d*) Is it a fact that the members of the District Board of the Hoshiarpur district in their address to His Excellency and in reply to a question by the Honourable Minister for Education stated that the establishment of panchayats is likely to prove popular and useful?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain: (*a*) Commissioners were asked to submit proposals for the establishment of panchayats in selected villages of the districts of their Divisions at the end of July 1922. As a result proposals for the establishment of 59 panchayat villages in Hoshiarpur were notified in Punjab Government notifications Nos. 32894-5, dated the 27th December 1922. The question of confirming these proposals is now under consideration. The numbers have now been reduced to fifty-five.

(*b*) Does not arise.

(*c*) All cases will be considered on their merits.

(*d*) Yes.

ENFORCEMENT OF THE PANCHAYAT ACT IN THE PROVINCE.

2581. Mian Beli Ram: Is it a fact that in some districts local authorities have recommended that the Punjab Panchayat Act should not be enforced? If so, what are their reasons for such a recommendation?

(*b*) If not, will Government be pleased to explain the delay in the establishment of panchayats in some of the districts?

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* Vol. IV, page 1447.

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain: (*a*) Yes only in Attock and Shahpur. The reasons are the local conditions and the wishes of the people of these districts.

(*b*) Does not arise.

DEARTH OF WATER IN CERTAIN PARTS OF THE HOSHIARPUR DISTRICT.

2582. Mian Beli Ram: Is it a fact that there is a great dearth of water in certain parts of the Hoshiarpur district? If so, will Government be pleased to have a scheme drawn up and means provided to remove this dearth?

(*b*) Will Government be pleased to call for a report from the Deputy Commissioner on the subject?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia: As suggested in part (*b*) of the question a report has been called for from the local authorities. This report has not yet been received and pending its receipt an answer to part (*a*) cannot be given.

COMMUNAL REPRESENTATION IN THE PUNJAB POLICE.

2583. Rai Bahadur Lala Panna Lal: (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the total number of appointments made in the sergeants, sub-inspectors and inspectors' grades during the last five years and the proportion of Hindus and Muhammadans in such appointments?

(*b*) Are these appointments made on communal basis? If so, what percentage is allowed to the Hindus?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: It is understood that the question relates to direct appointments.

(*a*) The following statement gives the information asked for—

Rank.	No. of direct appointments made during the past 5 years.	Hindus.	Sikhs.	Muhammadans.	Europeans, Anglo-Indians.
Inspectors ...	4	1	2	1	...
Sergeants ...	17	...	...	...	17
Sub-Inspectors	153	39	39	75	...

(*b*) Direct appointments to the ranks of Inspector and Sub-Inspector are not made on a communal basis, but in actual practice roughly one-half of

such appointments usually fall to the lot of Hindus and Sikhs and one-half to Muhammadans.

2584. *Cancelled.*

TERMINAL TAX IN AMBALA.

2585. **Rai Bahadur Lala Panna Lal:** (*a*) Is it a fact that the terminal tax has recently taken the place of octroi in Ambala City?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to direct the introduction of terminal tax at Ambala Cantonment as well?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Not unless the Cantonment Committee recommend the introduction of a terminal tax.

REMISSION IN THE TERM OF IMPRISONMENT OF LALA RAM PARSHAD.

2586. **Rai Bahadur Lala Panna Lal:** (*a*) Is it a fact that under the old Jail Rules Lala Ram Parshad of Shahabad, District Karnal, formerly editor of *Bande Mataram*, should have been released by this time?

(*b*) Is it a fact that Lala Ram Parshad is in a very delicate state of health at the present time?

(*c*) Will the Government be pleased to state why the benefit of Jail Rules remission in the term of imprisonment has not been given to Lala Ram Parshad?

(*d*) Will the Government kindly give him that benefit now and release him on account of his bad health?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: (*a*) The reference to "Old Jail Rules" is not understood.

(*b*) No.

(*c*) The prisoner is undergoing simple imprisonment and is, therefore, not under the Remission Rules.

(*d*) Ram Parshad is not entitled to any remission under the rules unless he elects to labour. As his health is good, the question of release on account of ill-health does not arise.

ACCOUNTS OF THE SOLAR ECLIPSE FAIRS AT KURKSHETRA.

2587. **Rai Bahadur Lala Panna Lal:** (*a*) Is it a fact that the Punjab Government has consented to transfer the balance of receipts of the last Solar Eclipse Fairs at Kurkshetra to the Kurkshetra Restoration Society?

(*b*) If so, has this balance been handed over to the Society? If not, when does the Government intend to do so?

(*c*) Will the Government be pleased to get the Solar Eclipse Fairs accounts properly checked before handing over the balance to the Kurkshetra Restoration Society?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain: I regret that the answer to this question is not yet ready. It will be communicated to the honourable member when ready.

ACCOUNTS OF THE SOLAR ECLIPSE FAIRS AT KURKSHETRA.

2588. Rai Bahadur Lala Panna Lal: (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table the total receipts and expenditure of the last Solar Eclipse Fairs at Kurkshetra under different heads?

(*b*) Is it a fact that one of the items of expenditure is the purchase of dry grass bundles?

(*c*) Is it a fact that this grass was purchased to cover the muddy approaches of the bathing *ghats*?

(*d*) Is it a fact that the Kurkshetra Restoration Society in its printed report definitely stated that no such grass was scattered on those approaches?

(*e*) If so, will the Government be pleased to enquire into the matter and state all the facts about the purchase and consumption of this dry grass?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain: I regret that the answer to this question is not yet ready. It will be communicated to the honourable member when ready.

SUMMER VACATION IN SCHOOLS.

2589. Rai Bahadur Lala Panna Lal: (*a*) Is it a fact that several Headmasters' Associations in the province have expressed the opinion that the summer vacation in schools should not be less than two months' duration?

(*b*) If so, has the Government considered this suggestion? If so, with what results?

(*c*) If the matter be still under the consideration of the Government, will the Government be pleased to sanction this proposal?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain:

(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) & (*c*) The matter is under consideration.

GRANT-IN-AID FOR THE HIGH DEPARTMENT OF THE D. A.-V. HIGH SCHOOL, SHAHABAD.

2590. Rai Bahadur Lala Panna Lal: (*a*) Is it a fact that the authorities of the D. A.-V. High School, Shahabad, District Karnal, have been applying for grant-in-aid for the High Department for the last 2 or 3 years?

(*b*) If so, will the Government be pleased to state why the grant has not been sanctioned so far?

(*c*) If the reason for refusal be based upon the present financial stringency, will the Government be pleased to re-appropriate funds for this purpose from some other head of expenditure, such as expenditure on educational buildings?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain:

(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The school was only provisionally recognised in its high department in July, 1922, and ordinarily, an application for grant-in-aid is not considered until permanent recognition is accorded. The school receives grant-in-aid in respect to its middle department.

(*c*) It is regretted that no money is available for re-appropriation for this purpose.

HEADMASTERS OF AIDED SCHOOLS AND AWARDS OF TITLES, ETC.

2591. Rai Bahadur Lala Panna Lal: (*a*) Is it a fact that Headmasters of the aided high schools are given a very slight share in the honours and other awards of the Government?

(*b*) Is it a fact that under a recent circular of the Government every head of office is entitled to the distinction of a divisional durbari?

(*c*) Is it a fact that even this official recognition is not extended to the headmasters of the Aided High Schools in spite of their getting more salary and having higher educational qualifications?

(*d*) Will Government be pleased to consider the claims of old and experienced headmasters of aided schools in making their future recommendations for titles and other Government awards?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain:

(*a*) This is a matter of opinion.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) The circular referred to in part (*b*) of the question related only to Government servants and is not therefore applicable to headmasters of Aided High Schools.

(*d*) The suggestion will be considered by Government.

VOCATIONAL TRAINING IN THE PROVINCE.

2592. Rai Bahadur Lala Panna Lal: (*a*) Will Government be pleased to state the steps it has taken to promote vocational training in the province during the last three years?

(*b*) Will it please specify the branches of training so far tackled?

(*c*) Is it a fact that commercial centres have been started at different places to impart this training to a group of schools located in that place?

(*d*) If so, in how many places such commercial centres have been started and how far has this experiment succeeded?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain:

(*a*) The following statement shows how in practice these principles have been carried out.

(*b*) Agricultural, Commercial, Industrial and Manual training.

(*c*) & (*d*) Yes, at ten places. It is hoped to start three more in the near future. A successful start has been made.

Statement showing the measures taken for promoting Vocational Training in the Punjab during the past three years.

Agriculture.	Manual Training.	Industrial Training.	Commercial Training.
MULTAN DIVISION.			
Agriculture is being taught in most of the high schools and small farms attached to the Bar Khalsa High School and the Zamindara Islamia High School, Dasuha, in Lyallpur District. No high school centres have yet been organised.	Multan Government High School Lyallpur Normal School. Jhang Normal School. * Dera Ghazi Khan. * Chiniot.	Leiah Bharatri High School (Ivory Turning),* Multan.	Government Commercial Centres at Lyallpur, Jhang and †Multan.
Satiana ... Lyallpur District. Khurrianwala ... Lyallpur District. Chak No. 379-J. B. ... Lyallpur District. * Ram Dewali ... Lyallpur District.			
Ahmadpur Sial ... Jhang District. Kot Shakir ... Jhang District. * Lalian ... Jhang District.			
Gugera Sadr ... Multan District. Jandraka ... Multan District. * Mailsi ... Multan District. Qadirpur Ram ... Multan District.			

Kot Sultan ... } Muzaffargarh District.			
* Jatoi ... }			
Fazilpur ... } Dera Ghazi Khan District.			
* Choti ... }			

AMBALA DIVISION.

Muslim High School, Sadhaura. The proposal for starting Agricultural Centre by Government at Ambala and Rohtak has been postponed for the present for want of funds.	Simla.	Joti Parshad Mealagan Centre, Jagadhri.	Government Commercial centres at Ambala, Rohtak, Rewari, Jagadhri, Simla and Hissar.
	† Hissar.		Gaur Brahman High School, Rohtak, Anglo-Sanskrit High School, Pundri, Government High School, Karnal.
	* Panipat (Karnal District).		Municipal Board High School, Kaithal.
	* Bevi (Rohtak District).		Hindu-Muhammadan High School, Ambala.
Gharaunda ... } Karnal District.	* Rohtak.		Benarsi Das High School, Ambala.
Patti Kalyana ... }			C. A.-V. High School, Hissar.
Kharar ... } Ambala District.			Jat Hero Memorial High School, Rohtak.
Naraingarh ... }			
Mani Mazra ... }			
Khar Khaunda ... } Rohtak District.			
* Murthal ... }			
* Madina ... }			
* Sisla ... }			
Nuh ... } Gurgaon District.			
* Punhana ... }			

* Proposals under consideration.
† Likely to be opened in the near future.

Statement showing the measures taken for promoting Vocational Training in the Punjab during the past three years—continued.

Agriculture.	Manual Training.	Industrial Training.	Commercial Training.
	LAHORE DIVISION.		
Khalsa Anglo-vernacular Middle School, Naushahra Panwan, District Amritsar.	Central Model School, Lahore		Central Model School, Lahore.
Jandiala ... Amritsar District.	Dyal Singh School, Lahore.		D. A.-V. High School, Lahore.
Patti ... Lahore District.	Khalsa College, Amritsar.		Islamia High School, No. 1, Lahore.
Kalanaur ...	*Government Manual Training Centres.*		Islamia High School, No. 2, Lahore.
Kot Naina ...	Lahore.		Khalsa High School, Lahore.
Sujanpur ... Gurdaspur District.	Gujranwala		Sanatan Dharm High School, Lahore.
Harchowal ...	* Batala		Mission High School, Lahore.
Gaklar ...	* Amritsar.		Government D. A.-V., Mission, M. L. O., P. B. N. and Hindu Sabha Schools, Amritsar.
Naushera ... Gujranwala District.			G. T. B. Khalsa School, Baba Bakala.
Yirkan ...			T. I. High School, Qadian.
			Scotch Mission High School, Sialkot.
			Khalsa High School, Gujranwala.

JULLUNDUR DIVISION.

Ludhiana, Ferozepore, Jullundur and Hoshiarpur (High School Centres)—		Government High School, Jullundur ...	Jullundur ...	Government Centres.
		*Ludhiana	Hoshiarpur ...	
		Mahilpur	Moga ...	
Dasuya	Hoshiarpur District.	Hariana	Jullundur ...	Private Schools.
Chutala		Muktsar	Hoshiarpur ...	
Mahilpur		Zira	Ludhiana ...	
Kot Abdul Khaliq		Dharmkot	Ferozepore ...	
		Kot Abdul Khaliq		
Adampur	Jullundur District.			
*Nawanshahr				
Baddowal	Ludhiana District.			
Sawaddi				
Moga Mission School ...	Ferozepore District.			
Jalalabad				
*Butter				
*Patto Hira Singh ...				
Palampur	Kangra District.			

*Proposals under consideration.

Statement showing the measures taken for promoting Vocational Training in the Punjab during the past three years—concluded.

Agriculture.	Manual Training.	Industrial Training.	Commercial Training.
	RAWALPINDI DIVISION.		
Sargodha	Rawalpindi	Sargodha (proposed to teach Carpentry, Tailoring and Weaving).	Government, Denny, D. A.-V., and Khalsa High Schools, Rawalpindi.
Shahpur	Gujrat.		(*) Sanatan Dharm, Gujrat.
Gujrat.			

(*) Likely to be opened in the near future.

REMOVAL OF HINDU IMAGES FROM THE GOLDEN TEMPLE, AMRITSAR.

2593. Rai Bahadur Lala Panna Lal: (*a*) Is it a fact that certain Hindu images have been recently removed by the *Akalis* from the Golden Temple, Amritsar?

(*b*) If so, will the Government be pleased to state if it contemplates taking any action in the matter?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: (*a*) Government is not aware that Hindu images have been recently removed by the *Akalis* from the Golden Temple, Amritsar. If, however, the honourable member's question refers to the recent demolition of *Samadhs* (Mausoleums, Cenotaphs), it is a fact that one *Samadh* has been removed from the precincts of the Golden Temple and several from the precincts of Baba Atal, a shrine separate from but adjoining the Golden Temple.

(*b*) Government has always been prepared to afford the custodians of these *Samadhs* such protection as the law permits. The custodian of one important *Samadh*, which has escaped demolition, applied for and received protection. The custodians of the demolished *Samadhs* have intimated to the local authorities that official action is not desired.

ELECTED ELEMENT IN THE SIMLA MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE.

2594. Rai Bahadur Lala Panna Lal: (*a*) Has Government received any representation from the people of Simla protesting against the inadequate elected element in the Simla Municipal Committee?

(*b*) If so, will the Government be pleased to place Simla on an equal footing with other municipalities in this respect?

(*c*) If the answer to (*b*) be in the negative, will the Government be pleased to state the reasons why Simla is excluded from the operation of the principles embodied in the Report on Indian Constitutional Reforms about Local Self-Government?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain: (*a*) No representation has come to Government from the general public of Simla. Representations have, however, been received from Associations claiming to represent particular interests, *i.e.*, (1) one from "Association of House Owners and Tax-payers" signed by Mr. Felix Goldstein and (2) one from "the Anglo-Indian and Domiciled European Association" signed by Mr. Martin.

(*b*) Simla is the summer capital of the Imperial as well as the Provincial Governments who have paramount interest in the place. Further, the population of Simla is very largely migratory and dependent on Government or its employees. Under the circumstances it is out of the question to assimilate Simla with other municipalities in the Punjab.

(*c*) It is not clear to which report the honourable member refers, and which are the principles he considers have been violated. An elected element has been introduced and the non-official element considerably strengthened, it is now not less than half the total strength of the Committee.

EDUCATION MINISTER'S TOURS.

2595. Rai Sahib Lala Thakar Das: (*a*) Will Government be pleased to state what places did the Honourable the Minister for Education visit during his tours since he assumed charge of the duties of his office?

(*b*) At which of these places addresses of welcome were presented to him by municipalities or district boards?

(*c*) Will Government be pleased to ascertain and state what sums of money were spent by the municipalities and district boards concerned on presenting the addresses of welcome and organising receptions or giving entertainments to the Honourable Minister?

Mr. A. Latif: A statement giving the names of the local bodies visited by the Honourable the Minister for Education in his tours and the other information asked for by the honourable member is laid on the table.

	Name of local body visited.	Whether address of welcome was presented or not.	Expenditure incurred, the thing on which incurred, if not on address.	Remarks.
			Rs. A. P.	
	1921.			
1	District Board, Ludhiana ...	No	*Nil* ...	
2	District Board, Gujrat ...	No	*Nil* ...	
3	Notified Area, Dhariwal ...	No	*Nil* ...	
4	District Board, Lyallpur ...	Yes	*Nil* ...	
5	Municipal Committee, Multan.	Yes	16 0 0 ...	
	1923.			
1	District Board, Gurgaon ...	No	*Nil* ...	
2	Municipal Committee, Jullundur.	Wanted to present an address but Honourable Minister for Education declined to receive it.	4 2 0 On printing the address on cloth.	
3	District Board, Jullundur...	No	*Nil* ...	
4	Municipal Committee, Gujranwala.	No	*Nil* ...	
5	District Board, Gujranwala	No	*Nil* ...	

S. No.	Name of local body visited.	Whether address of welcome was presented or not.	Expenditure incurred, the thing on which incurred, if not on address.				Remarks.
				1923—*concluded.*			
			Rs.	A.	P.		
6	District Board, Sheikhupura	No	196	0	0	On a garden party given to Honourable Minister for Education,	The total cost of the party was Rs. 346, out of which Rs. 250 was contributed by Raja Fateh Singh.
7	Municipal Committee, Sialkot	No	*Nil*				
8	District Board, Sialkot	No	*Nil*				
9	District Board, Attock	No	*Nil*				
10	District Board, Rawalpindi	No	*Nil*				
11	Municipal Committee, Jhelum.	No	79	3	6	For organising reception of Honourable Minister for Education.	
12	District Board, Jhelum	No	606	0	0	On an 'At Home' to Honourable Minister for Education.	
13	District Board, Shahpur	Yes	52	12	0		
14	District Board, Mianwali	No	*Nil*				
15	Municipal Committee, Montgomery.	No	58	6	0	Rs. 33-8-0 on an ornamental door for reception and Rs. 24 on sweetmeats distributed among boys of schools.	
16	District Board, Montgomery	No	*Nil*				
17	Municipal Committee, Muzaffargarh.	Yes	49	0	0	On address and organising reception.	
18	District Board, Muzaffargarh.	Yes	54	0	0	Ditto ditto	
19	District Board, Jhang	No	447	0	0	On an entertainment of Hon'ble Minister for Education.	
20	District Board, Multan	Yes	434	0	0	On address and decoration.	
21	District Board, Dera Ghazi Khan.	Yes	*Nil*				

RESIGNATION OF CERTAIN MEMBERS OF THE LAHORE MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE.

2596. Rai Sahib Lala Thakar Das: (*a*) Is it a fact that all Sikh, Indian Christian and Hindu members, both nominated and elected, of the Lahore Municipal Committee, with the exception of one Hindu member, who is in jail, have resigned their seats on the municipality; and that the committee now consists only of Muhammadans and a few Europeans?

(*b*) If so, what reasons were given by the resigning members for their aforesaid action?

(*c*) What action, if any, has the Government taken or proposes to take in the matter?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain: (*a*) There are the following vacancies on the Lahore Municipal Committee:—

ELECTED SEATES.

	Hindus.	*Muslims.*	*Sikhs.*	*Christians.*
Due to death ...	1	1	...	...
Due to resignation	6	...	1	3

The Committee now consists of 11 *Muslims*, 5 Christians (Indian and European), 1 Sikh, 1 Hindu, and 1 Parsee: 19 in all.

(*b*) A copy of the letter is laid on the table.

(*c*) The resignations were accepted, nominations have been made, and the question of holding bye-elections is under consideration—

We the undersigned members of the Municipal Committee of Lahore, wish to make our position clear with regard to the drastic change in the constitution of the Committee and the proceedings of the Municipality on Saturday last when this question was taken up.

2. We were told that the Government has issued orders whereby in future there would be 40 seats for Lahore of which 8 would be reserved for nomination by Government; of the remaining 32 seats for election 17 are allotted for Muhammadans, 11 for Hindus, 2 for Sikhs, 1 for European British Subjects and 1 for all the other communities. This intimation was sent to the Municipality and the latter was asked to divide the Municipal area into wards accordingly.

3. The Municipal Committee or the people of Lahore were never consulted at any stage as to this new constitution, nor has it been stated on what basis the re-allotment has been made. When the question came up in the General Committee on the 26th May 1923, Professor Ruchi Ram Sahni moved the following resolution:—

"That in view of the fact that the opinion of this Committee was never invited on the reconstitution of the Committee, and as the reconstitution actually proposed is utterly unfair and opposed to the interests of several communities and entirely inconsistent with the well recognised principles of representation as well as the general understanding between the several communities, this Committee respectfully dissociates itself with the carrying out of the proposal at any stage. The Committee further wishes to place on record its strongest possible protest against the manner in which the new scheme was introduced."

4. This resolution was most unjustifiably declared to be out of order by the President, because he felt certain it would have been carried that day if it had been allowed to be voted upon.

5. At the next meeting of the General Committee held on the 2nd June, the matter came up again and Professor Ruchi Ram Sahni moved the same resolution as on the previous occasion. Curiously enough this time the President entertained the resolution and did not rule it out of order, though it was the identical resolution which he had disallowed previously. This was obviously due to the fact that he had been strenuously canvassing meanwhile and was feeling sure of a majority.

6. On Professor Ruchi Ram's resolution being moved two other resolutions were moved, one by Rai Bahadur Amar Nath, which runs as follows :—

"In view of the fact that the opinion of this Committee was never invited on the question of reconstitution of the Committee and the constitution now made is utterly unfair to all non-*Muslim* communities, the question of distribution of seats should not be taken up by the Committee at this stage. The Committee requests the Government to reconsider the question in all its aspects, and the existing proportion of seats among the various communities be not disturbed" and the other by Khawaja Dil Mehammad, which was as follows :—

"The principle of communal representation having been recognised for about half a century with regard to the personnel of the Lahore Municipal Committee, but representation not having been given to the various communities according to their numbers, the representation recently fixed by the Government is a step in the right direction and it hopes that before long justice will be done to all the communities by giving them representation on populatin basis and by not reducing under any circumstances whatsoever the representation of a community in majority to the position of a minority or even equality as against the other communities."

7. It is clear that these two were irrelevant and could not be considered as amendments to the original resolution of Professor Ruchi Ram Sahni. When challenged, the President himself remarked that he considered them out of order.

8. Dr. Gopi Chand moved the last amendment, which was to the effect that the words from "and as the reconstitution ..... between the several communities" be omitted from Professor Ruchi Ram's resolution. When the time for voting came the President refused to take votes on the last amendment, *viz.*, that of Dr. Gopi Chand as he was bound to do under the bye-laws and proceeded, in spite of strong protests, to take votes on Khawaja Dil Muhammad's proposition which he had himself already declared to be out of order. The reasons for this are obvious. The proposition of Khawaja Dil Muhammad was declared carried by the casting vote of the President (who used both his votes in its favour). The European gentlemen whose support he succeeded in obtaining was gazetted a member only the previous week.

9. We consider that the conduct of the President throughout this matter has been entirely *mala fide*, unjustifiable and wilfully perverse, inspired

with a view to defeat the resolution of Professor Ruchi Ram and the amendment of Dr. Gopi Chand by fair means or foul. This is not the first occasion on which he has acted in this manner and there have been dozens of instances where he has set at naught all rules of procedure or even considerations of justice and fairplay simply to serve his own ends. He has acted like an autocrat, and if we did not take any action previously it was merely with a view to avoid friction as much as possible. But things have come to such a pass that it is no longer possible to overlook or pass in silence his seriously objectionable conduct as President of the Municipality.

10. We wish also to point out that our objection to the new constitution is not only in reference to the manner in which the change in the constitution has been brought about, but based on the fact that as regards the various communities concerned it infringes considerations of justice and equity which ought to be the main guiding factors in such matters. It at the same time is detrimental to the best interests of Municipal administration and efficiency.

11. Under these circumstances we feel compelled to tender our resignations and refuse to associate ourselves with the proceedings of the Municipality any further, as that is the only effective form of protest open to us.

(1) AMAR NATH.
(2) RUCHI RAM SAHNI.
(3) MILKHI RAM.
(4) GANPAT RAI.
(5) USHNAK RAI.
(6) B. L. HALLIA RAM.
(7) GOPI CHAND BHARGAVA.
(8) K. SANTANAM.
(9) HARI RAM.
(10) SUNDAR SINGH CHAWLA.
(11) I. J. ENGLES.
(12) RAMBHAJ DATTA CHAUDHRI.
(13) R. SIRAJ-UD-DIN.
(14) F. D. WARRIS.

ESTABLISHMENT OF *PANCHAYATS*.

2597. Rai Sahib Lala Thakar Das: Will Government be pleased to state at what places have panchayats been established under the Punjab Village Panchayat Act and how many cases have so far been decided by them?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain: I regret that the answer to this question is not yet ready. It will be communicated to the honourable member when ready.

DISTRIBUTION OF SEATS IN LOCAL BODIES.

2598. Rai Sahib Lala Thakar Das: Will the Government be leased to lay on the table a statement showing—

(*a*) the number of seats held by Hindus, Muhammadans, Sikhs and Indian Christians, respectively, in each municipality and district board as elected and nominated members in the beginning of the year 1920;

(*b*) the changes made or proposed to be made in the distribution of seats among the various communities in those local bodies during the Honourable Education Minister's tenure of office;

(*c*) the names of public bodies or individuals, both official and non-official, officially consulted by the Honourable Minister in deciding on those changes as well as the grounds on which those changes are based?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain: The honourable member's attention is invited to the recent statistics published by Government in the "Note on the reconstitution of the Municipal Committees and District Boards of the Punjab", a copy of which has already been forwarded to him. These statistics give in substance the information desired by him in respect of Hindus, *Muslims* and Sikhs. No figures have been collected for Indian Christians.

RELEASE OF PRISONERS WHO HAVE SERVED TWO-THIRDS OF THEIR SENTENCES.

2599. Rai Sahib Lala Thakar Das: Will Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) if it is a fact that Government is still releasing prisoners who have undergone two-thirds of their sentences? If not, why has the practice been discontinued?

(*b*) how many prisoners were released during the last twelve months after undergoing two-thirds of their sentences? Of these how many were political prisoners?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: (*a*) The reply to the first question is in the negative. The primary object of the system of releasing prisoners who had completed two-thirds of their sentences was to relieve the overcrowding in the jails, and the system was discontinued when that object had been achieved.

(*b*) The total number of prisoners released under the two-thirds rule is 2,095. This figure includes 1,036 Akalis *convicted of offences connected with the Guruka-Bagh affair.* The number of prisoners convicted of offences of a political nature, who were released under the rule, cannot be ascertained without undue expenditure of time and labour.

SEPARATE ACCOMMODATION FOR POLITICAL PRISONERS.

2600. Rai Sahib Lala Thakar Das: Will Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) what steps, if any, they have taken to carry out the resolution adopted by this Council at its last session regarding the accommodation of political prisoners in separate jails;

(*b*) what jails have been set apart for political prisoners and how many ordinary prisoners are kept in such jails;

(*c*) in which other jails political prisoners are kept?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: Reference is invited to entry No. 2 in Punjab Government notification No. 1876, dated 6th July 1923, which gives the required information.

REDUCTION IN THE AMOUNT OF PROVINCIAL CONTRIBUTION TO THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT.

2601. Rai Sahib Lala Thakar Das: Will Government be pleased to state what steps, if any, they have taken after the enhancement of salt tax by the Central Government to have the provincial contribution to the Central Government reduced?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: In June and September last the Punjab Government made a full representation of the financial position of the province to the Government of India, and asked that Government *inter alia* to consider the question of reducing the provincial contribution.

RELEASE OF *GURDWARA* AND *GURU-KA-BAGH* PRISONERS.

2602. Rai Sahib Lala Thakar Das: Will Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) what action, if any, they have taken in pursuance of the resolution passed by this Council at its last session recommending the release of *Gurdwara* and *Guru-ka-Bagh* prisoners;

(*b*) whether the prisoners convicted of offences arising out of *Akalis'* activities at *Guru-ka-Bagh* released on account of the services of other *Akalis* and the *Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee* during the Amritsar riots or on account of the resolution referred to above;

(*c*) to what extent is Government prepared to carry out the aforesaid resolution?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: The honourable member's attention is invited to the reply given by me in answer to Question No. 2490* put by Sardar Sangat Singh.

AGHA MUHAMMAD SAFDAR.

2603. Mian Muhammad Shah Nawaz: (*a*) Is it a fact that Agha Muhammad Safdar was convicted by Mr. Harris, Special Magistrate, Lahore, on 15th March 1922, on three different counts and sentenced to

* Vol. V, page 9.

undergo rigorous imprisonment for 9 months on each count, the sentences to run consecutively ?

(*b*) Is it a fact that the subject matter of the charge consisted of a poster and another communication issued by Agha Muhammad Safdar ?

(*c*) Is it a fact that the second and third counts in the charge were for one and the same article which was published in two different vernacular papers, *viz.*, the *Bande Mataram* and the *Partab* of Lahore with different head lines ?

(*d*) Is it a fact that in the opinion of the trial magistrate the fact of the different head lines given by the papers themselves was sufficient to constitute two different offences ?

(*e*) Is it a fact that Agha Muhammad Safdar did not defend himself and preferred no appeal against these convictions and sentences ?

(*f*) Will the Government be pleased to remit the sentence on the third count and release Agha Muhammad Safdar on the expiry of his sentence on the second count ?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: (*a*) The reply is in the affirmative, except that the sentence passed with regard to the second charge was of nine months' simple imprisonment.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) The second and third counts in the charge related to separate offences. The first and second counts were in respect of the same article published in two different newspapers on different dates and under different headings.

(*d*) The answer is in the affirmative.

(*e*) The answer is in the affirmative.

(*f*) The sentence on the third charge is to run before the sentence on the second charge. Government does not propose to remit any part of the sentence, nor has the convict made any request that this should be done.

SERICULTURE IN THE PUNJAB.

2604. Mr. Ganpat Rai: (*a*) What has been the scheme of Sericulture in the Punjab for the last five years and with what results ?

(*b*) Who is in charge of Sericulture ? What are his qualifications and grade ?

(*c*) Has anything been done in the way of reeling silk cocoons, if so, with what success ? If not, why ?

(*d*) Is the Government thinking of encouraging this industry in the Punjab ? If so, what steps are being taken ?

The Honourable Lala Harkishan Lal: (*b*) Mr. Muhammad Afzal Husain, Entomologist to Government, Punjab, in addition to his other duties is in charge of Sericulture under the control of the Director of Agriculture,

Punjab. He is M.Sc. (Punjab), and M.A. (Cantab.) and is a member of the Imperial Agricultural Service, his present pay being Rs. 700 per mensem.

(*a*), (*c*) and (*d*). A reference is invited to Part I of the Reports of the Department of Agriculture for the past five years and the Government reviews thereon where full information will be found both as to the policy of Government and as to the methods of the Department of Agriculture in encouraging Sericulture in the Province.

2605. *Cancelled.*

NON-*MUSLIM* MAJORITY IN MUNICIPALITIES.

2606. Mian Ahmad Yar Khan, Daultana: (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state the names of the municipalities and notified areas in which Hindus or other non-*Muslim* communities have a majority of seats?

(*b*) Since when such majority of seats is being enjoyed by them, and

(*c*) on what principle such majority of seats was given to them?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain: (*a*) As regards municipalities the honourable member is invited to peruse the exhaustive statistics recently published by Government with the Note on the reconstitution of the municipal committees and district boards of the Punjab of which a copy is laid on the table. Government have no information in respect of notified areas and do not think that the collection of such information would serve any useful purpose.

(*b*) As reconstitution is in progress it is impossible to collect up-to-date information as to the exact date on which any particular constitution was introduced, and in any case it is not thought that such information would be of value.

(*c*) The honourable member is referred to the Note cited in reply to part (*a*) of the question.

COMMUNAL REPRESENTATION IN MUNICIPALITIES ACCORDING TO POPULATION.

2607. Mian Ahmad Yar Khan, Daultana: Will the Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) the total population of all the municipal areas in the Punjab;

(*b*) the population of *Muslims*, Hindus, Sikhs and Christians respectively in the municipal areas;

(*c*) the number of *Muslim*, Hindu, Sikh and Christian Municipal Commissioners, respectively, in the Punjab?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain: (*a*) and (*c*). The honourable member's attention is invited to Table V of the 1921 Census Tables, which gives all the information he requires, a copy of which can be seen in the Council Library.

(*c*) The honourable member's attention is invited to Table IV of the Tables recently circulated to members of the Legislative Council regarding the reconstitution * of local bodies in the Punjab (a copy is laid on the table). This Table gives the information he requires in respect of Elected *Muslim*, Hindu and Sikh seats on municipal committees. No elected seats are specifically allotted to Christians except in Lahore, where there will be one seat for an European British subject and one for an Indian Christian. Figures showing the distribution of nominated members among communities are not for the present available.

SEPARATE COMMUNAL ELECTORATES IN THE GURDASPUR DISTRICT BOARD.

2608. Mian Ahmad Yar Khan, Daultana: (*a*) Is it a fact that the Gurdaspur District Board applied for separate electorates for each community in the district board constituencies?

(*b*) Is it a fact that Government have approved of mixed electorates in this district?

(*c*) If the answers to (*a*) and (*b*) are in the affirmative, will the Government be pleased to state the reasons for not complying with the wishes of the district board?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain: (*a*) The Deputy Commissioner proposed a system of communal electorates for the Gurdaspur District Board.

(*b*) The answer is in the affirmative.

(*c*) Government have for the present decided against the introduction of separate communal electorates for district boards and are not prepared to make an exception in the case of Gurdaspur. The results of the elections with open voting will be watched.

2609. *Cancelled.*

2610. *Cancelled.*

DISTRIBUTION OF SEATS IN THE LAHORE MUNICIPALITY.

2611. Mian Ahmad Yar Khan, Daultana: Is it a fact that Government proposes to reconsider their original proposal regarding the distribution of seats in the Lahore Municipal Committee on account of certain resignations in that committee?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain: The question does not now arise as the constitution has been finally notified.

SUPPLY OF BLANKETS TO PRISONERS IN JAILS.

2612. Rai Bahadur Lala Panna Lal: (*a*) Is it a fact that woollen blankets are issued to prisoners in Punjab Jails in the summer for the purposes of beds?

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* See Answer to Question No. 2606.

(*b*) Is it not a fact that the climatic condition of the Punjab in the summer renders such blankets entirely unsuitable for use in the season ?

(*c*) If so, will the Government be pleased to direct that some suitable substitute be used for blankets in the summer ?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) No. A careful experiment was tried some years ago and the results were as follows :—

(*i*) It was proved that prisoners used the bedding given them for lying upon or as pillows.

(*ii*) The sheets were used for covering purposes only when there was a lowering of temperature after rain and when a blanket was really needed.

(*iii*) The prisoners themselves inveighed against the use of sheets.

(*iv*) The expense was found to be considerable, and much destruction of Government property resulted.

A further experiment has been in force since May of this year, and at the conclusion of the hot weather a report is to be submitted to the Inspector-General of Prisons.

ALLOTMENT OF MAJORITY OF SEATS TO *MUSLIMS* IN CERTAIN MUNICIPALITIES.

2613. Mian Ahmad Yar Khan, Daultana : Will the Government be pleased to state the names of the municipalities in which *Muslims* would be entitled to a majority of seats according to their population ?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to state if in these municipalities the majority of seats have been given to the *Muslims* ?

(*c*) If not, does the Government propose to give the *Muslims* the majority of seats in the near future ?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : The attention of the honourable member is invited to the Note on the reconstitution of the Municipal Committees and District Boards of the Punjab with explanatory statistics recently circulated to Members of the Legislative Council. A copy is laid on the table).

ESTABLISHMENT OF SMALL TOWNS COMMITTEE AT DAIRA DIN PANAH.

2614. Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram : Will the Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) the population of Daira Din Panah, district Muzaffargarh ;

(*b*) whether there are any small villages known as 'bastis' attached to this town for the purposes of establishing there a small towns committee ;

(c) whether the Minister for Education has received any representation from the inhabitants of Daira Din Panah? If so, will the Government be pleased to order that no small towns committee be established there?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain: (a) 1,857.

(b) Yes.

(c) The answer to the first part of this question is yes. The local officers do not consider the objections raised to the proposal to establish a small town at Daira Din Panah to be of any weight, and Government agree in their view.

MUSLIM REPRESENTATION IN THE LAHORE MUNICIPALITY.

2615. **Mian Ahmad Yar Khan, Daultana:** (a) Will the Government be pleased to name the municipalities in which the Hindus, *Muslims*, Christians or Sikhs have less number of seats than (i) their population and (ii) their population modified by voting strength would entitle them to?

(b) Is it a fact that the *Muslims* of Lahore are entitled to 58 per cent. of seats in the Municipality according to population?

(c) Is it a fact that the Government proposes to give them 50 per cent. seats only?

(d) If the answers to (b) and (c) are in the affirmative, will the Government be pleased to state the reasons for proposing to give a smaller percentage of seats than their population will entitle them to?

(e) Will the Government be pleased to consider the desirability of giving the Lahore *Muslims* the full share in the Municipality to which they are entitled according to population?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain: (a), (d) and (e). The honourable member is referred to the Note on the reconstitution of the Municipal Committees and District Boards of the Punjab. Separate figures for Christians are not available.

(b) No. They are entitled to 54·7 per cent. of the elected seats on the basis of population.

(c) No. 53 per cent.

COMMUNAL REPRESENTATION IN MUNICIPALITIES.

2616. **Mian Ahmad Yar Khan, Daultana:** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state the names of the local bodies in which non-*Muslims* have applied for the application of communal representation?

(b) Will the Government be pleased also to state the basis on which they have claimed communal representation?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain: I regret that the answer to this question is not yet ready. It will be communicated to the honourable member when ready.

RELEASE OF MUHAMMAD MUZAFFAR OF OCHALA, TAHSIL KHUSHAB.

2617. Sayad Ghulam Muhammad Shah: (*a*) Is it a fact that a man named Muhammad Muzaffar of Ochala, Tahsil Khushab, has been in prison since April 1922?

(*b*) If so, will the Government be pleased to state the offence for which he was imprisoned?

(*c*) Will the Government be pleased to consider the desirability of releasing him?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: I regret that the answer to this question is not yet ready. It will be communicated to the honourable member when ready.

NEW POLICE POST AT OCHALA AND MARDOWAL.

2618. Sayad Ghulam Muhammad Shah: (*a*) Is it a fact that in the villages of Ochala and Mardowal a new police post has been established?

(*b*) Is it a fact that the old police post of Nowshera is about 2½ or 3 miles distant from Ochala and Mardowal?

(*c*) If so, where was the necessity for establishing a new police post within such a small distance?

(*d*) Will the Government be pleased to consider the desirability of abolishing the new police post at Ochala and Mardowal?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: (*a*) Yes a separate punitive post has been imposed on each of the villages.

(*b*) The Police Station, Nowshera, is 4 miles from Mardowal and 5 miles from Uchala, which are 2 miles apart in hilly country with bad roads.

(*c*) Ochala and Mardowal are very lawless villages which could not be controlled by the small punitive post at Nowshera.

Mardowal has the closest relations with Ochala and has much the same record save that it tried to kill a recruiting party in war time. Later it set up its own cattle pond and national school.

Convictions are hard to obtain, but in the two villages the percentage of convictions to population is 2·2 and 2·6, *i.e.*, roughly every fourth male adult has been in jail.

(*d*) Government is not prepared to abolish the posts at present.

2619. *Cancelled.*

2620. *Cancelled.*

MUNICIPAL AND DISTRICT BOARD FRANCHISE.

2621. Chaudhri Kharak Singh: (*a*) Is it a fact that under the new electoral rules all persons qualified to vote in municipal elections are also entitled to vote in district board elections?

(*b*) Is it a fact that no such concession has been given to district board voters (rural voters) to vote in municipal elections ?

(*c*) If the answer to (*a*) and (*b*) be in the affirmative, will Government kindly give the reasons for this differentiation ?

(*d*) Will Government kindly see its way to make the rule uniform by granting the concession to the rural voters to vote in municipal elections or by withholding the same from (*a*) ?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : The honourable member has not been correctly informed, but the Government presume that he is referring to rule 2 (1) (*c*) of the District Board franchise rules published with Punjab Government notification No. 16723, dated the 1st June 1922, under which certain urban voters could qualify for the District Board franchise. As this clause has now been cancelled by Punjab Government notification No. 22834, dated 24th September 1923, the remainder of his question does not arise.

2622. *Cancelled.*

RESOLUTIONS BY NON-OFFICIAL MEMBERS AND STANDING COMMITTEES.

2623. Mr. K. L. Rallia Ram : (*a*) Will Government be pleased to state the reasons which led them to put my resolution regarding the desirability of having common electorate with fixed number of seats for different communities, which has been admitted for the next session, before the last meeting of the Standing Committee on Local Self-Government ?

(*b*) Will Government be pleased to state if it is customary to place resolutions by non-official members before the various Standing Committees concerned before their discussion by the Council ? If so, will Government be pleased to give the number of resolutions which have been treated in the same way ?

(*c*) Is it a fact that the opinion of the aforesaid Standing Committee on my resolution has been published in the press ?

(*d*) Will Government be prepared to put a stop to this practice in future in order not to prejudice the merits of a resolution before its discussion ?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : (*a*) The Standing Committees exist for the purpose of advising Government on all matters in their province where their advice is considered necessary or useful. The resolution in question was referred to the Standing Committee on Local Self-Government so that its advice might help Government to decide on the attitude they should adopt in regard to it in the Council.

(*b*) The reply to the first part of the question is yes. At least three such resolutions have been referred to the Standing Committee on Public Health within the last two years. An enquiry into the number of such resolutions referred to all the Standing Committees since they came into existence has not been considered necessary.

(*c*) The opinion of the Standing Committee was published in the *Punjab Government Gazette* From there it was probably copied by some newspapers.

(*d*) Government regret their inability to accept the suggestion. They are of opinion that the advice of a Standing Committee should not be a hindrance but rather a help in the discussion of any question in the Legislative Council.

COMMUNAL REPRESENTATION IN MUNICIPALITIES AND RESIGNATION OF HINDU AND *MUSLIM* MEMBERS.

2624. Mian Ahmad Yar Khan, Daultana: Will the Honourable the Minister for Education be pleased to state the number of municipal committees in the Punjab in which under the new scheme of communal proportionate representation—

(*a*) Hindus have been given or are proposed to be given a majority of or equality in the number of seats;

(*b*) Musalmans have been given or are proposed to be given a majority of or equality in the number of seats;

(*c*) *Muslim* members have resigned by reason of the Hindu majority of or equality in the number of seats, and

(*d*) Hindu members have resigned because of the *Muslim* majority of or equality in the number of seats?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain: (*a*) and (*b*). The honourable member's attention is invited to paragraph 6 of the note recently circulated to members of the Legislative Council regarding the reconstitution of local bodies in the Punjab.

(*c*) *Nil.*

(*d*) Government have so far information of only four such Committees.

2625. *Cancelled.*

HINDU-*MUSLIM* DIFFERENCES AND PRESIDENTSHIP OF MUNICIPALITIES.

2626. Mian Ahmad Yar Khan, Daultana: Will the Government be pleased to name the municipalities in which—

(*a*) Hindus have asked for an official President in place of a non-official Muhammadan President, and

(*b*) *Muslims* have asked for an official President in place of non-official non-*Muslim* President?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain: No such *request* has reached the Government either from Hindu or *Muslim* members of a municipality. A *suggestion* to that effect was received from a Hindu member.

CONSTITUTION OF SMALL TOWNS COMMITTEES.

2627. Mian Ahmad Yar Khan, Daultana: Will Government be pleased to state whether in the matter of the constitution of Small

Towns Committees recommendations of local officers have been received, and, if so, whether they have been considered, and, if considered, whether they have been accepted or rejected ?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : The reply to the first and second parts of the question is " yes ".

The reply to the third part is that the greater number of these recommendations have been rejected.

COMMUNAL REPRESENTATION AMONG STUDENTS IN THE TECHNICAL COLLEGE, MOGHULPURA.

2628. Mian Ahmad Yar Khan, Daultana : (*a*) Is it a fact that a Technical College has been opened in Moghalpura ? If so, is it a fact that only those students who have passed the F. Sc. Examination can be admitted to that College ?

(*b*) Will Government be pleased to consider the advisability of directing the authorities concerned to admit to the said institution at least 50 per cent. *Musalman* students (preferably agriculturists) who possess the requisite qualifications ?

The Honourable Lala Harkishan Lal : (*a*) The Technical College at Moghalpura was opened on the 1st of October 1923. There are two classes of students admitted to this college (*i*) those who wish to be trained as engineers and (*ii*) those who wish to be trained as mechanics. The qualifications required for admission are shown in the prospectus* which is placed on the table.

(*b*) The students are at present selected on their educational and physical qualifications. Some preference is given to the sons of engineers, mechanics and artizans. It is not proposed at present to admit students on a communal basis.

NUMBER OF STUDENTS AND COST OF EDUCATION PER PUPIL IN VERNACULAR SCHOOLS.

2629. Mian Ahmad Yar Khan, Daultana : (*i*) Will Government be pleased to state the number of pupils who were receiving education in vernacular schools in the province—

(*a*) in the year 1921-22, and

(*b*) in the year 1922-23 ?

(*ii*) Will Government be pleased to state whether the increase in the number of students receiving education in the vernacular schools during the year 1922-23 has cost the same amount per pupil as was being spent per pupil in 1920-21 ?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain :

NUMBER OF PUPILS.

(*i*)	1921-22	...	...	423,397 pupils.
	1922-23	...	...	532,642 ,,

*Not printed.

AVERAGE COST PER PUPIL.

	Rs.	A.	P.
(*ii*) 1920-21	11	9	6
1922-23	10	3	0

* In calculating these figures, boys and girls are included; and also pupils in vernacular middle as well as primary schools.

COMMUNAL REPRESENTATION IN IMPERIAL, PROVINCIAL AND SUBORDINATE EDUCATIONAL SERVICES.

2630. Mian Ahmad Yar Khan, Daultana: Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the number of Hindus, Sikhs, Muhammadans and others on the 1st January 1921 and 1st September 1923 in the following services in the Punjab :—

(*a*) I. E. S.
(*b*) P. E. S.
(*c*) S. E. S., 1st grade, Rs. 200—550.
(*d*) S. E. S., 2nd grade, Rs. 140—190.
(*e*) S. E. S., 3rd grade, Rs. 110—125.

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain: The required statement is laid on the table:—

(*a*) I. E. S.

Name of community.	*No. on 1st January 1921.*	*No. on 1st September 1923.*
Hindus	3	6
Muhammadans	1	3
Sikhs	1	1
Christians	21	22

(*b*) P. E. S.

Hindus	40	39
Muhammadans	20	24
Sikhs	8	9
Christians	4	5

(*c*) S. E. S., A.-V. SECTION AND CLASSICAL AND VERNACULAR SECTION. CLASS I (Rs. 200—10—250).

Name of community.	*1st January 1921.*	*1st September 1923.*
Hindus	19	15
Muhammadans	7	9
Sikhs	3	5
Christians	2	1

(*d*) Class II (Rs. 140—10—190).

Name of community.	*1st January 1921.*	*1st September 1923.*
Hindus	56	50
Muhammadans	19	32
Sikhs	4	9
Christians	...	1

(*e*) Class III (Rs. 110—5—135).

Hindus	63	76
Muhammadans	53	59
Sikhs	16	24
Christians	3	2

COMMUNAL REPRESENTATION IN IMPERIAL, PROVINCIAL AND SUBORDINATE MEDICAL SERVICES.

2631. Mian Ahmad Yar Khan, Daultana: Will Government be pleased to state the number of Hindus, Muhammadans, Sikhs and others on the 1st January 1921 and 1st September 1923 in the following services in the Punjab :—

(*a*) Indian Medical Service,

(*b*) Assistant Surgeons,

(*c*) Sub-Assistant Surgeons ?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain: I regret that the answer to this question is not yet ready. It will be communicated to the honourable member when ready.

COMMUNAL REPRESENTATION AMONG NON-OFFICIAL CHAIRMEN OF MUNICIPAL COMMITTEES.

2632. Mian Ahmad Yar Khan, Daultana: Will Government be pleased to state the number of non-official chairmen in the municipal committees of the Punjab ? How many of them are Muhammadans and how many other than Muhammadans ?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain: There are 52 non-official Presidents, and out of these 22 are Muhammadans and 30 of other denominations, *i.e.*, 26 Hindus, 3 Sikhs and 1 Christian.

ADDRESSES PRESENTED TO THE HONOURABLE THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND HIS REPLIES THERETO.

2633. Mian Ahmad Yar Khan, Daultana: Will Government be pleased to lay on the table the addresses presented to the Honourable the Minister for Education by local bodies and other public institutions in his tours in 1923 and his replies thereto ?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain: The required information as far as available is laid on the table.* Copies of the addresses presented to and the replies delivered by Honourable Minister for Education at Sialkot, Sargodha and Jhang are laid on the table. The copies of addresses presented by the Meos of Gurgaon and the Anjuman Islamia of Shiekhupura are also laid on the table. Replies to these were given verbally and are not on record.

COMMUNAL REPRESENTATION IN IMPERIAL AND PROVINCIAL SERVICES IN THE P. W. D. AND FOREST DEPARTMENTS.

2634. Mian Ahmad Yar Khan, Daultana: Will Government be pleased to state the number of Hindus, Muhammadans, Sikhs and others on 1st January 1921 and 1st September 1923 in the following services in the Punjab :—

(1) Indian Service of Engineers, Buildings and Roads Branch—

(*a*) Permanent.

(*b*) Temporary.

(2) Provincial Service, Public Works Department, Buildings and Roads Branch—

(*a*) Permanent.

(*b*) Temporary.

(3) Indian Service of Engineers in the Irrigation Department—

(*a*) Permanent.

(*b*) Temporary.

(4) Provincial Service, Irrigation Department—

(*a*) Permanent.

(*b*) Temporary.

(5) Imperial Service, Forest Department—

(*a*) Permanent.

(*b*) Temporary.

(6) Provincial Service, Forest Department—

(*a*) Permanent.

(*b*) Temporary.

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia: Nos. (5) and (6) above. The Classified Lists of Forest Officers in the Punjab for 1st January 1921 and 1st July 1923, which will give the required information are laid on the table. The information for 1st September 1923 will be published in the list for 1st January 1924, but it will hardly reveal any great difference and, if desired, can be made available separately.

*Not printed.

COMMUNAL REPRESENTATION AMONGST ASSISTANT ENGINEERS.

2635. Mian Ahmad Yar Khan, Daultana: Will Government be pleased to state how many Assistant Engineers have been appointed by the Punjab Government during the year 1922-23 and state how many of them are Europeans, Muhammadans, Hindus, Sikhs and others, respectively?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia: Fourteen Temporary Assistant Engineers were appointed of which :—

five were Europeans

three ,, Muhammadans

five ,, Hindus

one was a Sikh.

Out of the five Europeans, three resigned and others were appointed in their place.

In addition, two Europeans, three Hindus, two Sikhs and two Muhammadans who were selected, refused the terms offered.

2636. *Cancelled.*

2637. *Cancelled.*

2638. *Cancelled.*

2639. *Cancelled.*

ACTION TAKEN BY GOVERNMENT ON THE RESOLUTION *re.* MUHARRAM HOLIDAYS.

2640. Sayad Ghulam Muhammad Shah: Will Government be pleased to state whether they have taken any action on the resolution regarding increasing the number of Muharram holidays passed at the last session of the Council?

Mr. C. A. H. Townsend: In view of the fact that the number of Public Holidays notified under the Negotiable Instrument Act is already large and that the Retrenchment Committee were of opinion that a reduction in the number of Public Holidays was desirable, the Punjab Government regret that it has not been found possible to take action on the Resolution to which the honourable member refers.

COMPULSORY PRIMARY EDUCATION AND LOCAL BODIES.

2641. Mian Muhammad Shah Nawaz: Will Government be pleased to state the names of the local bodies that have applied for compulsory primary education being introduced within their jurisdiction, stating whether such applications have been granted or refused?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain: The information is laid on the table. No application has been refused.

Names of the District Boards who have applied for sanction.	Number of school areas in which the introduction of compulsory education has been recommended.	Whether sanctioned or under consideration.
District Board, Rohtak ...	6 School areas	Sanctioned.
Ditto Gurgaon ...	Mehola Maharajpur School area (Tahsil Ballabgarh).	Ditto.
Ditto Karnal ...	8 School areas	Ditto.
Ditto Ambala ...	3 School areas	Ditto.
Ditto Simla ...	6 School areas	Ditto.
Ditto Gujrat ...	Certain School areas ...	The proposal is under consideration.
Ditto Montgomery ...	20 School areas	Sanctioned.
Ditto Lyallpur ...	59 School areas	Ditto.
Ditto Jhang ...	19 School areas	Ditto.
Ditto Muzaffargarh ...	8 School areas	Ditto.
Ditto D. G. Khan ...	Choti Zerin School area ...	Ditto.

Names of the Municipal Committees who have applied for the introduction of compulsory education.	*Whether sanctioned or under consideration.*
Municipal Committee, Lahore ...	Sanctioned.
Ditto Amritsar ...	The proposal is under consideration.
Ditto Montgomery	Ditto.
Ditto Okara (District Montgomery).	Sanctioned.
Notified Area Committee, Jaranwala (District Lyallpur).	Ditto.
Notified Area Committee, Toba Tek Singh (District Lyallpur).	The proposal is under consideration.
Municipal Committee, Gojra (District Lyallpur).	Sanctioned.
Ditto Multan ...	Ditto.
Ditto Shujabad (District Multan).	Ditto.
Ditto Alipur (District Muzaffargarh).	Ditto.
Ditto Jampur (District Dera Ghazi Khan).	Ditto.

RETRENCHMENT IN THE REGISTRATION DEPARTMENT.

2642. Mian Muhammad Shah Nawaz: Will Government be pleased to state what, if any, reduction has been made by the Local Government in the Registration Department?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain: Government commenced retrenchment in the Registration Department in 1921 and up to date the following seven offices have been abolished; the saving effected being noted against each: —

	Name of office.	*Annual saving effected.*
		Rs.
1.	Fatehabad	186
2.	Pakpattan	430
3.	Thatha Gurmani	550
4.	Faridabad	486
5.	Alipur	802
6.	Jampur	684
7.	Rajanpur	476
	Total	3,613

The following twenty-one offices have been ordered to be closed down with effect from the 1st of April 1924:—

	Name of office.	*Annual saving effected.*
		Rs.
1.	Hansi	725
2.	Sirsa	864
3.	Gohana	500
4.	Gurgaon	421
5.	Rewari	582
6.	Palwal	414
7.	Ballabgarh	567
8.	Kaithal	675
9.	Kharrar	670
10.	Narningarh	628
11.	Simla	580
12.	Fazilka	934
13.	Khangah Dogran	740
14.	Phalia	709
15.	Shahpur	689
16.	Bhalwal	582
17.	Khushab	768
18.	Sargodha	541
19.	Pind Dadan Khan	702
20.	Kahuta	642
21.	Isakhel	594
	Total	13,306

The total saving effected by 1st April 1924, will therefore be Rs. 16,919 per annum.

ECONOMIES EFFECTED BY THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

2643. Mian Muhammad Shah Nawaz: Will Government be pleased to state what economies have been effected by the Education Department since the introduction of the Reforms Scheme?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain: The necessary information is laid on the table.

1. During the past few years, an effort has been made to review all educational expenditure, especially in the following directions :—

(a) *Head Office.*—The amalgamation of the Education Department with the Secretariat has saved, on the analogy of other provinces in which both the Secretariat and the Education Department have been retained, about Rs. 50,000 per annum.

(b) *Revision of Inspectorate.*—Through the abandonment of specialist Inspectors, about Rs. 16,000 per annum have been saved.

(c) *Training of Teachers.*—The simplification of courses, the amalgamation of high and normal schools (where possible) and insistence on a uniform class of not less than forty pupils have enabled the number of students under training to be raised from 2,235 in 1921-22 to 2,718 in 1922-23, with no additional cost except for the usual stipends. Moreover, the proposed new buildings at Mianwali, Jullundur, Lyallpur and Hoshiarpur (estimated to cost nearly Rs. 10 lakhs) are not now required.

(d) *Review of staffing and classification of Government High Schools.*—It is not possible to give the results in financial figures as the economies have been mainly used to provide for an abnormal expansion of numbers in those schools and for other developments. It may be sufficient to say that the number in secondary schools increased last year by 35,000 or 18 *per cent.* while expenditure rose by only 7 *per cent.*

(e) *High School Building Plans.*—The revised plans for a school and hostel are less by about Rs. 60,000 than the old model plans.

2. During the current year, the economies have also been effected :—

(a) *Chelmsford Training College.*—The transfer of the college from Sanawar to Ghoragali and its amalgamation with the Lawrence School and the review of the salaries in both institutions in relation to Hill Allowances has effected a saving of Rs. 5,000 per annum.

(b) *Inspector of Drawing and Educational Handwork.*—The abandonment of this post, those of his assistants and office has saved Rs. 7,000 per annum.

(c) *Institute of Commerce.*—The substitution of an advanced course in clerical training in the Central Model School for the Institute of Commerce has saved Rs. 12,500 per annum.

(d) *Manual Training.*—A revision of the system, in which such training has been abandoned in normal schools, and a review of contingent expenditure have enabled new high school centres to be started without expense, with an additional saving of Rs. 5,000 per annum.

(*e*) *Primary Industrial Schools.*—The substitution of ordinary primary schools for these schools has saved Rs. 6,000 per annum.

(*f*) *Building grants to aided secondary schools.*—In the past, it has been difficult to estimate expenditure under the head as there have been sanctioned projects of long standing. Full warning has been given that sanction to such grants will apply only for one year. In consequence, it is possible to budget for a reduced amount of Rs. 43,000.

(*g*) *Contingencies, etc., in Government institutions.*—A thorough scrutiny of all contingencies, etc., in Government institutions has enabled the following annual reductions to be made :—

	Rs.
(*i*) " " Contingencies	7,000
(*ii*) Menials and servants ...	5,000
(*iii*) Prizes	4,175
(*iv*) Libraries	1,875
Total ...	18,050

3. During the last few months the following activities have been, or are being, reviewed, but it is not possible to estimate at all accurately the savings :—

(*a*) Agricultural training in high and vernacular middle schools.

(*b*) Physical training.

(*c*) Normal and high schools for girls.

(*d*) The grant-in-aid system to colleges and secondary schools.

(*e*) Stipends in training institutions.

(*f*) The Head Office Establishment.

(*g*) The holding in abeyance of certain posts in the Indian Educational Service.

SUB-JUDGES AND EFFICIENCY BAR.

2644. Lala Kesho Ram: Will the Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether there is an efficiency bar at Rs. 390 according to the Punjab Government Resolution No. 21709-G., dated 24th August 1921, sanctioning the inclusion of Munsifs in Provincial Civil Service ;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that this efficiency bar does not exist for future entrants whose service is governed by the Punjab Government Resolution No. 10242, dated 1st April 1921 ;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that no change of qualifications for candidature for the post of Sub-Judges has been published hitherto, and that even the candidates selected subsequent to the promulgation of the aforesaid Resolution No. 21709 will not face this bar ;

(*d*) whether the officers concerned have sent representations to the Government on this subject ;

(*e*) whether it is a fact that all the judicial officers who formerly went under the designation of Munsifs are now called Sub-Judges ;

(*f*) whether it has come to their notice that by virtue of this change, the efficiency bar at Rs. 390 must disappear automatically in view of part 4 of paragraph 2 of the aforecited Resolution No. 21709 ;

(*g*) Will Government please ascertain and state whether the Accountant-General, Punjab, has issued salary slips intimating that this efficiency bar has ceased to exist ;

(*h*) If the answer to (*g*) above be in the negative, will the Government be pleased to remove this efficiency bar at Rs. 390 ?

Mr. C. A. H. Townsend : I regret that the answer to this question is not yet ready. It will be communicated to the honourable member when ready.

Mr. Ganpat Rai : Will it be ready in this sessions or next year ?

Mr. C. M. King : I must ask for notice of that question (*laughter*).

IRRIGATION OF CERTAIN VILLAGES IN THE AMRITSAR DISTRICT.

2645. Lieutenant Sardar Raghbir Singh : (*a*) Is it a fact that Government passed orders in 1905 to supply canal water to the following villages in the Amritsar District :—

(1) Kot Said Mahmood, (2) Dhopai, (3) Ghanoopur, (4) Kalc, (5) Wadali Guru, (6) Basirki, (7) Gumanpur, (8) Hamidpur, (9) Chak Mokand, (10) Kharmanian, (11) Mulan Mahram, (12) Rampura and (13) Kathanian.

(*b*) Is it a fact that Government sanctioned the Jethoowal extension to irrigate the lands of the above-mentioned villages ?

(*c*) If so, on what terms the Government is prepared to supply canal water to these villages ?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia : (*a*) and (*b*) Reply is in the negative. A project for irrigation of these villages was prepared but owing to high spring level in the tract and the existence of a number of drainages, it was not sanctioned on sanitary and technical grounds.

(*c*) Does not arise.

2646. *Cancelled.*

KUCHABANDIS IN MULTAN.

2647. Rai Bahadur Lala Hari Chand : (*a*) Is it a fact that the Deputy Commissioner of Multan with the two Vice-Presidents of the Municipality inspected all the *kuchabandis* erected by the Hindus after the riots ?

(*b*) Is it a fact that he was of opinion that with the exception of a few *kuchabandis* all should remain in existence and sent his opinion to both the Vice-Presidents to communicate it to their respective communities ?

(c) Is it a fact that a public meeting of both the communities was held under the presidency of the Deputy Commissioner and that a compromise was arrived at with regard to all the matters in dispute including compensation, etc., when a few Muhammadans (amongst whom there was no Municipal Commissioner or Rais) objected to the Deputy Commissioner's report regarding *kuchabandis* and consequently the whole compromise was dropped ?

(d) Is it a fact that a sub-committee was appointed to report about *kuchabandis* and that the Muhammadan members of the sub-committee said that if the Hindus agreed to keep only sixty-one *kuchabandis* a unanimous report would be laid before the Municipal Committee, while the Hindus stuck to the opinion of the Deputy Commissioner and agreed to pull down only a few *kuchabandis* ?

(e) Is it a fact that the Muhammadan members, the Civil Surgeon, and the President by one casting vote passed the resolution that all *kuchabandis* should be pulled down ?

(f) If the answers to the above are in the affirmative, will the Government be pleased to suspend the Municipal Committee's resolution ?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : It will serve no useful purpose to dwell on the various efforts made to bring about reconciliation between the *Muslims* and Hindus of Multan.

RESOLUTIONS.

RESOLUTION *RE* REMITTANCE OF LAND REVENUE AND OTHER GOVERNMENT DUES BY POSTAL MONEY ORDER FREE OF ANY CHARGE.

Sayad Ghulam Muhammad Shah [Shahpur East (Muhammadan), Rural] (Urdu) : Sir, I beg to move my resolution which reads :—

> "That this Council recommends to the Government again to approach the Government of India for the sanction of the concession proposed in the resolution passed by this Council on the 19th of March 1921, recommending permission for the remittance of land revenue and other Government dues by postal money order free of any charge."

Sir I do not intend to make any long speech. This resolution has already been passed by the House on the 19th of March 1921. At present the revenue payers are put to a great deal of inconvenience, as they have to go to the tahsils and district to make the payment and the poor zemindars have many a time to stay there quite against their will for nearly four or five days. Often they are subject to extortions there. By giving effect to this resolution these poor zemindars will be saved from these hardships.

The public of the Punjab and especially the zemindar class will be very grateful to the Government for the sanction of this concession in the matter of remittance by postal money order free of any charge. With these words I move my resolution and I hope that the House will adopt it.

Mr. President: The resolution proposed runs:—

"That this Council recommends to the Government again to approach the Government of India for the sanction of the concession proposed in the resolution passed by this Council on the 19th of March 1921, recommending permission for the remittance of land revenue and other Government dues by postal money order free of any charge".

The question is that that resolution be adopted.

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia (Revenue Member): Sir, I should like to know whether Mr. Ganpat Rai intends moving his amendment.

Mr. Ganpat Rai [(Lahore and Ferozepore-*cum*-Sheikhupura (Non-Muhammadan)]: I should first like to know the Government view because on it depends whether or not I shall move my amendment. We have passed the resolution once before, but it has not been acted upon. If the Government Member has no objection he may kindly enlighten us as to the Government views and that will result in shortening the discussion.

Malik Firoz Khan, Noon [Shahpur West (Muhammadan), Rural]: Might we know the reasons why the Government of India did not agree to the resolution? If they are reasonable, the honourable gentleman will withdraw his resolution and that will settle the question.

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia: Sir, my friend seems to be under some misapprehension. If you refer to the question that was put in this Council some time back and the reply given to that question, the honourable member will see that the matter contained in the last resolution was duly referred to the Government of India by the Punjab Government. The reply that was received from the Government of India was in these terms:—

"I am directed to refer to your letter No. 12148-Rev., dated the 18th April 1921, forwarding for the orders of the Government of India a copy of a resolution passed by the local Legislative Council on the 21st March 1921, recommending that lambardars in the province should not be charged money-order commission when remitting land revenue and other Government dues by post office money-orders.

(2) In reply I am to say that the Government of India have carefully considered the Council's recommendation and regret that they are unable to sanction the concession."

Honourable members know that the postal department is a central department and that this Government cannot ask the Government of India to give up their revenue from that department, particularly in view of the fact that that department just at present, I am afraid, is not much of an earning department as it used to be at one time. The members will also remember that the post office whenever they take money from lambardars have to take care of it and save it from being stolen by thieves. Therefore the concession would put extra burden on the department if this resolution were to be accepted and carried out. Under these circumstances I believe honourable members will realise that it is not possible to refer the matter again to the Government of India. I hope the honourable member will, in the light of this explanation, kindly see his way to withdraw the resolution.

Sayad Ghulam Muhammad Shah (Urdu) : Sir, I do not see any reason why the matter should not be referred to the Government of India again.

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia (Urdu) : This resolution touches an all-India subject and thus its adoption by this House cannot be effected unless the House is itself prepared to pay the money order commission and thus add to the provincial burden; but as the honourable member desires that the Government of India should again be approached upon this subject I would take steps to bring the debate to their notice again though I have no hope of its favourable reception at the hands of that Government.

Sayad Ghulam Muhammad Shah (Urdu) : As the Honourable Member of Government has said that this resolution touches an all-India subject.....

Mr. President : If the honourable member wishes to ask for leave to withdraw the resolution he must state so without giving reasons.

Sayad Ghulam Muhammad Shah : I am not giving any reasons, Sir. I only want to say a few words to bring to your notice.....

Mr. President : The honourable member has already spoken and cannot speak again unless he wants to get up and ask for leave to withdraw. He will have a right of reply of course later on, if necessary.

Sayad Ghulam Muhammad Shah : Have I not got a right to answer Sardar Sahib?

Mr. President : My point is that if you wish to withdraw please do so straightaway. I do not want further arguments about the matter, or any further speech.

Sayad Ghulam Muhammad Shah : Sardar Sahib has agreed to write to the Government of India. I therefore ask for leave to withdraw the resolution.

The resolution was by leave withdrawn.

RESOLUTION *RE* REPRESENTATION OF COMMUNITIES ON LOCAL BODIES.

The following resolution standing in the name of Rai Sahib Lala Ganga Ram was not moved—

"That this Council recommends to the Government that due consideration be given to the amount of taxes paid by and the vested interests of the various communities in forming the constitution of the various local bodies, and that merely the numerical strength of the population of each community be not made the sole criterion of fixing the number of members of each community on a local body."

RESOLUTION *RE* REMOVAL OF RESTRICTIONS ON THE POSSESSIONS OF SWORDS IN THE PUNJAB.

The following resolution standing in the name of Khan Muhammad Saifullah Khan was also not moved—

"That this Council recommends to the Government to move the Central Government that all restrictions imposed on the possession of swords in the Punjab be removed forthwith."

Rai Sahib Lala Thakar Das [North-west Towns (Non-Muhammadan) Urban] (Urdu): Sir, I beg to move—

> "That this Council recommends to the Government that such of the prisoners convicted of offences of a political nature, *viz.*, Offences under the prevention of Seditious Meetings Act, the Criminal Law Amendment Act, chapter VIII (Offences against the public tranquillity) of the Indian Penal Code, chapter VI (Offences against the State) of the Indian Penal Code and chapter VIII (Security provisions) of the Criminal Procedure Code, as are still undergoing their sentences and have not been convicted of offences involving violence to person or property or incitement to such violence be released forthwith."

Sir, before I request this Council to adopt the resolution just moved by me I would like to say this that this resolution was sent in about a year ago and that it is after the lapse of full one year that I have been given the opportunity of presenting this resolution for the consideration of this House. As this is the last session of this Council I pray this House to give their fullest consideration to it and to do full justice to its aims and objects. Sir, if the resolution under consideration is looked at dispassionately it will have to be admitted that the offences mentioned therein were committed by people out of love for their mother-land. These offences may be dubbed as connected with the violation of the Seditious Meetings Act, or with the breach of public peace, or they may be called by any other name, but there is no denying the fact that the people who committed such offences were not actuated by base motives. The only offence of which these people were guilty was that they loved their country though not wisely yet too well.

Now the question is how far it is justifiable to keep such persons in prison. It may be admitted that at the time when such offences were committed there was an apprehension of a breach of the public peace, and that such people were a danger to the safety of the State, and that on these grounds their incarceration was justifiable and necessary in the interests of good government. But in my opinion this necessity no longer exists. The non-co-operation movement was the root cause of all these crimes, but now the movement is dead. It no longer possesses a charm for the misguided and it may be argued that the people not only do not now commit these offences, but also that they have no intention of committing such offences in the future. I admit that when the non-co-operation movement was in full swing in some places the people got out of the hands of their leaders, and the movement which was intended to land India into another millinium degenerated itself into a reign of terror, or in other words, democracy fell down from its high pedastal and reduced itself to mobocracy and it was this which led the Government to have recourse to repression. But now events have taken a new turn. The people have had enough of the non-co-operation movement, they are no longer enamoured of it, so much so that even the staunchest advocates of the movement are trying to get into the reformed councils. It was only three years ago that the members of this Council were called traitors to the national cause, and were called all sorts of names. The candidates as well as the voters were molested and in some cases maltreated by those very people, who are now the most ardent supporters of the question of Council entry.

Some people may be disposed to raise one or two objections against the proposals contained in this resolution. For example, it may be said that secret societies are being organised in Bengal, some of which are carrying on a campaign of bloodshed and loot all over the Presidency, but do similar conditions prevail in this province? The answer to this question must be in the negative. No such revolutionary societies exist in the Punjab, and even if such societies existed here the resolution does not aim at recommending the release of persons who are guilty of murder or other heinous offences. The resolution simply recommends the release of those persons who have not been convicted of offences involving violence to persons or property or incitement to such violence.

Another objection which may be raised against this resolution is that under the existing circumstances when the *Akalis* are trying their utmost to put obstacles in the way of Government, and to create trouble in the country wholesale release of political prisoners would be fraught with great danger for the country, but my contention is that this resolution simply aims at the release of those persons who were arrested long before the Nabha agitation, and especially those who during the hey-day of the non-co-operation movement were led astray from the right path.

Another objection which may be raised against the adoption of this resolution is that those of the non-co-operation leaders who have been released after serving out their sentences have declared their intention of following the same path. But against this objection it may be urged that a great many such leaders are totally against civil disobedience and are not prepared to lend their support to crimes which once they had applauded. The Government as well as this Council are well aware of the names of such leaders and I may confidently assert that the Punjabees no longer support civil disobedience. It is also an open secret that many of the released political prisoners have declared that it was spring at the time of their incarceration, but now it is cold winter, meaning thereby that at the time of their imprisonment the movements of non-co-operation and civil disobedience were in full vigour, but now that vigour is gone, and these people know in their heart of hearts that the country is no longer enamoured of the non-co-operation movement and is bent upon following a constructive policy. Hence if the Punjabee prisoners are released a little earlier they are not likely to command a following, and it would not be correct to suppose that these released prisoners would again be able to lead the people astray. With these words I beg to move this resolution, and I hope that the House would be pleased to accept it.

Mr. President: The resolution proposed reads—

> "That this Council recommends to the Government that such of the prisoners convicted of offences of a political nature, *viz.*, offences under the Prevention of Seditious Meetings Act, the Criminal Law Amendment Act, Chapter VIII (Offences against the public tranquillity) of the Indian Penal Code, Chapter VI (Offences against the State) of the Indian Penal Code and Chapter VIII (Security Provisions) of the Criminal Procedure Code, as are still undergoing their sentences and have not been convicted of offences involving violence to person or property or incitement to such violence be released forthwith."

The question is that that resolution be adopted.

Rai Bahadur Lala Panna Lal [North-East Town (Non-Muhammadan), Urban] (Urdu): Sir, this resolution should be accepted as it is a very old one. Government need not have any apprehension of danger now. There are very few men who are in favour of non-co-operation. The release of these prisoners will prove that Government is merciful and not vindictive. The Viceroy's arrival here is a fit occasion for giving amnesty to these political prisoners. Lala Thakar Das has spoken sufficiently about the resolution and I do not want to say anything more. With these words I request the House to adopt this resolution.

Mr. Ganpat Rai [Lahore and Ferozepore-cum-Sheikhupura (Non-Muhammadan): Sir, may I through your intervention ask if the Government Member will also oblige us by giving his views. It will save so much time of the Council if we know the arguments so that we may be able to meet those arguments in our speeches.

Mr. R. A. Mant: It rests, I think, with the Government Member when he should show his readiness to speak.

Mr. President: Yes, entirely.

Mr. Ganpat Rai: My object was that we may know the Government Member's views so that we may be able to meet his arguments in our speeches. I thought that was a very fair reason.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: A Government Member can speak any time during the debate and has also the right to reply at the end. That is the usual course.

Mr. Ganpat Rai: Sir, I wish to say a few words. As the Government is inclined to keep back their arguments, I am sorry I am unable to meet them and as it . . . .

Mr. R. A. Mant: Sir, I rise to a point of order. Is the honourable member justified in accusing Government for not giving its views?

Mr. President: The honourable member cannot impute motives. He may think whatever he likes, but he must not impute motives.

Mr. Ganpat Rai (continued): Sir, I do not impute motives. What I wanted was that we might have an opportunity of meeting Government's arguments. Now, Sir, the reason for which I support this resolution are the following. First of all, almost all the trials under these various Acts were nominal trials. The accused said that they had no faith in these courts and their reasons were that though they were judicial courts still they were under the influence of the executive. That was one reason. Another reason was that they did not defend themselves for various reasons and it may be said that it was their fault, that the courts were open, and there was every opportunity for them to defend themselves, and if they did not do so, they themselves were responsible. I ask, Sir, is this fair on the part of Government to take advantage of that attitude whatever may be the reasons for the attitude of the accused in those cases. Therefore those trials, were practically, one may say, *ex-parte* trials, though the accused had to appear in the courts, they did not take part in any of those trials. Then, Government in lodging those prosecutions in some cases was moved by the Police or by other persons who were in

charge and we have known cases where there have been wrong conviction and the Government had to release prisoners because they had been wrongly convicted.

Then, Sir, the other reason I beg to submit is this that the atmosphere all round so far as those political prisoners are concerned has very much cooled down and in order to gain public support and public sympathy Government will be acting in the right direction if, as the resolution asks, these prisoners who are undergoing their sentences are released. The resolution does not touch the cases connected with the Nabha affair, it does not touch the *Babar Akali* cases, but relates to persons who are undergoing their sentences and have not been convicted of offences involving violence to person or property or incitement to such violence. It will be said, look at the number of dacoities, look at the number of crimes which have been committed. I say that is one reason why this resolution should be accepted. The whole action of the executive Government has been directed towards political offences in such a way that it has led to further increase of political crimes. It is for these reasons that I give my support to the resolution.

Maulvi Muharram Ali Chishti [Lahore City (Muhammadan), Urban] (Urdu) : Sir, in these days it is extremely dangerous for a candidate for the next council elections to say any thing about this resolution. It is like sitting on the edge of a sword. As the term of this Council is about to expire, the support of this resolution may be a passport for some people to gain popularity. . . . . .

Mr. Ganpat Rai : I rise to a point of order, Sir, the member is attributing motives.

Mr. President : I do not think he attempted to impute motives to you.

Mr. Ganpat Rai : Not to me, but to somebody else.

Mr. President : He only referred to general conditions.

Maulvi Muharram Ali Chishti (continued) : To be popular merely is not a commendable thing. We have certain responsibilities to be discharged. We must be ever ready to hear any bitter remarks against ourselves, but we must never for a moment flinch from the honest discharge of the responsibilities put upon our shoulders. If these persons are released they will certainly pursue the same course and will have to be again arrested and imprisoned. If such a process continues the Government will have to incur a good deal of extra expenditure with respect to increase in the Police and Jail establishments as also the fees for engaging lawyers for the Crown and the diet money of witnesses, etc. Sir, at the time of the framing of the budget there is always a cry for curtailment in the expenditure, but now they do not pay any heed to an increase in this expenditure. Sir, I hold no brief for the Government. I oppose this resolution not from the Government's point of view but from the point of view of those tax payers whose pockets supply the moneys and whom I stand here to represent. Sir, if the Government is considered to be so bad that it should be driven out, the Government should be killed directly. To use indirect means—now to cut its nose and then to cut its ears and then cripple it and make it helpless—is a thing that can never commend itself to me. My conviction is that the existing Government is good, it is badly needed in this country and we should defend and uphold the constitution upon which the Govern-

[M. Muharram Ali, Chishti.]

ment is based. If on the contrary I believed that we could dispense with this Government I would have been the first to oppose it openly, but it is a wrong thing to use indirect means to cripple law and order. These political prisoners are our brethren and no doubt their imprisonment pains our hearts, but we have to look to the causes that led to their imprisonment.

Non-violence exists in theory only. When it comes to practice it becomes violence. There is not much difference between non-violent non-co-operation and violent non-co-operation in practice. My friend has said that his resolution does not concern the *Akali* Sikhs (involved in the Nabha Abdication case.) If non-violence be the ground for the release of other political prisoners why not these *Akali* Sikhs also be released. What violence are they committing. . . . . .

Mr. President: If the honourable member reads the resolution he will see that it does not cover the cases of persons undertrial. It only refers to those now undergoing sentences.

Maulvi Muharram Ali Chishti (continued): I quite understand that, Sir. My point is quite different. I may perhaps express my point in English, I say, why should the Government prosecute these persons if they are going to release the present prisoners. That is my point. Such a procedure will expose the Government to a charge of inconsistency.

(Then continued in Urdu.)

If we can be assured that these political prisoners will not follow their former course after their release then I too will request the Government to release these prisoners and shake hand with them.

In support of my points I want to bring one thing to the notice of the Government. The offenders regard their imprisonment as a noble sacrifice and are persistent in it, while the Government is determined to preserve peace and order in the country. The Government does not repent and the offenders too do not. If this state of affairs continues there will be a continuous war between the Government and the offenders and the public will suffer thereby. The potter, the cobbler and the weaver have to pay the taxes while they have no concern with politics. If I were assured that the released prisoners would not be prosecuted again I would readily vote in favour of the resolution. As my friend Mr. Thakar Das has pointed out we may hope that an atmosphere will be created in the near future when we will find ourselves in a situation of peace and compromise. I hope, however, that better counsels will prevail in the long run. I bring my speech to a conclusion with the remarks that it would be imprudent at present to release the prisoners when they are determined to offend.

12 NOON.

Chaudhri Ali Akbar: [Kangra-*cum*-Gurdaspur (Muhammadan), Rural] (Urdu): Sir, I have heard the mover and Maulvi Muharram Ali, but I do not find in their speeches any reasonable grounds for believing that there will be no recurrence of such offences in future. The mover has enumerated various chapters of the Indian Penal Code in his resolution and proposed to release prisoners serving sentences under these Chapters. His resolution nullifies

those Chapters of the Code and rather than tamper with a number of sections of the Code it would be better to put an end to the Indian Penal Code, to follow the lead of Mahatma Gandhi and hand over the administration of India to him. Notwithstanding the physical strength of the Government, the sections of the Indian Penal Code and the awe which clings to the name of Government, capital crime flourishes. A constant fear of murder is always present in the minds of the public of Gurdaspur. I personally remember an instance where some persons were murdered at night in the presence of the whole village. Release of the people who are bent upon driving the Government out of India would indicate the failure of the Government to modify the present disturbed atmosphere. The mob will follow the successful party and breaches of the peace will result.

In Gurdaspur District there is a gang of more than one hundred people who way-lay the cattle of other people in broad day light and nobody dares come forward as a witness of their crime. Every one fears the vengeance of the gang. The mover has alleged that non-co-operation has lost its force, but it is evident that its force would increase a hundred-fold if the prisoners are let loose. The time of election approaches but we do not like to be elected by unfair means. A seat so acquired would be accursed, we will say what we really think. We do not want to cheat our bretheren who are in prison by apparently trying to help them. Therefore I vote against this resolution. (Cheers).

Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Fazl Ali [Gujrat West (Muhammadan) Rural] (Urdu) : Sir, I too vote against this resolution and support Maulvi Muharram Ali Chishti and Chaudhri Ali Akbar. To release a man after conviction and a fair trial is a mere "tamasha." This absurdity was started by the Government. The Government charged, convicted and passed sentences on political offenders and then released them before the specified term of punishment had expired. It is a curious proceeding to release a convicted offender. I have never seen such an eccentricity in any other government. This conduct reduces the prestige of the Government A political offender is confident of his release before he has committed an offence. So every political offender goes to the jail cheerfully expecting to be released very soon. He attaches great importance to himself and at very small personal inconvenience cheaply acquires the reputation of being a leader. Law should be immune from constant changes. The love which I possess for zamindars compels me to speak in this manner. They pay heavy taxes and they are affected by every change in the Government's policy. It is surprising how some political offenders rot in the jail for their whole lives while others go to the jails with garlands of flowers round their neck and come back within a week. Just because non-co-operation was at its height and offenders had to be prosecuted, heavy taxes began to weigh down the agricultural community. The season and the market rates may be unprofitable but zemindars are required to pay their revenue all the same and without fail. Many loyalists have already lost their faith in the Government. They have begun to think that the Government overlooks the political offenders. Election days are approaching but we don't want to be elected through unfair means. A seat acquired in such a way would be under a curse. It is foolish to act upon the advice of an outsider who is not directly concerned with one's welfare. Every religion regards it as a virtue to release prisoners, but the circumstances in every case differ and we have to consider the consequences of our actions. There is a likelihood, it seems to me, of the introduction of a resolution which would demand the expulsion of the

[K. B. Ch. Fazl Ali.]

British Government from India. Everybody now, I think, realises the necessity of a just Government such as we possess nowadays. The atmosphere is disturbed and to pass this resolution would add fuel to the fire. Government is a government really if it releases the innocent and punishes the guilty. The release of the culprit is fair when he repents and promises to obey the law for the rest of his life. The political offenders ought not to break the law if they want to enjoy the rights which the law has given them.

Mr. R. A. Mant (Officer on Special Duty) : Sir, I did not intervene at an earlier stage in this debate because I wanted to hear what reasons were to be advanced for the resolution. I also hoped that some speakers might throw light on the meaning of the term "Political Offence." Before getting up to speak, it is well to know what you have got to speak about and I confess I have not been able to understand what is meant by the term. I have read accounts of dacoities mostly in Bengal which are called political. They seem to be conducted on the same brutal lines as ordinary dacoities are generally committed. I was told the difference was that they were committed by educated men who were in need of money. I understand that the ordinary dacoity is committed by uneducated men who are in need of money.

Coming nearer home we have recently had a series of what are called political murders in the Jullundur Doaba. Here again there is nothing to distinguish the crime from ordinary murder except that it was generally a cold-blooded and cowardly act with none of the mitigation that a man might plead who kills his enemy in a fit of anger. I was told that in these political cases the victims were the supporters of Government. So I have got two criteria (1) that the political offence must be committed by educated men and (2) the victim must be a supporter of Government. The mover of the resolution, however, has adopted a different definition. He says that by political offences he means offences against certain definite provisions of the law, the Criminal Law Amendment Act, the Seditious Meetings Act, Chapters VI and VIII of the Indian Penal Code and Chapter VIII of the Criminal Procedure Code. The inclusion of the first two Acts is understandable as they were designed to meet certain seditious activities and attacks on the public peace. Chapter VI of the Indian Penal Code relates to offences against the State and it ranges from waging war against the King to a jailor who lets a State prisoner escape from jail. I do not know why this offence is included in the term 'Political.' Chapter VIII relates to offences against the public tranquillity. It includes rioting, joining an unlawful assembly whose object may or may not be political and it also includes section 153 (*a*) which penalises attempts to promote feelings of enmity between the different classes of His Majesty's subjects. Chapter VIII of the Criminal Procedure Code also covers a far wider ground than what is ordinarily understood to be political activity. Section 107 is designed to prevent breaches of the peace and it is often applied to private quarrels. Section 109 deals with vagrants and suspected persons. Section 110 deals with habitual offenders. It is rather surprising to find these sections included in the mover's definition of political offences.

I always thought that a political offender was something quite different from an ordinary *badmash* who is imprisoned for failure to give security under section 110, Criminal Procedure Code. I do not see how the mover can expect the Government to accept the resolution in this compreshensive

form. In fact, I do not think he really supported it in that sense himself. As I understood him, he only intended to apply it to a limited number of men, mostly non-co-operators. If it is passed, the Government will not be able to act up to it. It must remain a dead letter. No responsible Government could afford to let loose on the community a lot of potential criminals who are in jail because their friends are not prepared to give security for them. Even in the case of men who have been bound over for purely political offences if their friends want to get them out of jail, it is simple to give security for them. If they are not satisfied that they will keep the law and so are not prepared to give security for them, they can hardly expect Government to let them out.

I am as far as ever from a clear conception of the meaning of the term 'political offence' and so I had better abandon the definition given in the resolution and use the term in what I may call the popular sense. I suppose most people when they speak of political offenders mean men who break the law out of enmity to Government or out of enmity to particular sections of the community. It is obvious that such men are often very dangerous to the State. They have committed an offence against law and they have been tried by the ordinary courts and found guilty. It is the duty of the executive Government to enforce the sentences passed by the judiciary. It takes a very serious responsibility on itself when it remits or reduces those sentences, and any extensive action in this direction is bound to have a harmful effect. It is discouraging to the Police, to the Magistrates and to the Courts, all of whom have done their duty in bringing offenders to justice to find their labours all thrown away by an order of Government. Lastly, it discourages the loyal supporters of Government who are generally the people who suffer when these criminals are let out. I do not say that Government ought never to review or remit sentences wholesale, but I maintain that it should only do so in very exceptional circumstances which do not prevail at the present time. In times of serious disturbances such as occurred in April, 1919, it may be necessary to pass severe and deterrent sentences on a large number of people after a summary enquiry in order to deter other people from joining in the disturbances and when these troubles have passed away it may be unnecessary to maintain those severe sentences and an amnesty may be called for in the general interest of peace. But that has all been done as far as the 1919 disturbances are concerned. The sentences have all been reviewed. The few convicts who remain in jail are mostly murderers who were lucky to escape being hanged. A partial amnesty of a minor kind was given in last spring when the Government hoped, prematurely, I am afraid, that the *Akali* troubles were coming to an end. They decided to release all the Akalis who had been convicted for various acts of resistance to the lawful authority at *Guru-ka-Bagh*. The results of that act of clemency have not been such as to encourage Government to repeat the experiment and I cannot see anything in the present political situation which would justify another experiment of that kind. In the first place, the number of political prisoners at present incarcerated in our jails is not abnormally large. Owing to the difficulty of getting a precise definition which I have already alluded to it is not possible to give complete statistics, but we had some information collected last year in response, I think, to a question asked by the mover of this resolution and a list was compiled showing all the persons accused of offences of the nature referred to in the resolution. This list shows that from 15th April 1921, to 15th April 1922,

[Mr. R. A. Mant.]

2,646 persons were arrested for offences against the laws specified in the resolution. I have just received a statement from the Inspector-General of Prisons giving the number of persons who were actually in jail for offences under those sections on the 30th of September 1923. The total number is 224. That is not a very large number among a population of twenty million who we are often told are ruled by an alien and satanic Government. But the fact is that we have already let out of jail all the minor offenders and the men who are left are mostly dangerous men, some of them the worst surviving criminals of 1919 disturbances. I understand that the Mover does not propose to let them out. The others are mostly men who have shown themselves irreconcilable in subsequent agitation. Such men, I think, are better in than out and I can hold out no hope that any of them will be released before their sentences expire.

In the second place, the political atmosphere of the Punjab is, as everybody here knows, in a somewhat disturbed condition and has been so for a very long time. The Government has been very patient, some of its critics say too patient, in dealing with the *Akali* agitation, but as long as it could be represented that the main object of that agitation was religious the Government in pursuance of its established policy of tolerance to all religions,—was reluctant to intervene, although it was daily becoming more and more evident that the organisation controlled by the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbhandak Committee was framed on a political basis. . . . . .

Mr. President: I hope the honourable member is not reading now.

Mr. R. A. Mant: I have some notes, Sir.

Mr. Ganpat Rai: I may submit, Sir, that this is not relevant to the resolution and I think should not be referred to.

Mr. President: I cannot say just at present how the honourable member is going to link it up with the subject under discussion.

Mr. R. A. Mant: My point in referring to it was that the political atmosphere is not in a fit state for the exercise of exceptional clemency. If it is out of order, I will not talk about it.

Mr. President: You are quite in order.

Mr. R. A. Mant (continued): However, I will not say any more about the Parbhandhak Committee as the case is *sub judice*, but there is another element in the atmosphere which has also caused considerable trouble in the last few months, that is the Hindu-Muhammadan relations. I have known the Punjab for nearly 30 years and I have, of course, seen sporadic out-breaks of communal ill-will, but I have never known the feelings so acute as they have been in the last few months and Government has been compelled to take action against writers and speakers who have attempted to stimulate this hostility.

Finally, the Congress has chosen this moment to pass a resolution in favour of civil disobedience. I am told that they have sent emissaries to the Punjab to see whether the time is ripe for it here. The Congress seems to regard the Punjab as a sort of muddy pool in which it can stir up trouble when it cannot find anything better to do elsewhere. Well, those three

elements in the political situation—the *Akali* agitation, the Hindu-Muhammadan feeling and the attempts of the Congress to arouse civil disobedience—are, I think, sufficient to show that it is impossible for Government to accept this resolution.

At the time when the Parbhandhak Committee is being prosecuted for some of the very offences to which this resolution relates, it is surely inopportune to consider the release of existing convicts. I know that the resolution does not include the persons who are at present being prosecuted, but if the Council were to support it, it would encourage people to join in the agitation and it would encourage the idea that Government does not regard these offences as serious and does not propose to treat them seriously. Well, that is a very wrong idea indeed. The offences with which the leading members of the Parbhandhak Committee are being charged are very serious offences, some of them punishable with transportation for life.....

Mr. Ganpat Rai: Sir, the honourable member is not in order in referring to this matter.

Mr. President: The honourable member must be careful not to refer to any matter of fact regarding which judicial proceedings are pending.

Mr. R. A. Mant (continued): The point I wish to make is, Sir, that I do not want this Council to take any action which would encourage people to take part in this agitation which Government is at present seeking to break up. I don't want to give the pepole the idea that they will not be severely dealt with if they take part in that agitation. If they do enter it under that impression they will find out their mistake later and bitterly regret it. I will say only one word more, Sir, on this point and that is that Government has been slow to move. But it means to see this business through.

There is one other point which I shall refer to lest I should have been thought to have over-looked it and that is that the resolution does not refer to persons convicted of offences involving violence. The gospel of non-violence may be suited to non-martial races in other parts of India but it is certainly not suitable to the warlike races of the Punjab. If you listen to some of the speakers who are trying to rouse the Sikhs you will generally hear them urge their hearers to use the sword of non-violence. I think that expression speaks for itself. The men in the background are egging on others to break the law. They may be non-violent in their own acts but they know perfectly well that the men they send out are liable to be involved in violence and get into trouble for it. "They remind me of the lines of Rudyard Kipling.

"By God the men that did the deed
Are braver men than they."

Sir, I appealed to this Council on Saturday to show a sense of financial responsibility. Unfortunately I then spoke to deaf ears. To-day I make another appeal and that is that the Council will show in rejecting this resolution a sense of administrative responsibility and I cherish the hope from the remarks which fell from some speakers that this time I shall not appeal in vain. (Hear, hear).

1 P. M.

The Council then adjourned till a quarter to two of the clock.

The Council re-assembled at the Council Chamber at a quarter to two of the clock. Mr. President in the Chair.

Rai Sahib Lala Thakar Das (Urdu) : Sir, some four or five members of this Council have spoken against the resolution moved by me, and I have listened with rapt attention to these speeches and it is with regret that I have to say that none of the honourable members have cared to refute the arguments on which my resolution is based. Some of my Muhammadan friends have gone so far as to say that the resolution under discussion has been brought forward with a view to win notoriety, while others have gone a step further and have had the good manners to say that this resolution has been moved with a view to win popular applause and thereby secure votes for myself at the next election, and some have even cursed me. . . .

Chaudhri Ali Akbar : No, I did not say that.

Mr. Ganpat Rai : Yes, I was here at the time and the honourable member did say that.

Mr. President : No, he did not, what was said was, that anybody who voted against his conscience with the object of getting votes was fit to be cursed.

Rai Sahib Lala Thakar Das (continued) : Sir, I do not wish to demean myself by answering these vague accusations. All that I have to say is this that my resolution has been pending to be moved for the last twelve months, and I have shown that the conditions under which the political workers of this province were sent to jail no longer exist now. As regards the speech delivered by the Government member on this subject who has tried to wean the sympathies of this Council from this resolution by quoting extracts from the Indian Penal Code and thereby appealing to this Council that it is highly improper to recommend the release of persons, who have been guilty of the violation of the Seditious Meetings Act, and of other offences connected with security provisions and offences against the State. I have to bring to the notice of this Council the fact that my resolution simply recommends the release of only those persons who not have been convicted of offences involving violence to person or property or incitement to such violence. Also, there is a world of difference between political and other kinds of offences. Only last night I prepared a list of all the members of the present Irish Executive, and there was hardly any crime ranging from murder, dacoity and arson, which they had not committed and for which they were sentenced to heavy terms of imprisonment, but to-day these very people are at the helm of affairs in Ireland. But the political prisoners whose release is urged in my resolution never committed murders, dacoities or arson. It is not just to treat political prisoners as professional thieves, or murderers and thereby appeal to the prejudices of this House. I know that certain professional *badmashes* committed crimes, while professing to be staunch followers of the non-co-operation movement, but the number of such people is insignificant, and since the conditions which necessitated such drastic steps no longer exist, I request the Government to accept the resolution.

Mr. President : The resolution proposed runs—

> "That this Council recommends to the Government that such of the prisoners convicted of offences of a political nature, *viz.*, offences under the Prevention of Seditious Meetings Act, the Criminal Law Amendment Act, chapter VIII (Offences against the public tranquility) of the Indian Penal Code, chapter VI (Offence against the State) of the Indian Penal Code and chapter VIII (Security Provisions) of the Criminal Procedure Code, as are still undergoing their sentenses and have not been convicted of offences involving violence to person or property or incitement to such violence be released forthwith."

The question is that that resolution be adopted.

The Council then divided : Ayes 7, Noes 32.

AYES 7.

Lala Kesho Ram.	Rai Bahadur Lala Panna Lal.
Mr. Moti Lal, Kaistha.	Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram.
Chaudhri Kharak Singh.	Rai Sahib Lala Thakar Das.
Mr. Ganpat Rai.	

NOES 32.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard.	Chaudhri Muhammad Amin.
The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia.	Pandit Daulat Ram, Kalia.
The Honourable Lala Harkishan Lal.	Sardar Sahib Risaldar Dilbagh Singh.
Mr. R. A. Mant.	Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Fazl Ali.
Mr. C. A. H. Townsend.	Sardar Bahadur Gopal Singh, Labana.
Mr. D. J. Boyd.	Chaudhri Ghulam Muhammad.
Mr. J. Coldstream.	Sayad Husain Shah.
Mr. A. J. Gibson.	Rana Muhammad Jamil Khan.
Mr. C. M. King.	Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram.
Mr. H. P. Tollinton.	Chaudhri Nabi Bakhsh.
Colonel R. Heard.	Khan Muhammad Abdullah Khan.
Mr. H. Calvert.	Khan Bahadur Raja Muhammad Akbar Khan.
Mr. G. Anderson.	Chaudhri Muhammad Hayat Khan.
Mr. E. A. Scott.	Khan Bahadur Khowaja Yusaf Shah.
Mian Ahmad Yar Khan, Daultana.	Mr. Owen Roberts.
Chaudhri Ali Akbar.	
Khan Sahib Pir Ali Haidar Shah.	

The motion was lost.

RESOLUTION *RE* MANAGEMENT OF THE SOLAR ECLIPSE FAIR AT KURUKSHETRA.

Rai Bahadur Lala Panna Lal : [North-East towns (Non-Muhammadan), (Urban)] (Urdu): Sir, I move my resolutions which runs as follows :—

> "That this Council recommends to the Government the desirability of entrusting the management of the future Solar eclipse fairs at Kurukshetra to a managing committee consisting of three non-official Sanatan Hindus, to be nominated by Kurukshetra Restoration Society, and two officials, one of whom to be the Deputy Commissioner of Karnal, who may also be the Secretary of the Committee."

Sir, this fair is held on the occasion of the Solar eclipse. The fair is a Hindu one and requires proper management. Sir, Kurukshetra is a holy place of the Hindus. It is this place . . . . .

2 P.M.

Mr. C. A. H. Townsend : I rise to a point of order, Sir. The honourable member is reading a speech.

Mr. President (Urdu) : Are you reading your speech ?

Rai Bahadur Lala Panna Lal : No, Sir, I am making use of my notes. It is this place which was the scene of the famous Mahabharata battle which took plase some 5,000 years ago. Therefore. . . . . .

Mr. C. A. H. Townsend (observing the member leaning over his table) : I rise to a point of order, Sir.

I think it would be more in accordance with the dignity of the House if the member stood up properly when speaking. The attitude he has adopted does not become a member of this House.

Rai Bahadur Lala Panna Lal (continued) : It was here that Sri Krishna Maharaj appeared and fought, so every Hindu honours this place. The present management of the fair is not satisfactory. Therefore a society which is a registered body, has been formed for the proper management of this fair. This society has repaired some tanks and done other useful works. When Sir Jawala Parshad of Patna came here on a visit he appreciated the work of the society. In his letter to the society he has laid much stress on the importance and usefulness of this society and its work. Therefore I request that a committee of five members—three non-officials and two officials—be appointed whose duties should include sanitation, supply of good water and other such like things which may be necessary for the convenience of the people attending the fair. Therefore I hope that the House will adopt this resolution.

Mr. President : The resolution proposed runs—

> "That this Council recommends to the Government the desirability of entrusting the management of the future Solar eclipse fairs at Kurukshetra to a managing committee consisting of three non-official Sanatan Hindus, to be nominated by the Kurukshetra Restoration Society, and two officials, one of whom to be the Deputy Commissioner of Karnal, who may also be the secretary of the committee."

The question is that that resolution be adopted.

Mian Beli Ram [Hoshiarpur (Non-Muhammadan), Rural] (Urdu) : Sir, I think that everybody, to whatever creed or caste he belongs, will support the object of this resolution. Had the resolution been properly worded I think it would have meant that the Deputy Commissioner of Karnal should consult the already formed society in the management of the fair. But the resolution is so ill-worded that it does not make itself clear. To keep peace and order at the fair is the duty of the Police. Sanitation, supply of food and good water are the duties of the District Board. The grant of money too is the concern of the District Board. If there be some defects in the management they can be removed when they are pointed out. If my friend means that private societies be consulted and they should help in the management I support the resolution. But as the wording of the resolution convey a different idea, I oppose it.

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain (Minister for Education) (Urdu) : Sir, the object which my honourable friend has in view in bringing forward this resolution for the consideration of this Council is indeed a laudable one. As regards the arrangements for holding the Solar eclipse fairs at Kurukshetra, I may say that the Kurukshetra fairs can very well be managed on the same lines as the fairs of other communities are managed.

As my honourable friend, Mian Beli Ram, has just pointed out many a good proposal is foredoomed to failure for the simple reason that such proposals are not properly and clearly put forward, and if I may make bold to say the wording of the resolution and the arguments adduced in its favour

by my honourable friend do not make out a strong case for the adoption of his resolution. As long as it is not clearly explained as to what will be the functions of the committee, and what will be its duties, it will be impossible for Government to take any action on this resolution. If this committee is intended to help the pilgrims in the performance of their religious duties, it will not do for Government to constitute it and have officials on it.

I may impress upon the honourble member the fact that Government is anxious for the welfare of the pilgrims who visit Kurukshetra, and it will not be out of place to mention here that it was only recently that His Excellency the Governor paid a visit to Kurukshetra, the battle-ground of the long-dead heroes of the Mahabarata, whose memory is still cherished by millions of us, their descendants, and others in this country.

Kurukshetra is a well-known place of pilgrimage, and thousands of pilgrims flock to it every year, and though the tax levied from them is small yet they contribute thousands of rupees towards the restoration of the hoary relics of the past. All these contributions, as is well known, have been handed over to the Kurukshetra Restoration Society, and I am sure that if this committee goes on performing its duties conscientiously the day is not far off when Kurukshetra will regain all its past glory and magnificence. With these words I request the honourble gentleman to withdraw his resolution.

Sayad Muhammad Husain: [Montgomery (Muhammadan), Rural] (Urdu): I regret that neither Mian Beli Ram nor the Honourable the Minister of Education understood the speech of Rai Bahadur Lala Panna Lal.

What he means is that the members of the society should be those who have a deep love and respect for shrines, etc., and as the members will be elected they will do the work easily and with zeal. They would not be opposed to have the Deputy Commissioner among them, for his personal influence and position will help in the arrangement for the comforts of the people. The Government will be free and the work of the Deputy Commissioner will be divided. It does not mean that the duties of the Deputy Commissioner, etc., should be reduced, but rather the public should also be included in the management through the society. I being a *Musalman* heartily support the resolution as it will mean improvement in the management of the sacred place of the Hindus.

Lala Atma Ram: [South-East Towns (Non-Muhammadan), Rural]: Sir, the amendment standing in my name runs as follows:—

> "That at the end of the resolution the words 'and the other be a Hindu not below the rank of an Extra Assistant Commissioner' be added."

Sir, the amendment is a simple one and does not require a lengthy discussion. The Solar eclipse fair at Kurukshetra concerns the Hindus and they in large numbers assemble there to celebrate it. So it is advisable that the management should be entrusted to a committee consisting chiefly of Hindus. That is the reason why I have brought forward this amendment and I feel confident that the mover of the resolution and the members of the Council will have no objection in accepting it.

Mr. President: The original resolution runs :—

"That this Council recommends to the Government the desirability of entrusting the management of the future Solar eclipse fairs at Kurukshetra to a managing committee consisting of three non-official Sanatan Hindus, to be nominated by the Kurukshetra Restoration Society, and two officials, one of whom to be the Deputy Commissioner of Karnal, who may also be the secretary of the committee."

To that an amendment has been moved—

"That at the end of the resolution the words 'and the other be a Hindu not below the rank of an Extra Assistant Commissioner' be added."

The question is that that amendment be made.

The amendment was lost.

Diwan Bahadur Raja Narendra Nath [Punjab Landholders (General)] (Urdu) : Although timely notice of this amendment has not been given I would like to suggest an amendment. I have consulted the honourable member who moved the resolution. I propose that instead of three non-official members of the society there should be only two. By so doing the non-official element will not predominate nor the official and the Government will have I hope no objection. . . . .

Mr. President : There is no notice of this. Does the Honourable Minister for Education object to it ?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : I do object to it.

Mr. President : The objection must prevail. We will now proceed for-resume the discussion of the original resolution.

Rai Bahadur Lala Panna Lal (Urdu) : I am very thankful for what the Honourable the Minister for Education has said that His Excellency the Governor and other members of the Government have been taking interest in the managament of the fair. But I assert that the object of the society is to control religious affairs and avoid friction. There is no doubt that some Deputy Commissioners are very kind, but they are frequently transferred, and one cannot be sure about the temperaments of different officials. Besides sometimes they do not follow the wishes of the members of the society. Just as my honourable friend, Sayad Muhammad Husain, has said the Government officials should consult two or three members of the society and by doing so they will not lose anything. The help which the Government gives is very creditable to them and we are all very thankful to Government. I again recommend the Government to adopt this resolution.

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain (Urdu) : Sir, I have already said that the honourable member has not clearly stated the duties and functions of the Committee to which he wishes the Government to entrust the management of the Solar eclipse Fairs at Kurkshetra. If the honourable member's object is that Government officials should consult some of the members of the Kurkshetra Restoration Society, I am prepared to assure him that they will be very pleased to do so, as the suggestions of the members of the Restoration Society are likely to be useful. But

if the honourable member is not satisfied with this assurance, and does not wish to withdraw his resolution I am constrained to say that the wording of his resolution is such that I cannot but oppose it.

Rai Bahadur Lala Panna Lal (Urdu): In view of what the Honourable the Minister for Education has said I ask for leave to withdraw my resolution.

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

RESOLUTION *RE.* EXEMPTION OF THE DERA GHAZI KHAN DISTRICT FROM THE OPERATIONS OF THE FRONTIER CRIMES REGULATIONS.

The following resolution Standing in the name of Malik Firoz Khan Noon was not moved :—

"That this Council recommends to the Government to exempt the Dera Ghazi Khan District from the operations of the Frontier Crimes Regulations."

RESOLUTION *RE.* REMOVAL OF RESTRICTIONS ON THE POSSESSION OF SWORDS IN THE PUNJAB.

The following resolution standing in the name of Chaudhri Nabi Bakhsh was not moved :—

"That this Council recommends to the Government to move the Central Government that all restrictions imposed on the possession of swords in the Punjab be removed forthwith."

RESOLUTION RE. TAHSIL BUILDINGS AT NAROWAL.

The following resolution standing in the name of Pandit Daulat Ram, Kalia, was not moved :—

"That this Council recommends to the Government that—

(*a*) as long as there is financial stringency, no money be spent on the erection of new buildings for the tahsil at Narowal;

(*b*) the tahsil be shifted back to Zafarwal and be allowed to remain there till Government is able to spend money for the erection of new permanent tahsil buildings at Narowal and for the location of a sub-tahsil at Zafarwal."

RESOLUTION *RE.* OBSERVANCE OF ELECTION DAYS AS HOLIDAYS.

Lala Atma Ram [South-East Towns (Non-Muhammadan) Urban]: Sir, I beg to move :—

"That this Council recommends to His Excellency the Governor in Council that in order to provide facilities to the officials as well as the general public to exercise their franchise for the Legislative Council and Legislative Assembly, election days be observed, in future, as holidays in the Punjab."

Sir, I do not want to take up much time of the Council in saying what I mean, because my resolution is very well worded and quite clear in its meaning. If election days be observed as holidays, there will be a great advantage to the public. If we turn our attention for a moment to the last general

[L. Atma Ram.]

elections of the Legislative Council and Legislative Assembly, we find that notwithstanding there being non-co-operation in those days, on account of which about half of the votes were recorded at the polling stations, great difficulty was experienced by the public. But now when the Congress has put in abeyance the programme *re* the boycott of Council and the members of the Sawarajia party want to get into the Councils, it is almost certain that almost all the voters would like to come to the polling stations to give their votes. Hence it is necessary that all sorts of facilities should be provided to the voters for recording their votes. If the election days be not observed as holidays, then the Government employees will find it very difficult and inconvenient to vote, because the offices remain open from 10 A.M. to 4 P.M. and that is the polling time. They cannot leave their work, for by doing so there is a great hindrance in the office routine; nor can they deprive themselves of the franchise, which is their right.

The officials are generally transferred from one place to another. Most of them are, at the time of the preparation of the electoral rolls, at one place, at the time of their revision at another and at the time of polling at some other place. As their names appear only in those electoral rolls at the time of the preparation of which they were present there and as they are now at the time of polling transferred to some other place, they cannot avail of their right to vote. If election days be observed as holidays, then these officials can go to their old places to give their votes. There being no holidays in election days the public and specially those persons who have got their cases in the courts of law and have some other important work in Government offices, are put to a great trouble and inconvenience. I shall explain it by taking into consideration my own district of Hissar. The rural elections in the Hissar district will take place on the 20th, 22nd, 24th and 26th November, 1923. During those days many of the zemindars will be away from their villages to conducting their cases at the head quarters of their tahsils and they will consequently not be able to exercise their vote. In the same way the urban elections will be held on the 28th November, and most of the town people will be at the headquarters of the district in connection with their cases, and their witnesses will also be absent. Thus there will be a great hindrance for the people in exercising their franchise. Besides the Government officials are not in their courts, they are busy at polling stations, and the "Ahlmad" changes the date of hearing, thus causing a great trouble to the poor zemindars and town people. The benefit of the Reform Scheme can be realized only when every eligible person is given all sorts of facilities to exercise his vote. In view of the above, I feel sure that the members of the Council will support my resolution and the Government will accept it.

Mr. President: The resolution proposed runs as follows:—

> "That this Council recommends to His Excellency the Governor in Council that in order to provide facilities to the officials as well as the general public to exercise their franchise for the Legislative Council and Legislative Assembly, election days be observed in future, as holidays in the Punjab."

The question is that that resolution be adopted.

Chaudhri Ali Akbar [Kangra-*cum*-Gurdaspur (Muhammadan), Rural] (Urdu): Sir, the officers cannot spare time on election days for hearing cases or suits because of heavy work. Difficulties, however, will be

increased if holidays are observed during election in these days. The officers will have to be called on these holidays to carry out their election duties. Who will carry on the work during these holidays if the officers are not on duty. With these few words I vote against this resolution.

Chaudhri Muhammad Amin [Sialkot (Muhammadan), Rural] (Urdu) : I have risen to speak against Mr. Atma Ram. His resolution is worded so badly unfortunately that it cannot be passed as it stands without an amendment. It is not clear whether he means these days to be observed as public holidays or only as court holidays. I would not have spoken against it if the wording of the resolution had been clear. Chaudhri Ali Akbar has exaggerated the case. Many magistrates are posted on election duty and they do not carry on their judicial duties in these days. The rest of these officers perform judicial work. Lala Atma Ram means that the enforced absence of the voter should not deprive him of his right of voting. The wording of the resolution ought to be clear. Does Lala Atma Ram want a public holiday or a court holiday?

Mian Beli Ram [Hoshiarpur (Non-Muhammadan), Rural] : Sir, it is my purpose to explain Lala Atma Ram's meaning. The witnesses and the litigants who have to attend those courts which will remain closed during election time ought to be considered. They ought to know at least that the court which they have to attend will not recommence its case work until election days are over.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram [Multan Division (Non-Muhammadan), Rural] (Urdu) : Sir, I vote in favour of Lala Atma Ram's resolution. Mr. Beli Ram professes that the law courts should be closed during the election days but not other offices, schools, etc. I beg to say that not only the courts under the High Court, but all offices under the Canal Department, should be closed. If the offices in this department remain open on these days how is it possible for the officers and their staff to go to the polling station to exercise the right of vote. The schools too ought to be closed. Many of the head masters and the second masters are themselves voters and they would not be able to vote if the schools remain open. Similarly, other public institutions should also be closed. There ought to be at least two urban and four rural holidays and the holidays must be public so that every voter in the urban and rural areas should have facilities to exercise his right to vote.

Diwan Bahadur Raja Narendra Nath [Punjab Landholders, General] (Urdu) : I suggest a *via media*. For public holidays I would substitute court holidays. Government may issue an order, that such of the clerks employed in offices as have a vote should be freely given leave if they want it in order to exercise their right of voting. Courts should be closed as presiding officers are engaged in polling, and parties in cases are put to inconvenience.

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh Majithia (Revenue Member) : Sir, the discussions that have taken place have given a different colour to the proposition put forward by my friend, Lala Atma Ram. My friend wishes us to give two holidays for election days and Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram asks for six holidays. I do not know whether he is in order or not, but if his proposal is to be accepted, we have to consider the question of giving six holidays. I may just point out one or two things. . . . .

Mr. President: As regards the suggestion that has been put forward by Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram, an amendment can be made if Government is prepared to waive objection to its being put in.

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia (continued): I object to the amendment. I am sorry that I was not quite able to follow the main speech of my friend Lala Atma Ram who moved this resolution. Had he been a little slower it would have been helpful to me.....

Mr. Ganpat Rai: He can repeat it again for your information.

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia (continued): Anyhow the trend of his speech was that we should add two holidays to the general holidays that are given at the present moment. I have to bring to the notice of my friend the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee. On the one hand, we have been asked to retrench holidays with a view to effect a saving in the expenditure. On the other hand, friends here come forward and make proposals to add to the holidays or in other words indirectly to add to the expenditure of the provincial finance. My friends have also to consider that we have not only to consider the election, but there are to be bye-elections as well. If Government is to give holidays for elections, is it also proposed to close Government offices for bye-elections?

Diwan Bahadur Raja Narendra Nath: No.

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia (continued): Then if holidays are not to be given for bye-elections the objections that stand in the way of Government officials not being able to vote on the occasion of elections also hold good in the case of bye-elections. Objections have been raised by my friends that many of the Government officials who are voters have not got an opportunity of exercising their right of vote. I may just point out to my friends that if those officials are at all anxious they can easily get permission from their superior officers to go and exercise their right of vote. On the other hand, if it is desired that judicial officers who have the right to vote should be given a holiday, then I can only say that the matter rests with the Honourable Judges of the High Court. The Honourable Judges have got the option of giving holidays in courts subordinate to them.

The present number of holidays is about 109: 8 Christian holidays, 9 Muhammadan, 4 Sikh, 24 Hindu, 52 Sundays and 12 last Saturdays.

Mr. Ganpat Rai: And half Saturdays throughout the year.

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia (continued): So the total number of these holidays is 109 out of 365 days in the year. If the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee are to be carried out then the addition of these holidays is out of question.

One thing more. Complaints have been received and I think Chaudhri Fazl Ali has pointedly put it that many of the Government officers would try and influence these elections. Government has issued instructions that Government servants are not to exert their influence in the elections, but if they are given holidays there will be no stopping them from using their influence in the elections in favour of those whom they wish to be elected.....

Pir Akbar Ali: Raja Sahib has solved the difficulty.

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia (continued): I may also point out one other thing. Our friends have not considered the question of closing the criminal courts. If the criminal courts are closed many persons who have to apply for bail may not be able to get the bail and get out of the jails on those days if they are declared holidays. I may point out, and I think it was pointed out to this House before, that even private employers of labour do not give 109 holidays to their employees in a year. I see no reason why Government should be forced to give holidays in addition to what have already been given to its employees. So, on the ground that this would be adding to the number of our holidays and also on the ground that our officers would possibly get leisure to influence these elections which is undesirable if these holidays are given and also on the ground of economy, I am afraid I shall have to oppose this motion. It opens out, as I have said before, the question of giving in one case six holidays and in other cases two holidays and there is no limit to it. Therefore on behalf of Government I have to oppose this resolution.

3 P. M.

Lala Kesho Ram [Amritsar City (Non-Muhammadan)] (Urdu): Sir, so far as my information goes, 108 gazetted officers are to be appointed in Amritsar to discharge the election duties while the courts will remain closed during that period, ...

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia: The number of officers quoted by the honourable member is not correct.

Lala Kesho Ram (continued): They are said to be so at least. When practically the courts will remain closed then why should the court holidays be not given. None of the magistrates will have time to attend to their judicial duties and the witnesses and litigants of their courts will go back without their work being done. At least a circular to this effect should be issued that the witnesses and the litigants required to attend these courts on these days be informed that they need not be present on the date so fixed.

Chaudhri Muhammad Amin: Sir, my question is whether these suggestions can be considered when we are discussing this resolution. The resolution can be passed or rejected only as it stands. These suggestions made by some members cannot be considered unless there are proper amendments.

Mr. President: No, they cannot be considered unless there are proper amendments.

Mr. Ganpat Rai [Lahore and Ferozepore-*cum*-Sheikhupura (Non-Muhammadan)]: Sir, I myself and some others would have considered the desirability of advising the honourable mover to withdraw the resolution provided the Government gives some indication as to what they intend to do in order to give facilities to the Government employees to give their votes. If the Government have made satisfactory arrangements for the Government servants and those who have to attend courts, to exercise their votes, let them say so and there will be no more discussion. If no arrangements have been made, it follows that the Government are going to deprive the classes of persons referred to of their right to exercise their votes. The easiest solution for Government would be for the judges, magistrates and

[Mr. Ganpat Rai.]

revenue officers to issue an order to the litigants and witnesses two or three weeks in advance that their cases would not be taken on the election day but on some other day. As for the Government officers, the offices need not be closed for six days. The election takes places on four days in each district. The officers will have to allow the employees who have got the right of voting to exercise their vote only on the particular day on which voting takes place in that division where he has to record his vote. If the Government will give an assurance that some such measures will be taken in order to serve the object in view of the honourable mover he can be persuaded to withdraw the resolution. With these remarks I lend my support to the resolution.

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh Majithia (Revenue Member) (Urdu) : Sir, the chief complaint which has been put forward to emphasise the importance of passing this resolution is the so-called trouble which the witnesses and the litigants have to suffer by going and coming back without their evidence being recorded. The High Court alone can issue necessary instructions in the matter. The canal officer can if he likes manage to vote easily although they may be otherwise busy. But to meet the wishes of this House I am willing to agree to bring the matter to the notice of the Hon'ble the High Court and will issue instructions to the heads of departments to afford facilities to those who wish to exercise their right of vote and let me trust this will satisfy the mover and the motion will not be pressed.

Lala Atma Ram: But what about the other officials who are voters?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia: We will ask heads of departments to give their subordinates all facilities to record their votes.

Mr. Ganpat Rai: And also submit to the High Court. . . .

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia: We can only make a request to the High Court to give facilities.

Lala Atma Ram: I beg leave to withdraw the resolution, Sir.

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Diwan Bahadur Raja Narendra Nath: Sir, as most of the members of the Council have an important engagement this afternoon, I propose that the meeting now adjourn. If necessary, so much time can be given us on the 26th.

Mr. Ganpat Rai: Sir, if Raja Sahib and other members have other engagements they can go, but why should the House adjourn ?

Mr. President: It has been suggested that we should adjourn now as some members have other engagements. Does the Honourable Finance Member object to the Council adjourning now ?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: If it means that an additional day should be given to non-official business, then I do object.

Mr. President: There is no suggestion that any other time should be given. The question is merely whether we adjourn now and proceed with the non-official business on the 26th or whether we go on until 3-45 ?

There are only twenty-five more minutes in any case. We have got to adjourn in the ordinary course at 3-45 P.M. Are there any members who have an objection to our adjourning now ?

(*About a dozen members stood up.*)

Mr. President : As a considerable number of the members object, we must sit for the usual time.

RESOLUTION *RE* : THE TIME OF PAYMENT OF LAND REVENUE IN THE TREASURY.

Sardar Randhir Singh [Sialkot-*cum*-Gurdaspur (Sikh), Rural] (Urdu) : Sir, I move the resolution standing in my name which reads thus :—

> "That this Council recommends to the Government that the time for the payment of land revenue in the Treasury be extended by two months, i. e., the date be changed for *kharif* from 1st of January to the end of February and for *rabi* from 1st of August to the end of September."

In the province of the Punjab there are many petty landholders who work on a very small margin of income. They have to maintain their children from the income of their lands, and also pay their revenue to Government early in January. At the time when revenue has to be paid, they only have by them the sugarcane crop out of which they have to pay all their expenses. If this resolution is passed they will be able to pay their revenue after selling toria which is reaped in the last days of January. Toria is a very profitable crop upon which all their hopes depend. In the present case they have to dispose of their crop at less than cost price to be able to pay the revenue, otherwise they have to incur debts which weigh on them very heavily. So is the case with wheat. They have to sell it at a ridiculously low price. Thus they are deprived of all their profits because the dates for revenue are not suitably fixed. I hope the Government will grant this concession to the poor agriculturists.

Mr. President : The resolution proposed reads—

> "That this Council recommends to the Government that the time for the payment of land revenue in the Treasury be extended by two months, *i.e.*, the date be changed for *kharif* from 1st of January to the end of February and for *rabi* from 1st of August to the end of September."

The question is that that resolution be adopted.

Mr. C. M. King (Financial Commissioner) : I think, Sir, that perhaps the discussion will be shortened if I intervene at this stage to explain what the position exactly is. Anyone reading the resolution would suppose that the dates given in it, 1st January and 1st of August, are the dates on which the land revenue is paid in every tahsil and every district of the Punjab at present. That assumption would be entirely wrong. The dates fixed for the payment of land revenue vary not only from district to district but very often from tahsil to tahsil. The variations are very considerable. I have in my hand a statement showing by tahsils the dates fixed throughout the Punjab. It is not necessary for me to read that statement to the House, but I must say that the dates vary from the 15th of December for *kharif* up to the 15th of February in some districts and for the *rabi* instalments from, I think, the 15th of June up to the 15th of August or the end of

[Mr. C. M. King.]

August. Anyone who considers the position can see for himself that the dates must vary throughout the Punjab. You cannot have the same date for the payment of land revenue in Hissar as you have for the payment of land revenue in Kangra. So also you cannot have the same date for Gurgaon as you have in Attock. I do not know whether my friend Sardar Randhir Singh was aware of this fact when he made this proposal. I can tell him that from Gurgaon to Attock and from Hissar to Kangra the dates have been fixed carefully bearing in mind all those considerations which he has put forward in his speech as reasons for postponing the date from the 1st January to the end of February. In every case the date is fixed at settlement time and the Settlement Officer is bound to consult people and fix the date for the payment of the next instalment which they think is most suitable for them as the time when they will have most money in their pockets on the average and at the time when they will be able to pay land revenue most easily into the tahsils. The object of Government in fixing those dates is the very object which Sardar Randhir Singh has stated in his speech. We have to give the land-holders an opportunity to sell the produce of their land and having sold the produce of their land to pay such part of it as is due to Government in the tahsil. We do not wish to give them too long a time to hold on to this money because there is the fear that if they are not compelled to pay the money into the treasury as soon as they obtain it from their produce, there is a great danger that they will either waste it or perhaps a money-lender may come down and take it away from them. In every case, then, I may say that in fixing the dates we have endeavoured to fix them so as to suit the circumstances of the people who have to pay the land revenue. As I said at the beginning, these dates are fixed at settlements and as a rule they last for the whole term of the settlement, but if for any cause during the course of that settlement it appears that the dates fixed are for any reason unsuitable, the Deputy Commissioner has authority and he is required by the rules to represent the matter to the Commissioner and the Commissioner to the Financial Commissioner and the Financial Commissioner if he thinks fit can vary the date. I think that possibly one of the reasons why this resolution has been put forward is that in many districts the cultivation of *toria* has been taken up far more extensively. This crop is a very valuable crop between the *kharif* and the *rabi*. In many districts people sow it very early and get a return for it in cash after selling it in the market sometime between December and February and they pay the *kharif* instalment out of the revenue of this *toria*. As a matter of fact *toria* has always been classed as a *rabi* crop and therefore the assets obtained from the sale of *toria* should be devoted to the payment of the *rabi* instalment which is due between the 15th June and 15th August. That, Sir, is the position. If, however, in one particular district or tahsil, the dates are not suitable, it is quite a simple matter in that particular case for the member or the person who thinks that the date is not suitable to make a representation to the Deputy Commissioner who will forward it to the Financial Commissioner who after considering the whole case will have no hesitation in acceding to the request if he thinks that it is reasonable. It is no good as I say to propose a date which will be so late that people will have spent all the money derived out of the crops and will be put to considerable difficulty and will have to borrow in order to pay land revenue That sort of thing is perfectly useless. That, Sir, is my answer to this reso-

lution. We cannot accept it as a whole. It would be a very hard thing if we accepted the resolution for the whole province. I think the existing arrangement by which we have flexibility throughout the province is infinitely better than a hard and fast proposal suggested by my friend Sardar Randhir Singh.

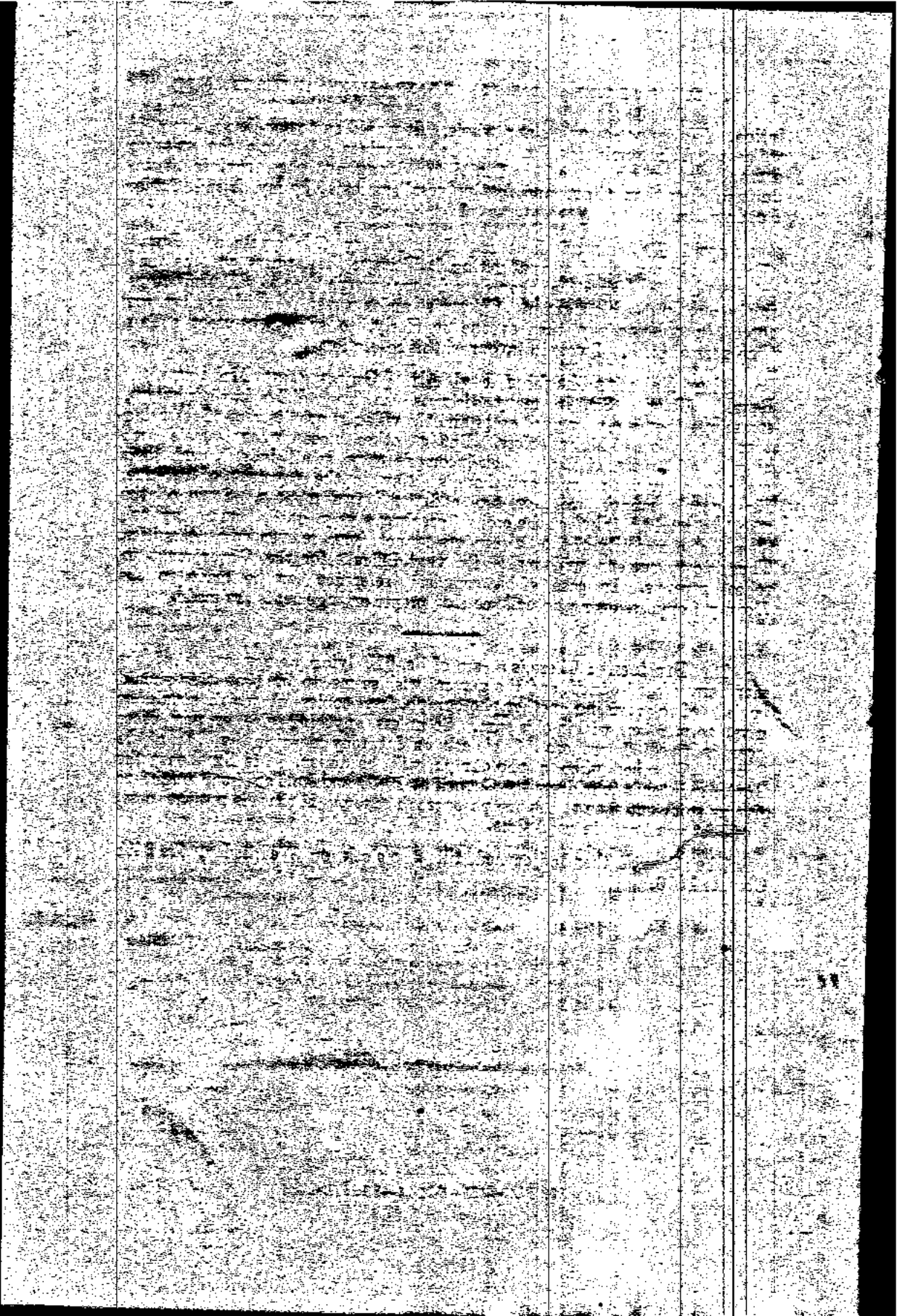
Sayad Muhammad Husain [Montgomery (Muhammadan) Rural] (Urdu): Sir, my friend aims at giving facilities to the farmers and the agriculturists. He desires that they should have enough time to sell their crops in the most profitable manner. Otherwise under present conditions they are forced, in order to pay the revenue regularly, to sell their crops at less than normal price. I vote in favour of this resolution.

Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Fazl Ali [Gujrat West (Muhammadan) Rural] (Urdu): Sir, in many districts the crops differ in their extent, sometimes there are very good crops and the villagers are desirous of reserving them for selling at higher prices. But at other places where people own only small tracts of land, their income is very small indeed, and their crops are eaten up at once and there is delay in the payment of revenue. Those people cannot wait for the additional two months. Some of the members might think that the crops are always very good, but I may tell them that a majority of the zamindars cannot procure even bare necessities. Thus postponement will make it very difficult for the Government to collect revenue. In case of a complait reference can be made to the Deputy Commissioner who will see that proper arrangements are made.

Mr. President: There is a sum of Rs. 610 lying at the credit of the members of the Council, and the general wish seems to be that this should be devoted to providing another photograph, free copies of which should be given to members within this sum. So unless anything else or any other hour is fixed, I propose 10 o'clock on Saturday morning the 27th, at the Council Chamber when a photograph will be taken. His Excellency the Governor intends to address the Council at 10-30 and half an hour ought to give us sufficient time to get the photograph taken. If that is not the case, I will let you know in good time.

The Council then adjourned till 2 o'clock on Wednesday, the 24th October 1923.

99 PLC—425—5-11-23—SGPP Lahore.



PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

EIGHTH SESSION.

Wednesday, 24th October, 1923.

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

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

CONSTITUTION OF MULTAN MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE.

2648. Rai Bahadur Lala Hari Chand: (*a*) Is it a fact that according to the proportion of voters in the Multan Municipality the Hindu members were in a majority before the Muhammadans sent their representation on which Government appointed an equal number of *Muslim* elected as well as of non-official nominated members?

(*b*) Is it a fact that the Minister for Education sent a letter to the Multan Municipal Committee to increase the number of Muhammadan elected members, on which the Committee passed a resolution to the effect that the number of seats of both communities should remain equal as before and that it was supported by the Commissioner and the Deputy Commissioner?

(*c*) Is it a fact that the Minister for Education has proposed to increase the number of non-official Muhammadan nominated members?

(*d*) If the answer to (*c*) is in the affirmative, will the Government be pleased not to change the constitution of the Municipality now?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain: The honourable member is apparently labouring under some misapprehension. The representation alleged to have been sent by *Muslims* does not appear to have reached Government.

(*b*) No.

(*c*) No.

(*d*) However (*d*) does not arise.

EXTENSION OF KAKRANI DISTRIBUTARY ON THE LOWER JHELUM CANAL.

2649. Sayad Ghulam Muhammad Shah: (*a*) Is it a fact that the extensions which had been sanctioned under the remodelling scheme on the Lower Jhelum Canal have been completed?

(*b*) If so, will Government be pleased to give reasons why the extension of Kakrani distributary has not yet been taken in hand?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia: I regret that the answer to this question is not yet ready. It will be communicated to the honourable member when ready.

EXTENSION OF KAKRANI DISTRIBUTARY.

2650. Sayad Ghulam Muhammad Shah: (*a*) Is it a fact that the extension of the Kakrani distributary of the Lower Jhelum Canal as sanctioned in the remodelling scheme has been abandoned and that the Abagat minor is to be extended instead?

(*b*) If so, are the officers concerned entitled to make such alterations and have they obtained permission of the higher authorities (Chief Engineer) for it ?

(*c*) If the answer to (*b*) is in the negative, will the Government be pleased to consider the advisability of stopping such alterations and to take proper steps against the officers concerned ?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia: I regret that the answer to this question is not yet ready. It will be communicated to the honourable member when ready.

TELEGRAPH OFFICE AT QADIAN.

2651. Pir Akbar Ali: (*a*) Is it a fact that Qadian is the centre of the Ahmadia movement wherefrom several newspapers, weekly and bi-weekly, are issued, where two High Schools and a theological college and a number of other schools are located and which is rapidly assuming the proportions of a small town of some importance ?

(*b*) If so, will the Government consider the advisability of moving the proper authorities for the installation of a telegraph office at Qadian as soon as possible ?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: (*a*) The answer is in the affirmative.

(*b*) Before a telegraph office is opened it is necessary that a guarantee for its working should be furnished either by Government or by the private individual bodies, or companies in whose interests it is opened. New telegraph offices are required at a large number of places, and for financial reasons neither Government nor the Telegraph Department are in a position to make as much progress as could be wished. If a satisfactory guarantee were offered from private sources it might be possible to open an office at Qadian.

PUNITIVE POLICE AT PANIPAT.

2652. Lala Atma Ram: (*a*) Is it a fact that punitive police has been ordered to be stationed at Panipat ?

(*b*) If so, will the Government be pleased to see that no one community to the practical exclusion of the other preponderates in it ?

(*c*) Will Government be pleased to state whether the cost of the punitive police will be borne by Muhammadans alone or will it be realized from both the communities ? If it will be realized from both, then in what ratio ? Will it be levied *per capita*

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: I regret that the answer to this question is not yet ready. It will be communicated to the honourable member when ready.

2653. *Cancelled.*

DEBARRING CIVIL COURTS FROM ISSUING PROCESSES OF ARREST AGAINST TENANTS, ETC., BETWEEN CERTIAN DATES OF THE YEAR.

2654. Pir Akbar Ali: (*a*) Will the Government kindly state whether the revenue courts and offices are debarred, except for reasons of emergency, from issuing processes of arrest against a tenant or against a cultivating land-owner between certain dates of the year which aggregate to a period of 4 months ?

(*b*) If so, does there exist similar law for the civil courts ?

(*c*) If not, will the Government kindly consider the advisability of enacting a similar provision in respect of the civil courts ?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia : (*a*) Protection to tenants and land-owners cultivating their own land from arrest by order of revenue courts is afforded by section 97 of the Tenancy Act and rule 14 of the Tenancy Rules ; but these provisions would not protect from arrest a defaulter against whom process issued under section 69, Land Revenue Act, at the instance of a Revenue Officer.

(*b*) The answer is in the negative.

(*c*) Government does not think it necessary to extend the protection already accorded to agriculturists under section 60 of the Civil Procedure Code.

UNLICENSED COW-SLAUGHTER AT PANIPAT.

2655. Lala Atma Ram : (*a*) Is it a fact that under section 43 of the Punjab Laws Act and the rules made thereunder by the Local Government, *vide* Local Rules and Orders, 1909, Volume I, page 60, kine cannot be slaughtered in any town or any town lands except in a place licensed for the purpose by a written license granted by the Deputy Commissioner and in accordance with the conditions of such license ?

(*b*) Is it a fact that about 300 cows were slaughtered at Panipat on the occasion of *Id-ul-Zuha* within the municipal limits without any license from the Deputy Commissioner ?

(*c*) If the answer to (*a*) and (*b*) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state what action it has taken or proposes to take to punish the persons found guilty of the breach of the above rules and also for the due observance of those rules in future ?

Mr. C. A. H. Townsend : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) As ascertained through the Lambardars, Municipal Commissioners on duty, to maintain peace on the occasion of the *Id-ul-Zuha* two hundred and fifty-seven cows were slaughtered at private houses without obtaining any license.

(*c*) As this was an old practice and no objection was raised by any one to it, the local authorities did not take any action on their own initiative. A criminal complaint has since been lodged in one case, which is being heard by the Special Magistrate. The rules under section 43, Punjab Laws Act, have been duly published in the Government Gazette and it is open to any person who considers himself aggrieved to make use of them. Government does not propose to take any further action in the matter.

PUBLIC EXPOSURE OF BEEF AT PANIPAT.

2656. Lala Atma Ram : (*a*) Is it a fact that beef was publicly exposed in the principal streets of the Panipat town before *Id-ul-Zuha* and that no action was taken by the local authorities ?

(*b*) Is it a fact that such public exposure of beef is forbidden by section 43 of the Punjab Laws Act and the rules made thereunder by the Local Government ?

(*c*) If the answer to the above be in the affirmative, what action does Government propose to take to put a stop to this practice in future ?

Mr. C. A. H. Townsend: (*a*) Two instances of beef having been carried by private persons through public streets were brought to the notice of local officials before the *Id-ul-Zuha* by Hindus. The action taken by the local authorities was to arrange an amicable settlement (which was reduced to writing and filed before the Deputy Commissioner at Panipat on the 18th July) and to make arrangements for the prevention of a breach of peace on the occasion of the approaching *Id* festival which passed off without disturbance.

(*b*) The honourable member is referred to rule II (I) of rules under section 43 of the Punjab Laws Act.

(*c*) Government do not propose to take any action. Any instance of the infringement of the rules, if proved in court, will be dealt according to law.

FORCIBLE REMOVAL BY POLICE OF SACRED THREADS OF CERTAIN HINDUS AT PANIPAT.

2657. Lala Atma Ram: (*a*) Is it a fact that out of ten persons arrested at Panipat on 2nd September 1923 under section 107 of the Criminal Procedure Code, the sacred threads (*Janeu or Yagyo pawit*) of five or some of the Hindus were forcibly removed by the police at the time of putting them under lock-up and that these Hindus refused on this account to take food and water?

(*b*) If so, what action the Government has taken or proposes to take to punish the police officials concerned?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: I regret that the answer to this question is not yet ready. It will be communicated to the honourable member when ready.

COMMUNAL REPRESENTATION IN THE OFFICES OF THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, JUDGE, SMALL CAUSE COURT, AND NAIB-TAHSILDAR, AT SIMLA.

2658. Pir Akbar Ali: (*a*) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the number of persons employed in the offices of the Deputy Commissioner, Judge, Small Cause Court, and Naib-Tahsildar, at Simla, giving the name of the community to which they belong?

(*b*) Is it a fact that the number of *Muslim* employees in these offices is very small? If so, will Government consider the advisability of increasing the number of *Muslim* employees to at least fifty per cent. of the total number of appointments in these offices?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia: (*a*) The Government does not think that the value of such a statement would be commensurate with the trouble expended on its preparation.

(*b*) In the absence of information the Government cannot give a reply to this question.

MUHARRAM FESTIVAL AT ZAFARWAL.

2659. Sayad Ghulam Muhammad Shah: (*a*) Is it a fact that during the recent *Muharram* festival at Zafarwal in the Sialkot District the Sub-Inspector of Police stationed there accompanied the *Tazia* procession in plain clothes and his revolver was worn by a constable and that the *Shia* community objected to?

(*b*) Is it also a fact that when the *Tazia* procession halted in the chauk bazar as usual for the recitation of elegies (*Marsias*) the Sub-Inspector seated himself on a *charpoy* with his legs straight towards the *Tazia* and did not get up till warned by the *Shia* community?

(*c*) If the answers to the above are in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to take necessary steps against the said Sub-Inspector and consider the advisability of deputing a Muhammadan Sub-Inspector to Zafarwal on future *Muharram* and *Chehlum* festivals?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: (*a*) The answer is in the negative.

(*b*) The suggestions in this question that the Sub-Inspector showed disrespect to the *Tazia* is unjustified, but it is true that he sat, along with a number of local notables, on a *charpoy* at a distance from the *Tazia*

(*c*) The answers to (*a*) and (*b*) being in the negative, no action appears necessary.

VERNACULAR COPYISTS IN DISTRICT COURTS.

2660. Sayad Ghulam Muhammad Shah: Is it a fact that in the District Court, Sheikhupura, the copying fees earned by the vernacular copyists are equally distributed amongst them? If so, will Government be pleased to consider the advisability of issuing instructions to the Deputy Commissioner of this District and to the Deputy Commissioners of other districts where this practice exists, to stop this practice and to allow each copyist to receive that share of the copying fee which he earns for himself?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia: The method of distributing the copying fees earned by copyists in District Courts is left to the discretion of Deputy Commissioners. Government is not prepared to fetter this discretion by the issue of orders which may not suit the conditions obtaining in all districts.

INCREASING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES DEPARTMENT.

2661. Rai Sahib Lala Ganga Ram: Arising out of the answer given to question No. 2275* on 12th March 1923, will Government be pleased to state whether they are prepared further to increase the establishment of the Co-operative Societies Department? If not, will Government be pleased to consider the desirability of securing the services of those retired officers, who may be willing to assist gratuitously?

The Honourable Lala Harkishan Lal: Owing to financial stringency it is most improbable that there will be money for any increase in the establishment of the Co-operative Societies Department during next year. As regards services of retired officers, Government has sanctioned a scheme whereby retired officers may receive allowances during their period of training, and may be given travelling allowance when working away from their homes. Two retired officers are at present working in the department, and the Registrar would be pleased to welcome any others possessed of the necessary qualifications who would be prepared to undergo preliminary training.

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* Volume IV, page 1193.

ADMISSION OF STUDENTS TO RECOGNIZED SCHOOLS.

2662. Rai Sahib Lala Ganga Ram: (*a*) Is it a fact that the Minister for Education has recently issued a circular to the effect that in future no candidates will be admitted to the ninth class who have not previously studied in a school or who have studied in unrecognized schools?

(*b*) If the answer is in affirmative, is it not against Article 222 of the Punjab Education Code?

(*c*) If so, will the Government be pleased to reconsider the matter and cancel the said circular?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain: The reply to part (*a*) of the question is in the negative. Questions in part (*b*) and (*c*) do not arise.

COMMUNAL REPRESENTATION IN THE PUNJAB POLICE SERVICE.

2663. Lala Atma Ram: (*a*) Will Government be pleased to state—

(*i*) the proportion of Hindu and *Muslim* elements in the Punjab Police Service;

(*ii*) the number of Indians in general and of Hindus in particular who are officiating permanently or temporarily as Superintendents of Police;

(*b*) If the Muhammadans preponderate in the Punjab Police Service what steps does the Government propose to take to equalise the Hindu and *Muslim* elements therein?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: I regret that the answer to this question is not yet ready. It will be communicated to the honourable member when ready.

MUNICIPAL BOARD OF MIANI.

2664. Diwan Bahadur Raja Narendra Nath: (*a*) Arising out of the answer given to question No. 2399,* on 15th March 1923, will the Honourable Minister for Education be pleased to lay on the table, the report called for in Secretary to Government's letter No. 32997-L. G., dated 30th December 1922, to the Commissioner of Rawalpindi?

(*b*) Will he be pleased to state whether the personnel of the Municipal Board of Miani, so far as nominated members are concerned, has remained unaltered for some time? If so, will he be pleased to advise the local officers to import fresh blood into the Board?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain: I regret that the answer to this question is not yet ready. It will be communicated to the honourable member when ready.

MUNICIPAL BOARD MIDDLE SCHOOL, MIANI.

2665. Diwan Bahadur Raja Narendra Nath: (*a*) Will the Honourable Minister for Education be pleased to state whether it is a fact that in 1919 Messrs. Tulsi Dass, Ram Dass of Miani offered a sum of Rs. 25,000 for the addition of High Classes to the local Municipal Board

* Volume IV, page 129.

Middle School ? That the offer was accepted by the Municipal Committee, the Deputy Commissioner and the money deposited in the Treasury, but that subsequently after a lapse of 4 years it was resolved that money be returned ?

(*b*) Will the Honourable Minister for Education be pleased to state the reasons which led to this change of attitude by the authorities towards the offer mentioned in (*a*) ?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain: I regret that the answer to this question is not yet ready. It will be communicated to the honourable member when ready.

MAHAN BIR DAL, SARGODHA.

2666. Diwan Bahadur Raja Narendra Nath: Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a copy of the judgment directing the office-bearer of the *Maha Bir Dal* at Sargodha to furnish security under section 107, Criminal Procedure Code ?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: A copy of the Judgments dated 30th July 1923 and 28th August 1923 passed by Lala Vishnu Bhagwan, Magistrate, 1st Class, Sargodha, and Mr. T. B. Deeks, District Magistrate, Sargodha, respectively, is laid on the table.

In the Court of Lala Vishnu Bhagwan, M.A., Magistrate, 1st class at Sargodha, in the District of Shahpur.

Criminal Case No. 65/3 of 1923.

CROWN—*Complainant.*

versus

(1) GOSSAIN SHANKER SAHAI (2) LAKHMI DASS AND (3) GHANI SHAM DASS, residents of Sargodha in the district of Shahpur—*Accused.*

Charge under Section 107, Criminal Procedure Code.

Date of institution : 25-7-1923.

Date of decision : 30-7-1923.

ORDER.

As it originally stood the case was against 252 men constituting what is known as the *Maha Bir Dal* of Sargodha. Notices under Section 107, Criminal Procedure Code, calling upon them to show cause why they should not be bound down each for Rs. 500 with one surety of like amount for one year were issued to them all. But only ninety-four of them turned up in Court on the 26th including the three accused noted on the top. Of these all with the exception of the three accused mentioned have been discharged by my order of the 26th on the file. The case of the three accused is as follows :—

On the 18th July there was a big crowd at the Sargodha Railway Station at morning train time awaiting the arrival of a so-called political leader just released from jail. This crowd included about 100 men of the *Maha Bir Dal* distinguished from the others by their red turbans, and the long sticks which they carried. They formed themselves into a row along the length of

the platform and several times shouted "Jai Jai Sita Ram" and "Bande Matram". They had obstructed the Railway staff inasmuch as they had entered on the platform in spite of remonstrance without platform tickets and by unauthorised passages. The memo. of the station-master to the Railway police (copy on the file) written long before the police thought of taking any action against the accused is the best testimony of that. There was obstruction also to the passengers. A row of men posted in front of the carriages was bound to be obstructive. And the prosecution witnesses, all with the exception of P. W. 5 very respectable men—saw it with their own eyes. This obstruction again was obviously very likely to occasion a breach of the peace. A passenger just alighted from the train is very anxious to get home, and would not lightly resent being obstructed in the way. Or there may be a man travelling with ladies. He would as strongly resent a number of men posted in front of the carriage from which his ladies had to get down. Instances like these could be multiplied, and they would prove that the armed formation was very likely to lead to a breach of the peace. It is another matter if the obstructed people like the Railway staff took no action. That shows rather that they were "intimidated". Now by their own admission in the application D/A the President and Vice-President, accused, are responsible for the demonstration of the 18th. D/B a copy of the printed rules and regulations of the society, confirms this. To use the words of the application itself these two office-bearers "initiate, organise and control the acts of the *Dal*." The affair of the 18th was certainly an act of the *Dal*. So we see that the connection of the demonstration with these accused is clearly established. The position of the third accused—the Secretary—is different. He has no controlling power like what the other accused have. His signature is undoubtedly present on the application—D/A—but it was obviously a later addition as its ink is different from that in which the application is written, and then the body of the application or the rules or regulations do not invest him with any such power. There is one other argument on the side of the prosecution, namely, that during these days of political unrest when the so-called political leaders are touring from place to place, visits from them to Sargodha are expected, and that therefore repitition of the demonstration of the 18th is apprehended unless the responsible people are bound down.

The accused have produced do defence, though they have put in a written statement. In this statement they admit that about 50 of the *Dal* people were present at the station on the 18th, but mention of their doings there—the taking up of a position in front of the carriages, shouting, etc.—has been naïvely avoid.

The case was argued at length on both sides and several rulings were quoted by the Counsel for the accused. Much stress has been laid on 4 P. R., 1912. But I can venture to say that the facts of that case were entirely different. The *Banias* in that case stood apart as mere inducers The present accused (I mean only the President and Vice-President of them were acting in a double capacity—as "inducers" as well as partakers. Then again theirs was no mere "inducement" that may have been disregarded or disobeyed: it was rather a command as of a Guru or a General which must be obeyed. Of course the persons who obey that command, by their volition, make themselves also responsible for the act done in obedience to the command, and the members of the *Dal* who have been discharged should consider themselves lucky for having got off scot free. But their responsibility does not in any way take away from that of the Guru or General. In the

present case, as already discussed, the Guru or the General as member of the *Dal* was also in the fighting line. It has again been urged that the society has purely relegious and social service for its ideals. But the demonstration with *lathis* of 18th July, or even the reception of a political leader does not fall under that category. The purpose of this prosecution of it may be so called, is in fact to help the society to confine its activities within those limits. There is no quarrel with the wearing of *lal* pagries. There is no quarrelling with individuals going to receive an old friend as individuals and as friends. What is objected to is the assumption, on the part of a group of people, of the right to interfere with the freedom of others in the manner of the demonstrators of the eventful 18th. To give such a demonstration the colour of religion is dastardliness. I have been asked what an order of security to keep the peace in the case of the accused would mean. I cannot lay down a programme of life for them. But I can tell them that a demonstration like that of the 18th is not to be repeated, that the cry of "Jai Jai Sita Ram" is to be used in the proper place and at proper times. It will be obvious to any man that such a cry, quite innocent in itself, will, if given in the Court compound during Court hours be a regular nuisance and will make the crier answerable before the law. Thus a man with the best of intentions may make himself obnoxious to others. An order of security is no insult. It is only an enforceable promise that a particular thing which is likely to lead to a breach of the peace will be avoided. One can see that there is nothing unfair about it. No man is justified to interfere in the freedom of another. The demonstrators of the 18th did certainly so interfere. They took a false step. They should promise not to repeat it. They should not on the other hand try to justify it.

As said elsewhere, the responsibility of the Secretary accused for the demonstration of the 18th is no more than that of an ordinary member, and like the latter he is discharged. The other two accused, the President and the Vice-President, willingly took upon themselves the whole responsibility (by their application D/A) and must not now shirk it. They are, therefore, called upon to execute each a bond of Rs. 500, with one surety of like amount, to keep the peace for one year.

Pronounced.
30-7-1923.

(Sd.) VISHNU BHAGWAN,
Magistrate, 1st Class, Sargodha.

In the Court of T. B. Deeks, Esquire, District Magistrate at Sargodha, in the District of Shahpur.

Criminal appeal No. 34 of 1923.

Date of institution: 7th August 1923.

Date of decision: 28th August 1923.

GOSSAIN SHANKAR SHAI, son of Gossain Girdhari Lal, caste Gossain, and LAKHMI DASS, son of Lala Dassu Shah, caste Khatri Kakar, office-bearer of Shri Sanatan Dharm *Maha Bir Dal* Sargodha—*Appellants*,

versus

THE CROWN—*Respondent*.

Application under section 125, Criminal Procedure Code, appealing from the order of Lala Vishnu Bhagwan, Magistrate 1st Class, Sargodha, whereby the appellants have been ordered to execute bond of Rs. 500 each for keeping peace for one year.

ORDER.

The applicants are members of an organisation known as the *Maha Bir Dal* which in Sargodha has a membership of about 252. This body, as has been explained in the Lower Court's record, is one which has a recognized head dress in the nature of a red turban and the members carry about with them rather ostentatious looking "dangs." On the 18th July 1923 a large section of the *Dal* paraded on the Sargodha platform and caused much obstruction to the Railway Staff as well as inconvenience to the passengers, both would-be and alighting. They had gone to the station for the purpose of meeting an ex-political convict and escorting him to the town. The facts of this are given at great length in the Lower Court's judgment. The Magistrate has dealt with the various points in the case with clear precision, and in my opinion has written a very able judgment. I have heard Mr. Murari Lal at great length. His contention in the main is that, if the applicants have been prosecuted as President and Vice-President of the *Dal* and have been bound down as such because they influence the actions of the members, the order is wrong, and he quotes P. R. 24 of 1914 in support of this contention. He further urges that if they have been prosecuted as private individuals likely to cause a breach of the peace then nothing has been proved against *Lakhmi Das who is not alleged to have taken part in the show of the 18th July*. I have considered his arguments. My view is that the applicants have been dealt with as members of an organisation who collectively and individually being armed with *dangs* can, given the smallest opportunity, commit a breach of the peace and that the demonstration of the 18th July was a palpable sample of what could be done. Here was a clear overt act which was done by certain people as members of the *Maha Bir Dal* and I think we can derive a clear inference from it. Any member of the *Dal* is liable to take part or is likely to take part in such a demonstration. That any one of them was absent on the 18th July is no guarantee that he will not be present on some future occasion and enter into a similar overt act, and it is quite clear to my mind from what happened on the 18th July that there was every reason to fear a breach of the peace and every similar demonstration in the future would justifiably rouse similar fear. I am not prepared to interfere with the order of the Lower Court and I dismiss the application.

(Sd.) T. B. DEEKS,

28th August 1923. *District Magistrate.*

PERIOD OF STAY OF SUB-INSPECTORS OF POLICE IN HILLY DISTRICTS.

2667. Chaudhri Ali Akbar: (*a*) Will Government be pleased to state the period for which Sub-Inspectors of Police who are residents of plains are posted to the hilly districts of the province?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the negative, will Government be pleased to fix a definite period during which such officers should remain in hilly districts of the province?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: (*a*) No period for which Sub-Inspectors of Police, who are residents of the plains, are posted to the hilly districts of the province has been fixed.

(*b*) It is not feasible to fix a definite period in the case of such officers.

APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER OVER-LAPPING IN THE P. W. D. AND DISTRICT BOARDS.

2668. Rai Sahib Lala Thakar Das: (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state if a Committee has been appointed to examine over-lapping in the Public Works Department, Buildings and Roads, Irrigation and District Boards in accordance with the resolution adopted by this Council on 23rd March last?

(*b*) If so, will it be pleased to lay on the table the names of the members constituting the Committee?

(*c*) Has the Committee finished its labours and submitted its recommendations? If so, will the Government be pleased to lay them on the table and also state what action it proposes to take on them?

(*d*) If the Committee has not been appointed, will the Government be pleased to state if it proposes to fulfil the promise made by the Minister for Agriculture in the course of his speech on the resolution above referred to that the four members and ministers would go fully into the matter?

The Honourable Lala Harkishan Lal: Government is still considering the question of the appointment of a Committee to enquire into the alleged over-lapping of duties between the Buildings and Roads and Irrigation Branches of the Public Works Department and District Boards. The delay in notifying the constitution of the Committee is due to preparation of certain data without which it will be difficult for the Committee to make any headway. Every endeavour is being made to expedite the matter and it is hoped to make an announcement shortly.

THE LAWRENCE STATUE.

2669. Rai Sahib Lala Thakar Das: (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state if it is a fact that the Municipal Committee of Lahore adopted almost unanimously on May 19th, 1923, the following resolution *re the Lawrence Statue* to be sent to the Government for its acceptance and necessary action arising out of it, *viz.*, "That the present statue be removed and in its place another statue of Lord Lawrence of a different kind, without the inscription and the pose which are considered objectionable be put up as early as possible. The cost to be shared by the Government and the Municipality in the ratio of 2 to 1 respectively"?

(*b*) Will Government be pleased to state whether or not the resolution was passed by the said Committee with a previous understanding having been arrived at with the Government to its being acceptable to the latter?

(*c*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to accept and give effect to the said resolution without further delay?

(*d*) If Government has decided neither to accept nor to give effect to the said resolution, will it be pleased to state its reasons for not doing so?

(*e*) Will Government be pleased to give a resume of the correspondence passed between it and the Lahore Municipality *re* the removal of the Lawrence Statue, together with the full text of the Municipal Committee's

resolutions passed from time to time in this behalf, and of the opinion recorded by the Legal Remembrancer to the Government and the Municipal Committee's Legal Adviser, as to the ownership of the statue ?

(*f*) Is Government aware that the pose of the statue and the inscription underneath are generally considered insulting to the awakening sentiment of Indian Nationalism ?

(*g*) With reference to Earl Winterton's reply to Sir John Hewett in the House of Commons in June 1923, *re* the removal of the Lawrence Statue to the effect that the Punjab Government was still considering the resolution of the Municipality of Lahore passed on May 19th, but whatever decision was reached, they were fully alive to the need for seeing that the statue was not treated with disrespect ; is Government aware that the removal of the present statue and the putting up of a substitute is in the considered opinion of an overwhelming majority of the people not a treating of the statue or the memory of that great soldier—Statesman, with disrespect ?

(*h*) Will Government be pleased to notify the approximate time when it will be removed ?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain :

(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) This does not accurately represent the facts.

(*c*), (*d*) and (*h*). The orders of Government have recently been communicated to the Commissioner and will shortly be made public.

(*e*) No. The papers are confidential.

(*f*) and (*g*). The Government are aware that such opinions are held but cannot say to what extent.

STANDING BOARD OF ECONOMICS, PUNJAB.

2670. Rai Sahib Lala Thakar Das : Will Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) when the Standing Board of Economics, Punjab, or some such institution was first established ?

(*b*) if it is a purely Government Institution ?

(*c*) if the answer to the above is in the negative, how much of non-official element does it contain ?

(*d*) what are its aims and objects ?

(*e*) what has it so far accomplished, (1) in the way of writings published or unpublished by individual members or by the Board in its collective capacity ; (2) in the way of educating the public, rural and urban and educated classes ; (3) in other ways ?

(*f*) what are its constitutions and conditions of membership ?

(*g*) what are the names of its present office-bearers and members ?

(*h*) will Government be pleased to summarise the history of the Board ?

The Honourable Lala Harkishan Lal:

(*a*) In May 1919.

(*b*) No.

(*c*) Ten out of twenty-two members.

(*d*) The aims and objects are fully set out in Punjab Government Press *Communiqué* dated 7th August 1919 to which detailed reference is invited.

(*e*) (i) The Board has so far published two reports :—

(1) Family Budget of Clerks by Mrs. Caleb.

(2) Report on an Economic Survey of Bairampur (with special reference to three other villages) in the Hoshiarpur District, by Ram Lal Bhalla, M.A., Assistant Professor of Economics, Forman Christian College, Lahore.

It is about to publish two more :—

(1) A thesis on an investigation into the question of milk and ghee supply of the Punjab.

(2) A thesis on the mode of life and housing conditions of the Factory operatives in and near Lahore.

It is conducting two investigations, one into the economic conditions of the people of Dera and Hamirpur Tahsils, Kangra District; the other into existing mortgages in the Ferozepore District.

(2) The proceedings of the Board are published in the *Punjab Gazette* and communicated to the Press.

(3) (*i*) The Board reported to the Punjab Government on the question of Trade Union Legislation.

(*ii*) The Board was instrumental in supplying the Government of India with a large number of Workmen's budget for the preparation of the index number.

(*f*) Attention is invited to the *communiqué* of 7th August 1919 already referred to.

(*g*) *Ex-officio*—

1. Honourable Minister for Agriculture, President, Joint Board;

2. C. M. King, Esquire, C.S.I., C.I.E., I.C.S., Financial Commissioner (Chairman, Rural Section);

3. H. P. Tollinton, Esq., C.I.E., I.C.S., Financial Commissioner (Chairman, Urban Section);

4. Senior Secretary to the Financial Commissioners (Secretary, Joint Board);

5. W. H. Myles, Esquire, Secretary, Rural Section;

6. Manohar Lal, Esquire, M.A., Bar.-at-law Secretary, Urban Section;

7. D. Milne, Esquire, Director of Agriculture, Punjab;

8. E. A. Scott, Esquire, O.B.E., Director of Industries, Punjab ;

9. H. Calvert, Esquire, I.C.S., Registrar, Co-operative Societies, Punjab ;

10. Colonel W. H. C. Forster, D.P.H., I.M.S., Director of Public Health, Punjab ;

11. H. R. Stewart, Esquire, Professor of Agriculture, Punjab Agricultural College, Lyallpur ;

12. W. H. Abel, Esquire, Inspector of Factories, Punjab.

Nominated—

1. H. W. Emerson, Esquire, I.C.S., Deputy Commissioner, Lahore ;

2. D. Reynell, Esquire, Assistant Director of Public Instruction, Punjab ;

3. Principal Manmohan, M.A., Government College, Ludhiana ;

4. C. F. Strickland, Esquire, I.C.S., Deputy Registrar, Co-operative Societies, Punjab ;

5. Professor Brij Narain, M.A., Sanatan Dharm College, Lahore ;

6. Revd. Dr. E. D. Lucas, Forman Christian College, Lahore ;

7. Professor G. D. Sondhi, Government College, Lahore ;

8. Professor Amar Nath, Bali, M.A., Dayanand Anglo-Vedic College, Lahore ;

9. Lala Mulk Raj Bhalla, Managing Director, The Punjab Co-operative Bank, Limited, Lahore ;

10. Professor Shiv Dyal, M.A., Government College, Lahore ;

11. W. Roberts, Esquire, British Cotton Growing Association Farm, Khanewal ;

12. T. R. S. Mackenzie, Esquire, Manager, The National Bank of India, Limited.

(*h*) Since the inception of the Board two important developments have taken place. On the 5th May 1922 it was declared by Government to be an unofficial body and on the 6th December 1922 it was accepted by Government that the Chairman of the Rural Section should be appointed by name and not by office. The achievements of the Board have already been related.

COMPENSATORY GRANTS TO DEPENDENTS OF VICTIMS OF THE *BABAR AKAL JATHA*.

2671. Rai Sahib Lala Thakar Das: (*a*) Is it a fact that the Government have made compensatory grants to the dependents of certain persons recently murdered in the Doaba by the *Babar Akali Jatha* ?

(*b*) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a list of all the persons murdered by the *Babar Akali Jatha* for political reasons only ?

(*c*) Will Government be pleased to state full particulars regarding (1) the names, (2) places of residence, (3) nature of service rendered to Government attributed or attributable so far as ascertainable of those victims of the *Babar Akali Jatha* whose dependents have received compensatory grants ?

(*d*) Will Government be pleased to state reasons for making compensatory grants to dependants of persons murdered by the *Babar Akali Jatha* without allowing this House to have a say in the matter ?

(*e*) Will Government be pleased to state the amount of money spent by them in dealing with the *Babar Akali Jatha* menace ?

(*f*) Will Government be pleased to state, if they had satisfied themselves, in each individual case, where compensatory grants were made, to the dependants of the victims of the *Babar Akali Jatha*, that these several persons were, as a matter of fact, murdered for political and not for private reasons ?

(*g*) Will Government be pleased to state what principle guided them in fixing the amount of compensation granted to the dependants of the victims of the *Babar Akali Jatha* ?

(*h*) Did the nature of services rendered to Government or position in life of the victim or needs of those left behind help in deciding the amount of compensation ?

(*i*) Will Government be pleased to consider the desirability of consulting this Council in the matter of making compensatory grants to the dependants of those of the victims of the *Babar Akali Jatha* as have not yet received any compensatory grant ?

(*j*) Will Government be pleased to consider the advisability of appointing a purely Advisory Committee of four elected members of this Council (*viz.*, one Hindu, one *Muslim* and two Sikhs) for the purpose of advising the Government in deciding as to which of the dependants of the victims of the *Babar Akali Jatha* should be given a compensatory grant and the amount of such grants ?

(*k*) Will Government be pleased to make a statement as to the present situation arising out of the *Babar Akali Jatha* activities ?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : (*a*) The reply is in the affirmative.

(*b*) All murders committed by the *Babar Akali Jatha* are believed to have been inspired by political motives, but as these cases of murder are now under trial, it is obviously undesirable to commit Government to any statement.

The murders committed by the gang are—

(1) Bishen Singh, Zaildar of Kapurthala State.

(2) Diwan Singh, Jat, of Hayatpur, District Hoshiarpur.

(3) & (4) Buta Singh, Lambardar of Nangal Shaman, and his grandson.

(5) Labh Singh, *ex*-Mistri of the Police Training School, Phillaur.

(6) Hazara Singh of Bahbalpur, Hoshiarpur District.

(7) Gainda Singh, retired Subedar of Gurial, Jullundur District.

(8) Rala, Sufedposh of Kaulgarh, Hoshiarpur District.

(9) Dittu, brother of Rala, Kaulgarh.

(10) Ata Muhammad, Patwari, of Nanda Chaur, District Hoshiarpur.

(*c*) It is undesirable to disclose this information until all members of the gang have been arrested and the organisation has been completely broken up, as its publication would in all probability jeopardise the lives of these persons.

(*d*) Prompt relief to the dependants of murdered persons was necessary in the interests of humanity and in order to restore public confidence. The matter was one entirely within the discretion of Government.

(*e*) It is impossible to make any statement at present. The total expenditure is as yet unknown.

(*f*) Yes.

(*g*) The position in life and the services rendered to Government by the murdered persons.

(*h*) Yes.

(*i*) The reply is in the negative.

(*j*) The reply is in the negative, for the reasons given in the concluding words of my reply to part (*d*) of this question.

(*k*) The present situation is still uncertain. The Doaba contains a considerable lawless element. There are still a number of members of the original *Babar Jatha* at large and a number of villagers continue to give them active assistance. These murders are also being encouraged by certain political bodies.

SCHEME FOR IRRIGATING THE PIND DADAN KHAN AREA.

2672. Rai Sahib Lala Thakar Das: (*a*) Will Government be pleased to state what action, if any, has been taken by them in pursuance of the recommendations of the Committee appointed to consider the details of the scheme for irrigating the Pind Dadan Khan area by means of pumping water from the river Jhelum by Hydro-electric power, generated at Rasul, and

(*b*) If the Survey of the whole area, as recommended by the said Committee, as a preliminary to the preparation of the estimate of the cost of the whole scheme, has been taken in hand, what stage it has reached?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia: The information is being collected and will be placed on the table when ready.

PUNJAB GOVERNMENT DEVELOPMENT LOAN AND JALALPUR JATTAN CANAL.

2673. Rai Sahib Lala Thakar Das: (*a*) Will Government be pleased to state whether they propose to spend a sum of money out of the one Crore of Development Loan, raised by them, on the Jalalpur-Jattan (Inundation) Canal Scheme?

(*b*) If so, how much and to what stage, the proposed expenditure will cause the project to reach?

(*c*) Will Government be pleased to consider the desirability of earmarking a sufficient amount of money out of the present Development Loan, raised by them, so as to carry the whole scheme through?

(*d*) If they are not prepared to do so, will Government be pleased to state their reasons for the same?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: (*a*) The Development Loan was raised by the Punjab Government on the understanding that it would be applied to productive irrigation projects. Whether it can be applied to the Jalalpur Jattan (Inundation) Canal Scheme depends on whether that scheme appears on examination to be productive.

(*b*), (*c*) & (*d*) do not arise until the result of that examination is known.

THE SIKH GURDWARAS AND SHRINES ACT.

2674. Rai Sahib Lala Thakar Das: (*a*) Will Government be pleased to state whether or not any occasion has arisen, since the passing of the Sikh Gurdwaras and Shrines Act, to apply it?

(*b*) If the answer to the above is in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state how many times it has been applied and in connection with which Gurdwaras and Shrines?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain: A suitable occasion to apply the Act to a Gurdwara has not arisen.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH REGARDING VILLAGE DISPENSARIES.

2675. Rai Sahib Lala Thakar Das: Will Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) when, if at all, they are going to try the scheme of village dispensaries in charge of subsidised private doctors as recommended by the Standing Committee on Public Health?

(*b*) how much money do they propose to spend on this scheme during the financial year ending on March 31st, 1924?

(*c*) which of the villages have been or are going to be selected for the purpose?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain:—

(*a*) As soon as funds are made available.

(*b*) There is no money available.

(*c*) Does not arise.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH REGARDING VILLAGE DISPENSARIES.

2676. Rai Sahib Lala Thakar Das: With reference to the recommendations of the Standing Committee on Public Health regarding the scheme of village dispensaries in charge of subsidised private doctors, will Government be pleased to state how many, if at all, of all the doctors going to be so subsidised, are proposed to be Hindus?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain: In view of the answer to question No. 2675, this question does not arise.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH REGARDING VILLAGE DISPENSARIES.

2677. Rai Sahib Lala Thakar Das: With reference to the recommendations of the Standing Committee of this Council on Public Health regarding the trial of a scheme of village dispensaries to be put in charge of subsidised private doctors, has Government any intention of engaging the services, in the first instance, of those doctors, who are qualified Medical men in the systems of medicine called *Yunani* and *Ayurvedic*?

If not, why not?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain: The question has not been considered but will be considered when the occasion arises.

VILLAGERS AND INDIGENOUS MEDICINE.

2678. Rai Sahib Lala Thakar Das: (*a*) Are Government aware that the villagers of the Punjab are, in an overwhelmingly large majority of cases, in the habit of calling in the help of indigenous medicine and indigenous medical men and that they are more used to them with successful results, when ill?

(*b*) If so, will Government be pleased to consider the desirability of trying the scheme of village dispensaries, in charge of subsidised private doctors, as recommended by the Public Health Standing Committee of this Council, in some villages at least, by putting these dispensaries in charge of *Ayurvedic* and *Yunani* physicians to see if the scheme worked in this way works better or worse than where it is worked under the care of aleopathic doctors?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain: In view of the answer to Question No. 2675, it is too early to consider this matter.

COMPARATIVE COST OF SCHEME OF VILLAGE DISPENSARIES.

2679. Rai Sahib Lala Thakar Das: (*a*) Is it a fact that the cost of indigenous medicines and the remuneration required by *Ayurvedic* and *Yunani* medical men are, on an average, very considerably less than the cost of aleopathic medicine and the remuneration of the practitioners thereof?

(*b*) If so, will Government be pleased to consider the desirability, before taking in hand the trial of the scheme of opening village dispensaries to be put incharge of subsidised private doctors, of fully enquiring into the comparative cost, consistent with efficiency and success of the *Ayurvedic* and *Yunani* system and the aleopathic system?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : The points raised by the honourable member will be carefully considered.

LAHORE MUNICIPALITY'S NOMINEE ON THE RAILWAY ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

2680. Rai Sahib Lala Thakar Das : Is it a fact that a seat has been found, on the Railway Advisory Committee, for the senior Vice-President of the Lahore Municipal Committee, Mian Abdul Aziz, Barrister-at-Law ? If so, will Government be pleased to ascertain and state if he was elected by the Lahore Municipal Committee itself or just nominated by the President of the said Municipal Committee ?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : The honourable member has raised a question which concerns the internal administration of the Lahore Municipal Committee, which should be approached to obtain the information he requires.

ABOLITION OF COMMUNAL ELECTORATES AND STANDING COMMITTEE ON LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT.

2681. Rai Sahib Lala Thakar Das : (1) Is it a fact that the Standing Committee on Local Self-Government of this Council adopted a resolution advising the Government against the acceptance of Mr. K. L. Rallia Ram's resolution, which recommends the abolition of communal electorates in the various local bodies in the Punjab without affecting the number of seats allotted to different communities ?

(2) If so, will Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of Hindu members on the said Committee ;

(*b*) the number of *Muslim* members ;

(*c*) the number of others, if any ;

(*d*) whether the resolution was adopted unanimously ?

(*e*) If the answer to (*d*) is in the negative, did all the Hindu members vote against it ?

(*f*) If the answer to (*d*) is in the negative, which of the Hindu members voted for it ?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : (1) Yes.

2. (*a*), (*b*) and (*c*) The honourable member is referred to Punjab Legislative Council Notification No. 12, dated 29th March 1923, in which the Committee's personnel was notified.

(*d*), (*e*) and (*f*) The rule prescribed for Standing Committees is that the proceedings should only record decisions, not the details of the voting.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNAL ELECTORATES IN MUNICIPALITIES.

2682. Rai Sahib Lala Thakar Das : (*a*) Is it a fact that the Standing Committee on Local Self-Government of this Council recently adopted a resolution advising Government in favour of "Communal Electorates in those Municipalities where communal electorates are keenly demanded "?

(*b*) If so, which, if any, of the Hindu members of the said Committee voted for the resolution ?

(*c*) Will Government be pleased to state what criterion was set up by them, for their guidance, in the matter of deciding whether or not there was, in a municipal area, keen demand for communal electorates ?

(*d*) Will Government be pleased to state in which and in how many of the Municipal areas of the Punjab, it has been decided by the Government that a keen demand for communal electorates was felt and with what result as to the future action of the Government in this behalf ?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain :

(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Honourable member's attention is invited to answer to part (*d*) of his question No. 2381.

(*c*) Common sense.

(*d*) Government policy is enunciated on the question in paragraphs 5 and 6 of the Note a copy of which has already been supplied to the honourable member.

NOMINATED MEMBERS AND PRESIDENTSHIP OF PUNJAB MUNICIPALITIES.

2683. Rai Sahib Lala Thakar Das : Will Government be pleased to consider the advisability of so amending the constitution of the Municipalities of the Punjab that henceforward at the time of the election of a non-official President for a Municipal Committee—

(*a*) A member, who has been nominated by the Government, be debarred from standing for election to the Presidentship of a Municipal Committee ? and

(*b*) That the nominated members, whether officials or non-officials, be not allowed to take part in, or give votes, in the matter of the election of the President ?

(*c*) If the answer to (*a*) or (*b*) or both is in the nagative, will Government be pleased to state their reasons for it ?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : When the amendment of the Municipal Act is again taken up, the honourable member will have a chance of trying to introduce this change.

REPRESENTATION OF EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS OF LAHORE ON THE LAHORE MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE.

2684. Rai Sahib Lala Thakar Das : (*a*) Will Government be pleased to consider the desirability of so amending the constitution of the Lahore Municipal Committee, as to provide for a seat, on the said committee, to be occupied by a member, elected by the Educational Institutions of Lahore, without regard to any communal consideration ?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the nagative, will Government be pleased to state their reason for it ?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain: Government will undertake to see that the interests of education if not represented by election will be fully safeguarded by nomination. Interests of education will, it is trusted, find due representation on the Municipality under the new constitution. No special amendment is therefore considered necessary.

REPRESENTATION OF THE LAHORE TRADERS ASSOCIATION ON THE LAHORE MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE.

2685. Rai Sahib Lala Thakar Das: (*a*) Will Government be pleased to consider the desirability of so amending the constitution of the Lahore Municipal Committee as should provide for a seat, on the said Committee, to be occupied by a member elected by the Traders' Association?

(*b*) If the answer to the above is in the negative, will Government be pleased to state their reason for it?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain: Government will undertake to see that the interests of Trade if not represented by election will be fully safeguarded by nomination. Interests of trade will it is trusted find due representation on the Municipality under the new constitution. No special amendment is, therefore, considered necessary.

OCTROI ON POSTAL PARCELS IN LAHORE.

2686. Rai Sahib Lala Thakar Das: (*a*) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement giving—

(*a*) a brief history up-to-date of the action taken by the Lahore Municipal Committee in the matter of the innovation, in the case of the said committee at least, of levying octroi on postal parcels;

(*b*) how much money up-to-date has been received by the Municipal Committee from octroi on postal parcels;

(*c*) how much money has been spent by the committee for the realisation of sums mentioned in (*b*);

(*d*) is the levying of octroi on postal parcels still going on;

(*e*) how much money was spent on the litigation in connection with octroi on postal parcels by the Municipal Committee;

(*f*) how much money had been actually realised by the Municipal Committee as a direct consequence of the litigation in connection with octroi on postal parcels;

(*g*) what is the present situation as regards octroi on postal parcels;

(*h*) did the Hindu, Sikh and Christian members vote for the resolution deciding to levy octroi on postal parcels;

(*i*) did the Hindu, Sikh and Christian members, after the adoption of resolution, urge on the Committee to rescind it?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain: I regret that the answer to this question is not yet ready. It will be communicated to the honourable member when ready.

MINIMISING NOMINATED ELEMENT IN THE PUNJAB MUNICIPALITIES.

2687. **Rai Sahib Lala Thakar Das:** Will Government be pleased to consider the advisability of so amending the constitution of the Municipalities of the Punjab—

(*a*) as to minimise the nominated element;

(*b*) to strictly confine this element to officials who are experts in their special spheres and whose presence in the Committee is absolutely essential, *e. g.*, the Civil Surgeon;

(*c*) and any other official or non-official for the safeguard of Government interests in some well-defined sphere or concern which comes, in one way or the other, within the effective jurisdiction of committees, *e.g.*, a representative of the Railway Administration?

(*d*) If the answer to above is in the negative, will Government be pleased to state their reasons for it?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain: The honourable member's attention is invited to the note on the reconstitution of the Municipal Committees and District Boards in the Punjab a copy of which has already been supplied to him. When the subject is taken up for reconsideration, his suggestion will be duly examined.

STOPPING OF NOMINATION OF UN-OFFICIALS ON A COMMUNAL BASIS IN PUNJAB MUNICIPALITIES.

2688. **Rai Sahib Lala Thakar Das:** Will Government be pleased to consider the desirability of so amending the constitution of the Punjab Municipal Committees as to provide for—

(*a*) forthwith stopping the nomination of un-officials on a communal basis;

(*b*) and making the nomination of un-officials with exclusive reference to any special qualification or technical ability;

(*c*) If the answer to the above is in the negative, will Government be pleased to state their reasons for it?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain: The honourable member's attention is invited to the note on the reconstitution of the Municipal Committees and District Boards in the Punjab a copy of which has already been supplied to him. When the subject is taken up for reconsideration, his suggestion will be duly examined.

ADDITIONS TO MUNICIPAL AREAS OF THE PUNJAB.

2689. **Rai Sahib Lala Thakar Das:** (*a*) Will Government be pleased to consider the desirability, at the time of amending the constitution of Punjab Municipalities, of not adding to the already existing areas, suburbs or villages round about the former, so as not to affect, apart from natural causes, the voting strength of any one community in the Municipal areas concerned?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the negative, will Government be pleased to state their reasons for it ?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : The honourable member's question is not understood. The amendment of the constitution of a municipal committee has no connection as such with the alteration of the municipal limits and so far as Government are aware the two have never been simultaneously revised. The territorial limits of municipalities are altered on the recommendation of the local authorities and Government are not aware of any case where such limits have been altered with motives other than the material welfare of the people concerned.

REPRESENTATION OF SMALL MINORITIES IN PUNJAB MUNICIPALITIES.

2690. Rai Sahib Lala Thakar Das : (*a*) Will Government be pleased to consider the desirability at the time of amending the constitution of the municipal committees of the Punjab, of deciding that wherever the Sikh and Christian communities command such a small numerical strength as regards population, in a municipal area, that they seem to be entitled to only half a seat or less, that they be given one seat at least ?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the negative, will Government be pleased to state their reasons for it ?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : When the question of the reconstitution of the municipal committee is taken up again the suggestion of the honourable member will be examined.

COMMUNAL CLASSIFICATION OF VOTERS IN MUNICIPALITIES.

2691. Rai Sahib Lala Thakar Das : Will Government be pleased to consider the desirability at the time of amending the constitution of the municipal committees of the Punjab, of so amending the rules—

(*a*) that the system of classification of voters, now in vogue, namely *Musalmans* and non-*Musalmans* be done away with ;

(*b*) that the communities, *viz.*, Hindus, Sikhs and Christians be separately classed ;

(*c*) that such small communities as Jews and Zoroastrians which are not in sufficiently large minorities to be classed apart, be incorporated with the Muhammadans ;

(*d*) If the answer to the above is in the negative, will Government, be pleased to state their reasons for it ;

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : The honourable member's attention is invited to the note on the Reconstitution of the Municipal Committees and District Boards in the Punjab, a copy of which has already been supplied to him. When the subject is taken up for reconsideration, his suggestion will be duly examined.

REPRESENTATION OF SPECIAL INTERESTS IN PUNJAB MUNICIPALITIES.

2692. Rai Sahib Lala Thakar Das : (*a*) Will Government be pleased to consider the desirability at the time of amending the constitution of the municipal committees of the Punjab, of so amending the constitution that in the distribution of seats, in any fixed proportion, the special interests of the traders, the educated classes and the industrialists, without reference to

their belonging to any community whatever, in the localities where these factors are of importance, be first provided for, and the remaining number of seats only be distributed among various communities ?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the negative, will Government be pleased to give their reasons for it ?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : The honourable member's attention is invited to the note on the Reconstitution of the Municipal Committees and District Boards in the Punjab a copy of which has already been supplid to him. When the subject is taken up for reconsideration, his suggestion will be duly examined.

VOTERS' LISTS FOR PUNJAB MUNICIPALITIES.

2693. Rai Sahib Lala Thakar Das : Will Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) if it is a fact that more often than not, the voters' lists prepared for election of members to the municipal committees of the Punjab are inaccurate ;

(*b*) that sometimes the lists are inflated and sometimes the number falls far short of the actual ?

(*c*) If the answers to (*a*) and (*b*) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to direct the authorities responsible for the preparation of voters' lists of each municipality, to take such elaborate and effective steps in future as would ensure the compilation of absolutely true voters' lists ?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : (*a*) to (*c*) Government having reason to believe that municipal voters' lists are not free from inaccuracies, issued necessary instructions in the matter over a year ago. Copies of Punjab Government letters No. 18548-L. G., dated the 30th June 1922 and No. 24992, dated the 14th October 1922, containing these instructions are laid on the table for the information of the honourable member.

Circular letter No. 18548 (L. G.—Comts.), dated Lahore, the 30th June, 1923.

From—A. LATIFI, Esq., M. A., LL.D., I. C. S., Offg. Secretary to Government, Punjab, Transferred Departments,

To—All Commissioners of Divisions in the Punjab.

SUBJECT :—*Preparation and correction of Municipal Electoral Rolls.*

IN continuation of Mr. Joseph's letter No. 19425 (B. & C.), dated the 20th July, 1921, I am directed to say that the Punjab Government (Ministry of Education), after considering the opinions expressed by Commissioners and Deputy Commissioners, concur in the views of the Commissioner of Rawalpindi that the present system of registration of voters should be given a full and fair trial in view of the limitations necessarily imposed by the financial circumstances of municipalities in the Punjab. As in so many cases where abuse of a system is traceable, the principal remedy lies in a more vigorous enforcement of existing machinery rather than in any revision or alteration of method.

The attention of all Deputy Commissioners and Municipal Committees should be invited to rule 6 (*ii*) of the Electoral Rules published with Punjab Government notification No. 17877, dated the 25th September 1917, which provides for such annual cor-

Beazley, page 121.

rection of the registers as may be necessary to bring the registers up to date. A proper and punctual application of this rule would render the triennial preparation of the registers enjoined by rule 8 a less formedable task than is at present the case in so many municipalities where it is doubtful whether there is any annual correction worthy the name.

2. It is suggested that in order to make rule 6 (*ii*) a reality a Magistrate should be appointed to hear claims and objections in the case of each municipality; while the fact that the registers were open for inspection at the municipal office in the Magistrate's keeping should be proclaimed daily by beat of dram during the fortnight preceding January 1st in each year and throughout the twenty days of the hearing of such claims and objections.

Beazley, page 121.

3. It should further be noted that rule 5 (*ii*) provides for the representation of claims and objections by an agent, and the fullest facilities should therefore be given to the use by candidates or parties of such agents, both for the representation of claims and objections, and for kindred purposes connected with elections, such as house to house visiting for the purpose of keeping the registers up to date in every particular. The more non-official aid can be called in for all purpose of elections, the more likely is it that the electoral rolls, and consequently the elections, will become a reality.

Beazley, page 121.

I have, etc.,

A. LATIFI,

Offg. Secretary to Government, Punjab,
Transferred Departments.

Circular No. 24992 (L. S.-G.—Comts.), dated 14th October 1922.

From—A. LATIFI, Esq., O.B.E., I.C.S., Offg. Secretary to Government, Punjab, Transferred Departments.

To—All Commissioners of Divisions in the Punjab.

SUBJECT:—*Preparation and correction of Municipal electoral rolls.*

IN continuation of Punjab Government circular letter No. 18548 (L. G.—Comts.), dated the 10th June, 1923, I am directed by the Punjab Government (Ministry of Education) to communicate the following executive instructions on the triennial preparation of voters' registers under rule 3 of the rules published with Punjab Government notification No. 18777, dated 25th September, 1917, in first class Municipalities—

(1) An Assistant Commissioner or Extra Assistant Commissioned should be deputed from 1st October to 31st December to supervise as also to hear claims and objections under rule 5 (*ii*) of the same notification in addition to his other duties. Registers should first be prepared for each ward and the entries arranged alphabetically and numbered serially. A Tahsildar or Naib-Tahsildar or such other person as the Deputy Commissioner may appoint for the purpose (hereafter referred to as the checking officer) should check 10 to 15 per cent. of these entries and initial all corrections.

(2) The Assistant Commissioner or Extra Assistant Commissioner in charge should have all the registrars ready by the 15th of December for the inspection of the Deputy Commissioner. After the Deputy Commissioner has countersigned them no note should be made in them save over the initials of the Deputy Commissioner.

(3) It may often be found desirable to publish the original registers by printing a suitable number of copies for sale, but this should only be done if so desired by the Committee. The printing of registers should be personally supervised by the checking officer, who should compare at least 10 per cent. of the entries in the printed edition with the original registers. The original registers should be sent under seal for safe keeping to the Deputy Commissioner's office.

(4) If the registers are printed, all subsequent proceedings should be carried out with reference to the printed copies; comparison being made with the proceedings of the original registers only if the printed copies are challenged before the officer appointed to hear claims and objections.

(5) A separate register should be opened to contain the decisions (with brief reasons) of the Assistant Commissioner or Extra Assistant Commissioner-in-charge on claims and objections under rule 5 (*ii*) in connection with entries in the registers.

(6) After the hearing of claims and objections by the Assistant Commissioner or Extra Assistant Commissioner-in-charge the publication of the registers, as corrected, should, if so desired by the Municipal Committee, be made by the selling of printed copies. The printing should be carried through between the 1st and the 15th of March under the personal supervision of the checking officer, who should restore the original registers to the Deputy Commissioner's office as soon as the printing is complete.

(7) For the proper performance of the duties an additional agency will be required, the cost which will be debitable to the funds of Municipal Committees. The following sub-sections may be modified by Deputy Commissioners to suit local conditions :—

(*a*) A ward inspector and registering clerk should be appointed for each Ward on the system adopted in connection with census operations. The pay of a ward inspector should be Rs. 20 per mensem and of registering clerks Rs. 10 per mensem.

(*b*) The period of appointment would be temporary from the 1st of October to the 31st December during which period the preparation of registers should be completed.

(*c*) The Municipal staff should, if feasible and convenient, be dissociated from all election work.

(*d*) The Municipal Committee should be required in September to pass a budget to cover expenses of the general elections to be held in the following April. This budget would cover the remuneration of the additional agency, the cost of any of printing registers, publishing notices and holding elections.

(8) The annual corrections carried out under rule 6 (*ii*) of the Municipal Election Rules published with Punjab Government notification No. 17877, dated the 25th September 1917, should be carried out as indicated in Punjab Government circular No. 18548-L. G.—C., dated the 30th of June, 1922.

(9) The Deputy Commissioner is authorised to modify these instructions as he may deem fit to suit second class Municipalities.

I have, etc.,

A. LATIFI,

Offg. Secretary to Government, Punjab,
Transferred Departments.

RAM LILA PROCESSION IN KHARKHANDA.

2694. Rai Sahib Lala Ganga Ram: (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state the number of Hindus and Muhammadans, respectively, in the population of Kharkhanda in (Tahsil and District Rohtak)?

(*b*) Is it a fact that the people have been celebrating the *Ram Lila* festival at Kharkhanda from times immemorial?

(*c*) Is it a fact that the Hindus of Kharkhanda applied for having *Ram Lila* procession and their application was rejected by the District Magistrate?

(*d*) If so, will Government please state the reasons for the rejection of their application?

(*e*) Is it a fact that the route selected by the Hindus is wholly inhabited by their own community and not a single Muhammadan house exists along that route?

(*f*) Is the Government aware that such action of the District Magistrate has caused great dissatisfaction among the Hindus of that place?

(*g*) If so, will the Government be pleased to allow the procession to pass by the route desired by the Hindus of Kharkhanda?

(*h*) If not, will the Government be pleased to state their reasons?

(*i*) Is it a fact that the Muhammadans' *Tazias* and procession are allowed to pass through streets which are mainly inhabited by Hindus at Kharkhanda?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: I regret that the answer to this question is not yet ready. It will be communicated to the honourable member when ready.

LICENTIATE IN PUBLIC HEALTH.

2695. Rai Bahadur Lala Panna Lal: Will Government be pleased to ascertain and state—

(*a*) If it is a fact that the State Board of Medical Examinations, United Provinces, has started from 1920, a class of "Licentiate in Public Health" in the King George's Medical College, Lucknow, and the holder of the Diploma of Licentiate in Public Health is recognised by the United Provinces Government as a duly qualified person for the post of Health Officer and the Diploma is also a registerable qualification in United Provinces under the Medical Act?

(*b*) Will Government be pleased to enquire and state if it is a fact that the pay of a Licentiate in Public Health as fixed by the United Provinces Government is Rs. 200—20/2—400 per mensem?

(*c*) If the answer to (*a*) and (*b*) be in the affirmative, will the Punjab Government be pleased to grant the same privileges to the holder of a L. P. H. Diploma in this Province also?

(*d*) If not, will the Government be pleased to state their reasons for not doing so?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain: I regret that the answer to this question is not yet ready. It will be communicated to the honourable member when ready.

COMMUNAL REPRESENTATION AMONGST OFFICERS OCCUPYING LISTED POSTS IN THE PROVINCIAL CIVIL SERVICE.

2696. **Lala Atma Ram:** Will Government be pleased to state—

(*i*) the total number of the members of the Punjab Provincial Civil Service occupying the listed posts (Selection grade) in the executive line;

(*ii*) the number and the names of the Hindus and Muhammadans separately occupying these listed posts?

Mr. C. A. H. Townsend: The member apparently regards listed posts and selection grade posts as identical. They are not. Under these circumstances it is not possible to give a reply to this question at any rate in its present form. As regards listed posts the questioner will find all the information he wants in the Civil List which is in the Library.

HINDU DEPUTY COMMISSIONERS IN PROVINCIAL CIVIL SERVICE.

2697. **Lala Atma Ram:** Is it a fact that of all the members of the Punjab Provincial Civil Service holding permanent appointments as Deputy Commissioners, none of them is a Hindu?

If so, what steps does the Government propose to take to remove this complaint?

Mr. C. A. H. Townsend: The reply to part I of the question is:

Yes. Rai Bahadur Pandit Hari Kishan Kaul who till recently held one of the posts in question has now been promoted provisionally permanent Commissioner.

Part II. Government cannot admit that communal considerations should be taken into account in making the appointments in question; for them merit and efficiency alone are regarded. It is a pure coincidence that at present none of the posts in question are held by Hindus. In filling up these appointments in the future, as in the past, due regard will be paid to the claims of fully qualified Hindu Extra Assistant Commissioners.

ILL-FEELING AGAINST THE WORD 'BANIA' IN THE VAISH COMMUNITY.

2698. **Lala Atma Ram:** Is it a fact that in almost all the departments of the Government, the word 'Bania' is used for the word 'Vaish' while designating the caste of the people belonging to this community?

If so, will Government be pleased to consider the advisability of using the right word 'Vaish' as there is a good deal of ill-feeling against the word 'Bania' in the Vaish community?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: (*a*) As far as the Punjab Government are aware the answer is in the negative.

(*b*) Does not arise.

TRAINING OF HINDI *BHASHA* TEACHERS.

2699. **Lala Atma Ram:** Will Government be pleased to state whether there is some arrangement for the training of Hindi *Bhasha* teachers in the training institutions of the Government?

If not, will Government kindly make the necessary arrangement for the same?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain:

(*a*) No

(*b*) The matter will be considered.

PROVINCIALISATION OF BOARD HIGH SCHOOLS.

2700. Lala Atma Ram: (*a*) Will Government be pleased to refer to its Circular No. 10175-G., dated 24th December 1919, setting forth proposals for provincialising the Board High Schools in the Province and state—

(*i*) the number of Board High Schools then existing in each division;

(*ii*) the number of the Board High Schools which have been provincialized in each division during the years 1921-22 and 1922-23?

(*b*) Is it a fact that certain Board Middle Schools were raised to the status of High Schools after the issue of the above circular? If so, will Government be pleased to state the names of those schools and the reasons that led them to go against the instructions contained in the aforesaid circular in each case?

(*c*) Will Government be pleased to state whether the Ambala Division has received its due share in the matter of provincialisation?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain:

(*a*) (*i*)—

		No. of Board High Schools.
1.	Ambala Division. ...	7
2.	Jullundur „ ...	8
3.	Lahore „ ...	7
4.	Rawalpindi „ ...	5
5.	Multan „ ...	8

(*ii*)—

		No. of Board High Schools, 1921-22.	*Provincialised.* 1922-23.	*Total.*
1.	Ambala Division ...	2	1	3
2.	Jullundur „ ...	2	2	4
3.	Lahore „ ...	2	1	3
4.	Rawalpindi „ ...	2	2	4
5.	Multan „ ...	3	1	4

(*b*) Yes.

The following board schools were raised to the status of high schools after the issue of Punjab Government, Home (Education) Department, C. M. No. 10175-G., dated 24th December, 1919:—

1. M. B. School, Palwal.
2. Do. Mozang.
3. D. B. School, Baghbanpura.
4. Do. Rahon } Have been provincialized.
5. Do. Phillour } Have been provincialized.
6. Do. Jagraon } Have been provincialized.
7. Do. Banga.
8. Do. Kallar.
9. Do. Phalia.
10. M. B. School, Pindigheb.
11. Do. Jampur } Have been provincialized.
12. Do. Pakpattan } Have been provincialized.

The Circular Memo. referred to by the honourable member has since been superseded by other circulars, copies of which are laid on the table.

(*c*) The figures given above indicate that (all Divisions including Ambala) have been fairly treated.

C. M. No. 11995-G., dated Lahore, the 29th November 1920.

From—G. ANDERSON, Esq., C.I.E., M.A., Officiating Director of Public Instruction, Punjab,

To—All Commissioners, Deputy Commissioners, Divisional and District Inspectors of Schools in the Punjab.

THE numerous applications for raising the status of Board Anglo-vernacular Middle Schools to the High grade and for their subsequent provincialisation submitted with reference to Punjab Government, Home (Education) Department, C. M. No. 10175-G., dated the 24th December 1919, appear to indicate a misunderstanding of the intentions of Government in this matter. I have the honour, therefore, to explain that the paucity of funds precludes the immediate provincialising of even all existing Board High Schools, and it must be obvious that those of the Middle grade must wait. There is, however, no intention to withhold the higher status from those middle schools where this can be justified and the local officers definitely recommend it. Maintenance grants will be sanctioned for these schools on the same terms as for aided schools; but it must be distinctly understood that Government does not guarantee to take them over and maintain them as Government High Schools either then or subsequently.

2. The question of provincialising certain existing Board High Schools is under consideration, and orders will issue as quickly as the complicated nature of the case permits.

I have the honour to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient Servant,

G. ANDERSON,

Offg. Director of Public Instruction, Punjab.

PAKPATTAN DISTRICT BOARD HIGH SCHOOL.

2701. **Lala Atma Ram**: Arising out of the answer given to my question No. 2069* (*c*), will Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Pakpattan District Board High School has been provincialised with effect from January 1923? If so, what circumstances led to its provincialisation from that date in preference to Sirsa High School?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain:

(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The Multan Division had the lowest number of high schools of all the divisions. Moreover, the Montgomery District Board provided Rs. 10,000 towards the cost of additional buildings.

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* Vol IV, page 723.

SIRSA HIGH SCHOOL.

2702. **Lala Atma Ram:** (*a*) Is it a fact that there was a proposal to provincialise the Sirsa High School from 1st April 1923 and that this proposal could not be carried out owing to financial consideration?

(*b*) Is it a fact that the local body of Sirsa is in an embarrassed financial condition and that the Municipality cannot take up the scheme of free and compulsory primary education until it is relieved of the burden of the High School? If so, will Government be pleased to take over this school from October 1923 by making arrangement for a supplementary grant?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain: (*a*) and (*b*) yes.

(*c*) It is very doubtful whether funds will be available this year for the provincialisation of schools. The case of the school at Sirsa will be considered when funds are available.

AGITATION AGAINST COMMUNAL REPRESENTATION.

2703. **Rai Sahib Lala Thakar Das:** Is it a fact that an important section of the population of the Punjab are agitating against the policy of communal representation as is being pursued and proposed to be pursued by the Education Ministry in various Departments of transferred subjects?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain: Yes.

2704. *Cancelled.*

RESTRICTION OF COW-SLAUGHTER.

2705. **Rai Sahib Lala Thakar Das:** Is it a fact that *Musalmans* of the Punjab take exception to the total prohibition of cow-slaughter on religious grounds? If so, will Government be pleased to consider the desirability of regulating it in such a way that the cows slaughtered are just sufficient, for the production of beef, which the *Musalmans* of the Punjab at present consume?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: So far as the Punjab Government are aware, the suggestion contained in the first part of the question is correct. The rules passed by the Local Government under section 43 of Act IV of 1872 and those passed by Municipalities under the Punjab Municipal Act, 1911, appear to go as far as public opinion would approve in the direction of regulating the slaughter of kine.

PROVINCIAL EDUCATIONAL SERVICE.

2706. **Rai Sahib Lala Thakar Das:** Will Government be pleased to lay upon the table a comparative statement showing the number of appointments in the Provincial Educational Service on January 1st, 1921, and to-day?

(1) How many of the above were and are teaching appointments?

(2) How many of the above were and are inspecting appointments?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : The required statement is laid on the table :—

A. Total number of Provincial Educational Service posts—

(*i*) on 1st January 1921	...	77
(*ii*) At present	...	79

B. Number of Teaching and Inspecting posts—

(*i*) on 1st January 1921	...	39 Teaching and 38 Inspecting and Administrative.
(*ii*) At present	...	50 Teaching and 29 Inspecting and Administrative.

COMMUNAL DISTRIBUTION OF PROVINCIAL EDUCATIONAL SERVICE APPOINTMENTS.

2707. Rai Sahib Lala Thakar Das : Will Government be pleased to lay upon the table a comparative statement showing the number of appointments in the Provincial Educational Service held by Hindus, Muhammadans, Sikhs, Indian Christians and Europeans on January 1st, 1921, and to-day.

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : The required statement is laid on the table :—

Name of Community.	*No. on 1st January 1921.*	*No. at present.*
Hindus ...	40	39
Muhammadans ...	20	24
Sikhs ...	8	9
Europeans ...	2	1
Indian Christians ...	2	4

NEW APPOINTMENTS IN THE PROVINCIAL EDUCATIONAL SERVICE AND COMMUNAL REPRESENTATION.

2708. Rai Sahib Lala Thakar Das : (*a*) Will Government be pleased to state how many new appointments have been created in the Provincial Educational Service since January 1st, 1921, up till now ?

(*b*) How many of these new appointments were given to Muhammadans and how many to others ?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : 'Created' is not quite clear. If it means "the number of officers who have been admitted to the provincial service" then the answer is that since January 1st, 1921, thirty-one (31) appointments have been made to the Punjab Educational Service of which nine (9) have been awarded to Muhammadans.

INDIAN EDUCATIONAL SERVICE.

2709. Rai Sahib Lala Thakar Das : Will Government be pleased to lay upon the table a comparative statement showing the number of appointments in the Province in the Indian Educational Service on January 1st, 1921, and to-day—

(1) How many of the above were and are teaching appointments, and

(2) How many inspecting appointments ?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : The required statement is laid on the table :—

Year.	*Teaching appointments.*	*Inspecting appointments and Administrative.*	*Total.*
1st January 1921	20	7	27
At present ...	25	12	37

COMMUNAL DISTRIBUTION IN THE PUNJAB OF INDIAN EDUCATIONAL SERVICE APPOINTMENTS.

2710. Rai Sahib Lala Thakar Das : Will Government be pleased to lay upon the table a comparative statement showing the number of appointments in the Province in the Indian Educational Service held by Hindus, Muhammadans, Sikhs, Indian Christians and Europeans on January 1st, 1921, and to-day ?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain :

The required statement is laid on the table :—

Name of Community.	*No. on 1st January 1921.*	*No. at present.*
Hindus ...	3	6
Muhammadans ...	1	3
Sikhs ...	1	1
Europeans ...	19	20
Indian Christians ...	2	2
Total ...	26	32

NEW APPOINTMENTS IN THE PROVINCE IN THE INDIAN EDUCATIONAL SERVICE.

2711. Rai Sahib Lala Thakar Das : (*a*) Will Government be pleased to state how many new appointments in the province in the Indian Educational Service have been created since January 1921 up till now ?

(*b*) How many of the above were given to Muhammadans and how many to others ?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : (*a*) In continuation of their order contained in the letter No. 1092, dated 27th August 1920, the Government of India conveyed sanction to the creation of three posts in the Indian Educational Service (by way of transfer from Punjab Educational Service) with effect from 1st September, 1920.

(*b*) None.

BASIS OF NEW APPOINTMENTS IN EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

2712. Rai Sahib Lala Thakar Das : Arising out of the answer to question No. 1140* (*a*), will Government be pleased to state which of the two considerations, *viz.*, personal qualifications or communal representation, were given preference when these two clashed during the course of the period, beginning with January 1st, 1921, up till now, in the matter of selecting persons for appointments in the Provincial Educational and Indian Educational Services ?

*Vol. III, page 12.

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : The honourable member assumes that the Local Government makes Indian Educational Service appointments. This is not so. As regards the Provincial Service appointments they are made after a general review of many considerations such as those referred to in the question.

HONORARY MAGISTRATES AND CIVIL JUDGES IN THE PUNJAB.

2713. Rai Sahib Lala Thakar Das : Will Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) Whether or not, in pursuance of the resolution regarding appointment of a Committee to report on the future appointment of Honorary Magistrates and Civil Judges, adopted by this House on January 9th, 1922, the said Committee was appointed ?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to lay on the table a summary of the findings and suggestions regarding changes recommended by the said Committee ?

(*c*) Which of the suggestions and recommendations of the Committee have Government adopted or propose to adopt?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : (*a*) The answer is in the affirmative.

(*b*) and (*c*). A copy of the report of the Committee and of the rules finally framed by Government is laid on the table.

Report of a Committee appointed by the Governor of the Punjab in Council, in accordance with a Resolution passed by the Punjab Legislative Council on January 9th, 1922, to investigate and report upon the principals and procedure which should be followed in the future appointment of Honorary Magistrates and Civil Judges in the Punjab, and to propose such rules and suggest such changes as modern conditions may require.

Part I.

Preliminary—In accordance with a Resolution passed by the Punjab Legislative Council on January 9th, 1922, the Governor of the Punjab in Council was pleased to appoint a Committee to investigate and report upon the principles and procedure which should be followed in the future appointment of Honorary Magistrates and Civil Judges in the Punjab, and to propose such rules and suggest such changes as modern conditions might require.

The following were appointed members of the Committee :—

Mr. H. P. Tollinton, Commissioner, Lahore (Chairman).
Mr. A. L. Gordon-Walker,* Registrar, High Court.
Mr. Miles Irving, Financial Secretary to Government, Punjab.
Mian Beli Ram, Pleader, M.L.C., Hoshiarpur.
Maulvi Muharram Ali, Chishti, Vakil, M. L. C., Lahore.
Hony. Lieut. Sardar Raghbir Singh, M. L. C., of Raja Sansi.
Khan Bahadur Raja Muhammad Akbar Khan, of Jhelum, M. L. C.

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* *N.B.*—When Mr. Gordon-Walker was appointed District and Sessions Judge, Montgomery, Mr. Blacker, Registrar, High Court, joined the Committee as Secretary.

Government issued orders for the convening of the Committee on 4th April 1922, and the first meeting was held on the 8th May 1922. At this meeting the methods of obtaining evidence were discussed, and in particular, Mr. Gordon-Walker, Maulvi Moharram Ali, Chishti and Mian Beli Ram were appointed as a Sub-Committee to draft the Questionnaire to be answered both by witnesses selected by the Committee and by the general public, who were invited through the Press to express their views on the points raised in the Questionnaire.

In answer to the Questionnaire a mass of evidence was received, and on the 21st November 1922 the Committee met again and considered the methods of dealing with the evidence to the best possible advantage. The Committee arrived at the conclusion that a precis should be drawn up showing the purport of the replies received, question by question. The precis was designed to show the opinions in separate groups (1) of officials, (2) of Members of the Bar, (3) of Raises other than Honorary Magistrates, (4) of Honorary Magistrates.

The precis was then prepared and circulated to members and the Committee met again on the 2nd and 3rd January 1923 to consider the evidence and frame their conclusions. At these two latter meetings Khan Bahadar Raja Mohammad Akbar Khan, M.L.C., was unfortunately prevented from being present owing to ill-health.

Part II.

Report.—The Committee are impressed with the magnitude of their task, and its difficulties are enhanced by the vast divergence of the opinions expressed. Nevertheless they are equally impressed by the moderation of the views held. Leaving aside certain Honorary Magistrates who hold the view that all is well in the best possible of worlds, and of certain critics who have had unfortunate personal experiences in their dealings with Honorary Magistrates, there is a mass of opinion moderately and sensibly expressed which has enabled the Committee to find themselves for the most part in agreement with the majority of the opinions presented to them.

(*a*) The Committee desire in the first instance to present their views on the characteristics of Honorary Magistrates of the present day; their strength and their weakness, and the degree to which they attain or fall short of the standard which can reasonably be expected of them. There is, for instance, no doubt that the standard of literary qualifications obtaining among Honorary Magistrates and Honorary Civil Judges is low. Some are actually illiterate, that is, unable to read and write Urdu. The Committee consider that this standard is capable of improvement, and if the recommendations now suggested are followed out in future appointments, they consider that the standard will unquestionably improve. The Committee are further of the opinion that the knowledge of law prevailing among the Honorary Agency is poor. Further, there is evidence to show that there are instances of Honorary Magistrates and Judges having used their official position in their personal interest and having shown spite or favour in their decision. There is also evidence to show that Honorary Magistrates and Judges have been dismissed for malpractices.

(*b*) This cannot be denied, though the Committee have not verified the specific instances quoted. It may be noted that there are only three specific instances of malpractices quoted, and some 18 instances of punishments and reductions for malpractices.

(*c*) The Committee trust and believe that if the safeguards suggested in this report are adopted instances of such malpractices will tend to diminish and disappear.

(*d*) On the other hand, the Committee hold the view that as a rule substantial justice is done, and where it is not done it is usually owing to the Magistrate or Judge being unable to resist the influences which make for favouritism and partiality. Mian Beli Ram does not find himself able to concur in the view that as a rule substantial justice is done—and the Committee admit that opinions on the question differ. But it is not out of place to remark that even among members of the Bar, many of whom have a very low opinion of the honesty of Honorary Magistrates, we find a certain amount of terse criticism which is not unkindly and which is worth quoting. It runs as follows:—"On the whole the agency is fairly just, but justice of the rough sort influenced by local knowledge. The justice meted out by them was not in accordance with law, but according to equity. Generally speaking substantial justice is done, a large proportion of cases being compromised.

(*e*) Similarly in the matter of bribe-taking there was practically a consensus of opinion in the Committee, supported by outside opinion—that Honorary Magistrates and Judges are not as a class bribe-takers, though there are black sheep among them. In this connection the Committee would draw special attention to the evidence of Khan Sahib Sheikh Shah Nawaz Khan, a Provincial Service Officer of vide experience and now Manager of the Kot Estate under the Court of Wards, who says that he has not come across a single Honorary Magistrate who has the reputation of being dishonest. Even some members of the Bar hold the view that in this particular the Honorary Agency compare favourably with stipendiary Magistrates. One reason for this is given by Sardar Harbans Singh, Honorary Magistrate, who says: "There is not much corruption, as they live and move among those whose cases they deal with and their soical position and respect are at stake."

(*f*) The Committee discussed at length the extent to which the Honorary Agency succeed in achieving impartiality in the decisions which they arrive at.

(*g*) The Committee finally recorded a guarded opinion to the effect that it *is difficult* for Honorary Magistrates to be thoroughly impartial. That is not the same thing as saying that Honorary Magistrates and Judges are as a class given to favouritism and partiality. But just for the very reason that the Honorary Agency *do* live and move among those whose cases they have to decide, to that extent they are more liable to be approached by friends and relations than are stipendiary Indians who are usually not posted to their own districts, or Europeans, whose connection with the people is not of so intimate a nature. And proportionately as a matter is difficult, a greater number of individuals will fail in achieving it. Whether future Honorary Magistrates and Judge appointed in accordance with the recommendations now put forward will be able to resist undesirable influences entirely is a matter on which the Committee hold diverse opinions. Maulvi Muharram Ali, Chishti, considers that they will, but the majority of the Committee incline to the view that the difficulty indicated

is inherent in the position. To quote again Khan Sahib Sheikh Shah Nawaz, he says : "Impartiality is a virtue difficult of attainment amid the circumstances and surroundings in which these Magistrates sometimes work. Ordinarily they do not succumb to the weakness of partiality, but it cannot be said that they are always found to be above this reproach."

(*h*) As previously stated the opinions expressed in answer to the Questionnaire are marked by sense and moderation, and the Committee have not found it necessary to recommend that the use to which the Honorary Agency is put should be subjected to any radical curtailment. Their recommendations amount to the provision of further safeguards and an alteration in the conception of the basis on which such appointments should rightly be made.

(*i*) In this connection the Committee would observe that in the last year for which figures are available Honorary Magistrates of the 1st Class disposed of a total number of cases which judged by provincial averages would have required the services of 50 additional stipendiary magistrates of the 1st class. Similarly, the work done by Honorary Magistrates of the 2nd and 3rd class and by Honorary Civil Judges would have required the services of 100 and 10 additional Magistrates and Judges, respectively. It is estimated that the total abolition of this agency would involve Government in an additional expenditure of Rs. 7,20,480 per annum.

(*j*) As to the usefulness of the work which is being done by the Honorary Agency these figures may be allowed to speak for themselves.

2. Having dealt with Honorary Magistrates as they find them the Committee desire to consider the general principles which should be observed in the making of appointments. They will subsequently consider the qualifications which should be demanded and the method of selection and appointment, and details regarding the exercise of their powers.

As regards general principle the Committee are impressed by the opinion of Mr. Parker, District and Sessions Judge, who says :—

"Appointments should be made *solely* for the benefit of the public, and should not be made with the object of benefiting or rewarding the person so appointed.

It appears to me that the principle proceeds from the fact that the correct and just decision of Criminal and Civil cases is of great importance to the welfare and good government of the people, and that the interests of any individual are of infinitely less importance.

It follows directly or indirectly from this principle that—

(1) No appointment should be made unless there is, in fact, case work which cannot be done by the paid judiciary, who, I assume, are more efficient than Honorary Magistrates and Munsiffs.

(2) The person appointed must be capable of doing the work and must, therefore, possess ability, common sense, a sense of justice and sufficient knowledge of law and procedure.

(3) Removal should be made as easy as possible and should connote no stigma or dishonour of any kind."

The Committee desire thoroughly to endorse these remarks, and are well aware that the cessation of the practice by which the conferment of powers is regarded as a reward to the individual rather than a benefit to the public will be a distinct innovation.

3. As regards the qualifications for appointment, the Committee would place these in the following order of importance :—

(*a*) General character and reputation.

(*b*) Hereditary and feudal claims in areas where they exist.

(*c*) Loyal services rendered to Government.

(*d*) Popularity.

In the absence of other qualifications the Committee consider that loyal services and popularity alone should give no claim.

At the same time the Committee desire to emphasize that they are strongly of opinion that (1) such straitened circumstances as would be likely to render the candidate liable to pecuniary temptation, and (2) the inability to read and write Urdu fluently should be an absolute disqualification.

As regards a knowledge of English, opinions were divided. A majority of the Committee considered that it was generally desirable that Honorary Magistrates of the first class and Honorary Civil Judges should be able to read and write English well. In this opinion Lieutenant Raghbir Singh and Maulvi Muharram Ali, Chisthi, did not concur, and though the majority of the Committee adhere to their opinion, it must be admitted that the weight of the evidence is to the effect that a knowledge of English is not a necessity. The majority of the Committee regard it as generally desirable from the point of view that a man with a knowledge of English is likely to have a wider outlook and to be able to grapple more efficiently with the intricacies of the law which present themselves to Honorary Magistrate of the first class and Civil Judges.

4. As regards points of detail in the method of selection and the exercise of powers, the Committee wish to record the following opinions on the various points raised :—

(*a*) *Election.*—The general opinion is opposed to the election of Honorary Magistrates. In this opinion the Committee concur.

(*b*) *Consultation previous to recommendation.*—It does not appear necessary that any hard-and fast orders should issue to District Magistrates about consultation, but the Committee are impressed by the advisability of consulting the leading men of the district before making proposals.

(*c*) *Religious and party feeling.*—The Committee disagree with a suggestion that has been made that where religious or party feelings run very high, preference should be given to a person not belonging to the locality.

The weight of opinion rather lies in the direction that in such circumstances it might be better to have no Honorary Agency at all.

One witness, however, does say: "In such a case preference should be given to retired Government officials of proved loyalty and integrity, and if possible to a European of the status of Mr. Broadway and the late Mr. Warburton."

In any case religious and party feelings are rapidly aroused, and rapidly subside, so it is impossible to lay down any permanent cure for a malady whose manifestations may be and often are temporary.

(*d*) *Nomination and appointment.*—The Committee are of opinion that all proposals for nomination and appointment should be made officially and not confidentially. The Committee are also of opinion that such proposals should be made by the District Magistrate in consultation with the District Judge. They should then be forwarded by the Commissioner through the High Court to the Local Government. It may be noted that the Honorary Magistrates themselves are opposed to submission through the High Court and there is also some opposition among the gentlemen at the Bar.

(*e*) *Suspension, removal and dismissal.*—In the Committee's opinion no special rules are necessary, except that as suggested by Mr. Parker, removal should be made as easy as possible and should connote no stigma or dishonour of any kind. The original term of appointment should in the opinion of the Committee be reduced to 3 years with the proviso that the appointment may be terminated or suspended by Government at any time. The Committee did not consider that any period of probation was necessary.

(*f*) *Examinations.*—The Committee are not in favour of requiring candidates to pass any examination, but generally they should be encouraged to pass the Extra Assistant Commissioner's departmental examination by the lower standard. Beyond that, it should be left to the discretion of the District Magistrate and District Judge to satisfy themselves as to the competency of the candidates to exercise the powers for which they are being recommended.

(*g*) *Selection of Zaildars.*—It was held by the majority—President and Mr. Irving dissenting—that the appointment of Zaildars as Honorary Magistrates was undesirable except in rare and exceptional cases. It was also suggested that this rule should also apply to near relatives of Zaildars, but to this the majority of the Committee did not agree. A District and Sessions Judge (Major Knollys) says: "The appointment of Zaildars as Honorary Magistrates is a great mistake from the point of view of criminal administration. The Zaildar is rightly or wrongly considered to be under the influence of the police and the dual position is impossible." Among the Members of the Bar there is a divergence of opinion, but the majority are opposed to the appointment of Zaildars.

(*h*) *Appointment of money-lenders.*—The Committee were unanimously of opinion that no money-lender should be made an Honorary Magistrate or Honorary Civil Judge.

The Committee discussed a definition of the term money-lender given in the evidence to the effect that "The term money-lender shall include all persons whether personally engaged in money-lending or not whose traditions, associations and family connections may reasonably be expected to

generate in them a bias favourable to money-lenders." It is of course this bias which is the danger, but the Committee observe that the official evidence is rather to the effect that there should be no hard-and-fast rule, though *prima facie* a money-lender is not a suitable selection.

(*i*) *Age for exercising powers.*—The Committee are of opinion that the minimum age for appointment should be 30 years and the maximum should, ordinarily speaking, be 55 years. There is, however, a considerable body of opinion which is opposed to fixing any minimum or maximum. It is a question of the individual.

Thus an official says: "I would favour no appointment of a callow youth or of a doddering old men." A member of the Bar says: "They should neither be raw youths nor short tempered or irritable Judicial officers and lawyers."

(*j*) *Safeguards.*—The Committee considered the various safeguards that have been suggested to secure the efficient working of the agency. The Committee were unable to accept the suggestion of Mian Beli Ram that Honorary Magistrates should be debarred from exercising powers in villages where they held any personal interest. This was considered to be impracticable as personal interests are liable to constant and sudden variation.

In this connection, however, the Committee desire to emphasize the following recommendations:—

(1) *Inspections.*—The Committee are of opinion that the present inspections of Honorary Magistrates and Judges' Courts are inadequate and propose that in addition the Court of every Honorary Magistrate, Bench or Judge, be inspected at least once a year by an experienced Judicial officer, assisted by a lawyer of 10 years' standing, whose report should be submitted by the District and Sessions Judge through the High Court to Government.

The Committee preferred this suggestion to the suggestion that there should be a permanent provincial board of inspection.

(2) *Benches.*—In view of the admitted difficulty with regard to "Sifarish" the Committee are of opinion that so far as possible Honorary Magistrates should sit in benches.

(3) *Locale of Courts.*—The Committee were of opinion that as far as possible Honorary Magistrates and Judges should sit at tahsil headquarters or in a town and should hold their court in a fixed place, separate from their residential buildings. In cases where they do not sit at tahsil headquarters it is desirable that the convenience of the public should be carefully considered in fixing the limits of their local jurisdiction.

5. In view of their finding that recommendations for powers should be sent through the High Court and in view of the fact that the Court are already fully alive to the necessity for carefully scrutinizing recommendations or conferment of 1st class powers, the Committee think it unnecessary to record anything as to the advisability of granting such powers sparingly.

6. The Committee observe that the terms of reference are not clear on the point whether the expression "*future appointment* of Honorary Magistrates" as used in the terms of reference includes also "*future reappoint-*

ment." They wish to bring this to the notice of Government, as unless this point is made clear, confusion may arise in the application of the principles enunciated in the report.

(Sd.) H. P. TOLLINTON,
President.

Members:

(Sd.) A. L. GORDON-WALKER,
Registrar, High Court.

(Sd.) MILES IRVING,
Financial Secretary to Government, Punjab.

(Sd.) MIAN BELI RAM,
Pleader, M. L. C., Hoshiarpur.

(Sd.) MAULVI MUHARRAM ALI, CHISHTI,
Vakil, M. L. C., Lahore.

(Sd.) HONY. LIEUT. SARDAR RAGHBIR SINGH,
M. L. C., of Raja Sansi.

(Sd.) *KHAN BAHADUR RAJA MAHOMED AKBAR KHAN,
M. L. C., Jhelum.

(*See a note on Differences attached.)

DIFFERENCES.

Paragraph 4, clause (b).

Consultation with leading men previous to recommendation.—Consultation with leading men regarding the appointments would amount to election and not selection as personal difference might not bring favourable opinions and thus tend to influence the option of the District Magistrate and the District Judge.

Paragraph 4, clause (c).

Where religious and party feelings run very high it is not necessary that the whole of community be tinged with prejudice. Instances of people quite unaffected will not be wanting and selection may be made from among them.

Paragraph 4, clause (i).

Age for exercising powers.—My opinion about age limits is as follows:—

The minimum age for the sake of appointments may be 25, as at this stage of life a young man of a noble family and of good habits would have a sufficiently wide outlook of thoughts and be able to do the work efficiently.

As regards the maximum, it should be 55, *i.e.*, the same at which stipendiary agency retires.

Paragraph 4, clause j (1).

Inspections.—Inspection by a Judicial officer alone would suffice. The lawyers are always at variance with the Magistrates and the inclusion of the former in the inspection would be derogatory to the position of the latter.

Paragraph 4, clause j (2).

Benches.—To make the Honorary Magistrates sit in Benches would mean to deprive them of the privilege of exercising powers separately. In my opinion in special cases where men of exceptional merits be available, they may be given separate powers, provided they are thoroughly conversant with the Urdu and English languages and possess all qualifications requisite for a candidate.

(Sd). RAJA MOHD. AKBAR,

The 1st February 1923. *Member of Legislative Council, Jhelum.*

Rules for the appointment of Honorary Magistrates and Honorary Subordinate Judges.

(1) Appointments should be made solely for the benefit of the public and not for the sake of rewarding the person appointed. They may, however, be made on the ground that the gentleman appointed has hereditary or feudal, influence in the area concerned.

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 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.

(3) (*a*) Proposals for nomination and appointment should be made officially and not confidentially. They should be submitted to Government by the District Magistrate through the Commissioner in cases of first appointments as Honorary Magistrates, and by the District Judge through the High Court in the case of Honorary Subordinate Judges.

(*b*) Whenever it is proposed to confer judicial powers of any class upon retired Government officials who have exercised judicial powers while in the service of Government and in all cases in which it is proposed to confer judicial powers of the 1st class on any person, the recommendation should be submitted through the Judges of the High Court.

(*c*) In cases of reappointment and enhancement of powers of Honorary Magistrates, recommendations should be made by the District Magistrate in consultation with the District Judge and should then be forwarded by the

Commissioner through the High Court to the Local Government. In the case of reappointments of Honorary Subordinate Judges, the proposals should be submitted by the District Judge through the High Court as in the case of first appointments.

(4) The original appointment should be for three years with the proviso that it may be terminated or surpended by Government at any time.

(5) Honorary Magistrates should be encouraged to pass the Extra Assistant Commissioners' Departmental Examination by the lower standard.

(6) *Age.*— The limits of age are 30 and 65 years, but neither limit is to be regarded as hard and fast.

(7) The court of every Honorary Magistrate, Bench or Subordinate Judge, should be inspected at least once a year by an experienced judicial officer, whose report should be submitted by the District and Sessions Judge through the High Court to Government.

(8) Honorary Magistrates and Subordinate Judges should sit at Tahsil headquarters or in a town and should hold their court in a fixed place not used as residential quarters. They should observe the regular court hours.

COMMUNAL REPRESENTATION AMONG HONORARY MAGISTRATES AND CIVIL JUDGES.

2714. Rai Sahib Lala Thakar Das: (*a*) Will Government be pleased to state the number of (1) Honorary Magistrates and (2) Civil Judges in the Punjab on January 1st, 1921, and now?

(*b*) How many of (1) Honorary Magistrates and (2) Civil Judges were on January 1921 and are now, Hindus, Muhammadans, Sikhs and Indian Christians?

(*c*) How many new Honorary Magistrates and new Civil Judges have been appointed since January 1st, 1921, up till now?

(*d*) How many of these are Hindus, Muhammadans, Sikhs and Indian Christians?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: The honourable member is referred to the relevant Civil Lists for the required information. They are in the Council Library.

COMMUNAL REPRESENTATION IN PROVINCIAL CIVIL SERVICE.

2715. Rai Sahib Lala Thakar Dass: (*a*) Will Government be pleased to state the total number of appointments in the Provincial Civil Service in all its branches on January 1st, 1921, and now?

(*b*) How many of the above were on January 1st, 1921, and are now, Hindus, Muhammadans, Sikhs, Indian Christians and Europeans?

Mr. C. A. H. Townsend: (*a*) & (*b*). The honourable member is referred to the Punjab Quarterly Civil Lists for January 1921 and July 1923, which contain the required information.

2716. Rai Sahib Lala Thakar Das: (*a*) Will Government be pleased to state the number of appointments created since January 1st, 1921 up till now in the Provincial Civil Service in all its branches?

(*b*) How many of them were given to Muhammadans and how many to others?

Mr. C. A. H. Townsend: I regret that the answer to this question is not yet ready. It will be communicated to the honourable member when ready.

COMMUNAL REPRESENTATION IN MEDICAL DEPARTMENT.

2717. Rai Sahib Lala Thakar Das: Will Government be pleased to state the number of Hindus, Muhammadans, Sikhs, Indian Christians and Europeans in the employ of the Medical Department, Punjab, as Civil Surgeons, Assistant Surgeons, Sub-Assistant Surgeons, Professors and Lecturers in the King Edward Medical College, on January 1st, 1921, and now?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain: I regret that the answer to this question is not yet ready. It will be communicated to the honourable member when ready.

GOVERNMENT COLLEGE, LAHORE.

2718. Rai Sahib Lala Thakar Das: (*a*) Will Government be pleased to state the number of Hindu, Muhammadan, Sikh, Indian Christian and European students in the Government College, Lahore, on January 1st, 1921, and at the time of the final University Examination held in 1923?

(*b*) Did the Muhammadans realise the full benefit of the reservation to them of 40 per cent. of the seats in the Government College?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain: (*a*) In March 1921 the numbers in the College were—

Hindus.	Muhammadans.	Sikhs.	Indian Christians.	Europeans.	Parsis.
382	133	63	8	3	2

Total 583.

In March 1923 the numbers stand—

Hindus.	Muhammadans.	Sikhs.	Indian Christian.	Europeans.	Parsis.
367	171	85	5	4	1

Total 633.

(*b*) The honourable member's question is not quite clear. The order he has in mind is apparently not understood by him, but Government has no reason to believe that fully qualified Muhammadans are not taking advantage of the order.

KING EDWARD MEDICAL COLLEGE, LAHORE.

2719. Rai Sahib Lala Thakar Das: (*a*) Will Government be pleased to state the number of Hindu, Muhammadan, Sikh, Indian Christian and European students in the King Edward Medical College, Lahore, on January 1st, 1921, and at the time of the final University Examinations held in 1923?

(*b*) Did the Muhammadans realise the full benefit of the reservation to them of 40 per cent. of the seats in the King Edward Medical College ?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain: I regret that the answer to this question is not yet ready. It will be communicated to the honourable member when ready.

TRAINING OF COMPOUNDERS.

2720. Rai Sahib Lala Thakar Das: Will Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether they have opened training classes, at Government expense, for the training of compounders ;

(*b*) whether the emoluments of compounders have been raised ;

(*c*) if not, whether Government propose to do so and when ;

(*d*) whether Government have decided to change the designation of compounders to "Medical Assistants" ?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain: (*a*) No. The matter is under consideration.

(*b*) and (*c*) Yes, in 1921.

(*d*) "Compounders" are now officially designated "Dispensers."

EDUCATION OF DEPRESSED CLASSES.

2721. Rai Sahib Lala Thakar Das: Will Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) what has been done since 1st January 1921 for the education of the depressed classes ;

(*b*) how much money has been spent in this behalf since January 1st 1921, up till now, and also how much more it is proposed to be spent during the remainder of the current financial year ;

(*c*) what results have been achieved so far ?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain: It is hoped that the information required by the honourable member will be found in a circular letter, a copy of which is laid on the table.

No. 210-G. S., dated Simla, the 18th June 1923.

From—G. ANDERSON, Esq., C.I.E., M.A., Under-Secretary to Government, Punjab,

To—All Commissioners and Deputy Commissioners in the Punjab.

I AM directed to address you on the subject of the education of the depressed classes in this Province.

2. The Punjab Government (Ministry of Education) is anxious that earnest efforts be made by all concerned for the education of these classes. Not only do the claims of justice and humanity plead on behalf of these people, but it is also essential to the best interests of the Province as a whole

that no community, however, low in the social scale, should be denied the benefits of education. The pages of history abound with the evils resulting to a whole country from the existence of a class demoralised by ignorance and poverty. Equality of opportunity for all should be the watchword of a properly devised educational system.

3. The results of the last few years have emboldened Government to be optimistic for the future. The old spirit of exclusion is showing signs of decay; there is far less reluctance than formerly to admit the children of these classes to the schools of the Punjab; and the parents themselves are becoming more alive to the benefits of education. The Legislative Council, moreover, has shown itself fully aware of the importance of this matter and gave a favourable hearing to the resolution moved by Mr. K. L. Rallia Ram on behalf of the depressed classes. The Honourable Sir John Maynard promised that the problem would be reviewed further, and that the ready sympathy of Government was assured.

4. I am, in the first place, to draw your attention to Chapter II of my Quinquennial Report for 1916-17—1921-22. The problem is also discussed at the end of Chapter XI of the same report.

5. The Minister is most gratified by the remarkable increase in the number of pupils attending schools and colleges in the Punjab. In 1921-22, the number of additional pupils reached a total of nearly 70,000; and the provisional estimates for 1922-23 indicate that the increase will exceed 100,000. What is particularly pleasing in these figures is the fact that many of these additional pupils belong to the depressed classes. This goes to prove the contention already expressed that not only is the reluctance to admit these pupils to the ordinary schools disappearing, but also that the depressed classes themselves are becoming more alive to the importance of education for their children.

6. Much can now be done to stimulate this demand by the depressed classes for education. In many districts lists of the names of all children of school-going age who live within walking distance of the school are prepared; and it is suggested that the names of those who belong to the depressed classes should be marked in such a way that an inspector can see at a glance the number of children belonging to the community and how far that community is represented at the school. Notice should be taken of the energy or apathy shown by the teachers in taking steps for the welfare of the depressed classes. It is for local bodies to decide whether the fees should be remitted, and also whether books, etc., should be provided. Towards such expenditure, Government will contribute in accordance with the grading of each board, subject to the total maximum laid down each year. Reference has already been made to the fact that the old spirit of exclusion is showing signs of decay. The recent report of the Inspector, Ambala Division, is noteworthy in showing that, whereas the number of children of the depressed classes in schools established for those classes tends to decrease, the number of such children in the ordinary schools has considerably increased. It is true that objections are sometimes taken to the presence of such children in the class-rooms on the ground of their insanitary conditions and habits, but it should be the duty of the teachers to ensure that all the children, to whatever class they belong, are clean and tidy; and attention should be paid to this point by all inspecting officers. In large towns separate schools for these children may be necessary for the present.

7. The Minister also appreciates the admirable efforts of missionary and other bodies in maintaining primary schools for the depressed classes. As you are aware, steps have already been taken to encourage private effort in the establishment of vernacular schools to a greater extent than has been the case in the past. In my C. M. No. 336-A. S., dated June 29th, 1922 (paragraph 19), permission was given to district boards to enhance the rates of grant to these schools up to a certain maximum, and especially in respect to those schools which entertain trained teachers; and it was further ruled that these enhanced grants form a legitimate item of expenditure by district boards, towards which Government makes its contribution in accordance with the grading of each board up to the total approved maximum. It is hoped that by this means the assistance of private effort will be enlisted in the cause of the education of the depressed classes.

8. Equally important as the provision of schools is the recruitment of suitable teachers. Inspectors should therefore be vigilant in selecting suitable recruits from these classes for admission to normal schools. In the matter of the training of teachers, excellent work is being done at the training class attached to the Vernacular Middle School at Moga, which is maintained by the American Presbyterian Mission under the able guidance of Mr. W. J. McKee. The object of this class in not only to train teachers from among members of the depressed community for work in the schools maintained by the Mission for the community, but also, by the inclusion of practical agriculture, village crafts and industries in the curriculum, to train the teachers to be the leaders of the community in its general uplift and progress in the villages. The class at Moga has recently been recognised by Government; and a grant-in-aid is awarded. It is hoped that the full grants in respect to the salaries of these trained teachers will be awarded in accordance with the terms of the circular cited in paragraph 7 above. The Minister commends the Moga experiment to the notice of other philanthropic bodies; and he will be willing to receive applications for recognition and the usual grant-in-aid on behalf of similar institutions elsewhere.

9. Another important development of recent times has been the institution of night schools all over the Province, particularly in the Multan Division; a matter on which you will be addressed shortly. It is understood that many members of the depressed classes take advantage of these schools; and inspectors are being requested to take all possible steps within their power to secure their admission to these schools.

10. The Minister desires to take this opportunity of expressing his appreciation of the efforts made by local bodies and philanthropic societies on behalf of depressed classes and communities; and he is anxious, even in this time of acute financial stringency, to afford them all the encouragement and assistance at his command. In this noble work, he relies much on the co-operation of private effort; and much also on the desire of the community to help itself, a desire which has already expressed itself in some parts of the Province. He trusts, therefore, that the satisfactory results of the last few years are merely a prelude to a far greater improvement in the near future, and that the Punjab will rise to its opportunities and will, as a whole, take a lead in the removal of illiteracy and ignorance from its midst and in the breaking down of the barriers between the depressed classes and those more fortunately circumstanced in life.

COMMUNAL REPRESENTATION AMONG SUB-JUDGES.

2722. Rai Sahib Lala Thakar Das: (*a*) Will Government be pleased to state how many new Sub-Judges have been added to the number who held this office on January 1st, 1921, during the period beginning with January 1st, 1921, up to now?

(*b*) How many of the new Sub-Judges are Hindus, Muhammadans and Sikhs, respectively?

Mr. C. A. H. Townsend: I regret that the answer to this question is not yet ready. It will be communicated to the honourable member when ready.

COMMUNAL REPRESENTATION IN POLICE DEPARTMENT.

2723. Rai Sahib Lala Thakar Das: Will Government be pleased to state what was the number of officers, from Sub-Inspectors upwards, in the Police Department on January 1st, 1921, and what is it now, detailing the number of Hindus, Muhammadans, Sikhs, Indian Christians and Europeans, respectively?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: I regret that the answer to this question is not yet ready. It will be communicated to the honourable member when ready.

COMMUNAL REPRESENTATION IN CO-OPERATIVE CREDIT SOCIETIES DEPARTMENT.

2724. Rai Sahib Lala Thakar Das: Will Government be pleased to state what was the number of officers from Sub-Inspectors upwards, in the Department of Co-operative Credit Societies, on January 1st, 1921 and what is it now, detailing the number of Hindus, Muhammadans, Sikhs, Indian Christians and Europeans, respectively?

The Honourable Lala Harkishan Lal: A statement giving the information required is laid on the table.

	Hindus.		Muhammadans		Sikhs.		Indian Christians.		Europeans.	
	1921.	1923.	1921.	1923.	1921.	1923.	1921.	1923.	1921.	1923.
Registrar ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Deputy Registrar	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	1
Assistant Registrar.	...	...	4	3	1	4	...	...	...	...
Inspectors ...	10	10	29	37	9	10	...	...	...	...
Manager Stores...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Sub-Inspectors ...	9		27	32	15	11	1	...	...	...

COMMUNAL REPRESENTATION IN DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

2725. **Rai Sahib Lala Thakar Das:** Will Government be pleased to state what was the number of officers, in the Department of Agriculture, on January 1st, 1921, and what it is now, detailing the number of Hindus, Muhammadans, Sikhs, Indian Christians and Europeans, respectively?

The Honourable Lala Harkishan Lal: A statement showing the information asked for is laid on the table.

Statement showing the number of Gazetted Officers (Imperial and Provincial Services) in the Department of Agriculture, Punjab, on January 1st, 1921 and 30th September 1923.

1ST JANUARY 1921.

Imperial.					*Provincial.*				
Muhammadans.	Hindus.	Sikhs.	Europeans.	Indian Christians.	Muhammadans.	Hindus.	Sikhs.	Europeans.	Indian Christians.
2	...	1	7	...	4	6	2	...	...

AT PRESENT, 30TH SEPTEMBER 1923.

Imperial.					*Provincial.*				
Muhammadans.	Hindus.	Sikhs.	Europeans.	Indian Christians.	Muhammadans.	Hindus.	Sikhs.	Europeans.	Indian Christians.
2	..	3	5	...	4	7	5	...	...

One post of Deputy Director of Agriculture vacant.

The following posts are vacant:—

1. One Deputy Director of Agriculture.
2. Physicist.
3. Bacteriologist.
4. Second Agricultural Chemist.
5. Second Agricultural Engineer.

M.

CASES OF DRUNKENNESS CHALLANED BY POLICE.

2726. Rai Sahib Lala Thakar Das: Will Government be pleased to state how many cases of drunkenness were challaned by the Police under section 34 of the Police Act, and how many convictions were obtained and how much fine was realised from April 1st, 1922, up till now, as also during the financial year beginning from the 1st of April 1921, in the whole of the Municipal Area of Lahore as also in the Municipal Area of Rawalpindi?

The Honourable Lala Harkishan Lal: I regret that the answer to this question is not yet ready. It will be communicated to the honourable member when ready.

ILLICIT SALE OF LIQUOR.

2727. Rai Sahib Lala Thakar Das: Will Government be pleased to state the number of cases, in the whole of the Punjab, in which convictions were obtained for illicit sale of liquor, specifying separately the number for (1) Lahore, (2) for Rawalpindi, from April 1st, 1922, up till now specified as also during the financial year beginning from the 1st of April 1921?

The Honourable Lala Harkishan Lal: I regret that the answer to this question is not yet ready. It will be communicated to the honourable member when ready.

UNLAWFUL MANUFACTURE OF COUNTRY SPIRITS.

2728. Rai Sahib Lala Thakar Das: Will Government be pleased to state the number of cases, mentioning the places where the offences were committed and the convictions obtained, with regard to the unlawful manufacture of country spirits in the Punjab from April 1st, 1922, up till now, as also during the financial year beginning from April 1st, 1922?

(*b*) How much fine was realised?

The Honourable Lala Harkishan Lal: I regret that the answer to this question is not yet ready. It will be communicated to the honourable member when ready.

REPORT OF THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE.

The Secretary: A communication received from the Public Accounts Committee and their report* on the Audit and Appropriation Reports of the year 1921-22 and other matters, are laid on the table for the information of members.

No. 2240 S. F., dated Simla, the 30th July 1923.

From—The Secretary to Government, Punjab, Finance Department.

To—The Secretary, Punjab Legislative Council, Lahore.

I AM directed by the Governor in Council to forward herewith an extract paragraph 3 from the Proceedings of the last meeting of the Public Accounts Committee regarding a case of double draft of travelling allowance by a member of the Punjab Legislative Council and to request that the occurrence, details of which are given in the enclosed memo., may be brought to the notice of the Council, as desired by the Committee.

* Separately printed and distributed to members.

Extract paragraph 3 from the proceedings of the last meeting of the Public Accounts Committee of the Punjab Legislative Council held on Tuesday and Wednesday the 17th and 18th July 1923, in the Committee Room of the Punjab Civil Secretariat at Ellerslie, Simla E.

3. *Agendum* 2.—Case of the double draft of travelling allowance by a member of the Legislative Council mentioned in paragraph 9 of the Audit Report for 1921-22.

The Committee accepted the explanation of the gentleman concerned, but considered that the occurrence should be brought to the notice of the Council.

THE PUNJAB LOCAL OPTION BILL.

Mr. C. M. King (Financial Commissioner) : Sir, I beg to present the report of the Select Committee on the Punjab Local Option Bill.

Mr. President : You are in charge of the Bill ?

Mr. C. M. King : Yes, Sir.

THE PUNJAB OPIUM SMOKING BILL.

Mr. C. M. King (Financial Commissioner) : Sir, I beg to present the report of the Select Committee on the Punjab Opium Smoking Bill.

Mr. President : You are in charge of the Bill ?

Mr. C. M. King : Yes, Sir.

GOVERNMENT'S DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY AND TOKEN GRANTS.

Police Grant.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard (Finance Member) : Sir, I beg to move—

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 71,559 advanced to the Head 26—Police from Civil Contingencies Fund be granted to the Governor in Council by way of recoupment of that fund for the year ending the 31st day of March 1924."

The motion was carried.

Civil Works (Transferred) Grant.

Mr. Miles Irving (Financial Secretary) : Sir, I beg to move—

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 7,500 advanced to the Head 41—Civil Works (Transferred) from the Civil Contingencies Fund be granted to the Governor in Council by way of recoupment of that fund for the year ending the 31st day of March 1924."

The motion was carried.

Land Revenue Grant.

Mr. C. M. King (Financial Commissioner) : Sir, I beg to move—

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,04,700 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 1924, in respect of Land Revenue."

Mr. President: The question is—

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,04,700 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 1924, in respect of Land Revenue."

Khan Bahadur Malik Muhammad Amin Khan [Attock (Muhammadan), Rural] (Urdu): Sir, I beg to move—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 40,000 in respect of the item of Rs. 40,000—Re-settlement of the Attock District."

Sir, the item of Rs. 40,000 which is estimated for expenditure on the Attock Settlement should not be granted. The whole of Attock District is dry and hilly. Big streams cut up the district. There are no means of irrigation whereby the people could increase their income. Cultivation cannot flourish in such a district. Moreover, the recent census report indicates that our population has decreased. It was 519,275 in 1911 while in 1921 there was a decrease of about 7,000, the figure coming down to 512,249. This means that the supply of men to cultivate the soil has diminished. The means of communications too are lacking, sheer desolation extends over hundreds of square miles, and the existing roads are not repaired since the district board cannot spare funds. We have had a succession of bad seasons during the last three or four years. The crops do not thrive for want of rain. The people are burdened with heavy debts.

I will try to estimate their debts. There are three tahsils in the district with 164 Co-operative Societies and 4,500 members. These members are in debt to the amount of about 9 lakhs of rupees. Calculating the total debt of the district on the basis of the above figures we arrive at a total figure of many crores. Besides the district has rendered valuable services to the Government. During the war it contributed about 18,000 recruits and the greater proportion of these is still serving the British Government. These services should be taken into consideration and the settlement should be postponed. We live beyond the reach of railways and roads, and wear our own simple native dress. Let anybody come and see us in our rustic homely life and pity us. We are poor indeed, and I as representing the district in question protest against this demand. With these few words I bring my speech to a close and I hope that the honourable members will agree with me.

Mr. President: Supplementary grant under discussion, amendment moved—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 40,000 in respect of the item of Rs. 40,000—Re-settlement of the Attock District."

The question is that that reduction be made.

Malik Firoz Khan Noon [Shahpur West (Muhammadan), Rural]: Sir, I rise to support the amendment which has been moved not because the honourable member has given us any sufficient reason for rejecting the proposal of the Government to reassess the Attock District, but because I have spent much time in examining our system of Settlements and have come to the conclusion that the present system of increasing land revenue by means of re-assessment from time to time is faulty. The only justification for an increase in the assessment on a particular district can be an increase in prices.

A rise in the area of cultivation in any particular district would automatically bring about a rise in the land revenue according to the rate of assessment fixed in the previous settlement. (A voice: 'Question'.) What I mean to say is, Sir, supposing there was a settlement in a district in 1900 and the land revenue were then fixed at a certain rate and since that time 100 acres of fresh land were brought under cultivation, these 100 acres will not go land revenue free. (A voice: 'It will'.) Then we have two things which can entitle Government to charge an increase of land revenue, namely, (1) increase in the price of the produce of the land and (2) increase in the area under cultivation. Now the Government is asking for the permission of this Council for re-settling the Attock District, the total expenditure on which is estimated to amount to five lakhs of rupees. The Government is now asking only for Rs. 40,000 but if this is granted then the Council will have to sanction five lakhs. It is said in the report "The Commissioner estimates that having regard particularly to the rise in prices an additional demand of Rs. 2,40,000 can safely be taken. The Financial Commissioner accepts this figure. This will give a new demand of Rs. 9,13,000."

The plan I wish the Government to adopt in the future is this, *viz.*, that instead of starting a settlement first and spending five lakhs of rupees and then finding that the Government was not justified in increasing the land revenue and that the settlement operation was a sheer waste they should first find out the average outturn per acre and the average price and then decide whether there should be a re-settlement. An extra revenue assistant should be put on duty to estimate the outturn per acre and the average prices for the last 15 or 20 years and to submit a report and if then there were sufficient reasons for a re-settlement the Government should come before the Council for the necessary sanction (*Hear, hear*). The Government does not do so and sometimes it may happen that the Government get the necessary sanction for re-settlement but afterwards they find that they were not entitled to any increase in land revenue and thus the re-settlement operations become a sheer waste. In support of my contention I may cite the case of Sargodha. Now there are two portions in the Shahpur District, Sargodha and Bulowal Tahsils which are under settlement. The total estimated income from land revenue in these tracts is Rs. 54,50,603. This big figure consists mainly of a large item of nearly Rs. 27,35,054 which is entirely the price of one article and that is wheat.....

Mr. C. M. King: I rise to a point of order, Sir. Are these references relevent to the demand under consideration?

Malik Firoz Khan Noon (continued): In the last assessment the produce of cotton was assessed at 4 maunds per acre and in the present settlement it is proposed to assess it at 3¾ maunds per acre on account of the shortage of water.....

Mr. President: May I known in what way these remarks are relevent to the Attock Settlement?

Malik Firoz Khan Noon (continued): It is relevant in this way. I want to prove by these figures that the Sargodha settlement was not justified and that a mistake was made in taking up that settlement and a similar mistake may be made in respect of the Attock Settlement.

Mr. President: Then instead of giving details as to what happened at Sargoda you may simply say that the enquiry at Sargodha showed that the forecaste was wrong and therefore it may be wrong in this case also.

Malik Firoz Khan Noon (continued): Very well, Sir. My argument then is this that in the Sargodha Settlement Government spent so many lakhs of rupees which proved a waste and it is quite likely that a similar result may follow the re-settlement of the Attock district. I therefore suggest that the Government should first ascertain the outturn per acre in that district and also the prices for the last 20 years and present a report to this Council so that we may know on what grounds new assessment is being proposed for any particular district. Otherwise we are not in a position to judge the reasonableness or otherwise of the proposal.

Sayad Muhammad Hussain [Montgomery (Muhammadan), Rural]: Sir, I rise to support my friend Malik Muhammad Amin Khan. First of all I disagree with the grant of this sum on principle. Notwithstanding that the select committee of the House of Commons has passed a resolution to the effect that a law should be passed governing future assessments of land revenue, notwithstanding that this Council has passed a resolution to the same effect and notwithstanding the fact that a committee of experts was appointed to frame a Bill and the Committee submitted its report a year ago, the Bill has not yet been introduced in this Council. In answer to a question by Raja Narenda Nath it was stated that the Bill has gone to His Excellency the Viceroy for his assent.

If such is the case, I do not see any reason why we should be in a hurry to give sanction to the grant of money for the settlement when I do not know what the result of that Bill will be. I had the honour of acting on that Committee and I can say that it is quite possible that if the recommendations are accepted by His Excellency and passed by this Council, the Attock District might be declared a permanently settled district, because there is a provision to the effect that if in the opinion of the Local Government any district is fully developed and by the definition of "fully developed" is meant that if one-eighth.....

Mr. President: I do not think that the honourable member is entitled to refer to what happened in the Committee.

Sayad Muhammad Husain (continued): I am not giving any of the details of the proceedings of the Committee, but what I want to say is that there is the possibility of the district of Attock being declared a permanently settled district. If such be the case then all the money that will be spent on this will be wasted. Then again when I moved the resolution in the Council a solemn undertaking was given by the Honourable Revenue Member which with his permission I will repeat here. This is what he said: "Whatever decisions of the Local Government on the report are, I undertake that those benefits if granted will be given to the assessees on the last assessments that have taken place. Beyond that I cannot go." Then, Sir, in the Finance Committee the proceedings of which are confidential it was.....

Mr. President: I warn you you are not at liberty to mention to the Council what happened in that meeting, beyond what may have been published.

Sayad Muhammad Husain (continued): I am not mentioning the proceedings. I am only going to say that there was a solemn promise given to the members of the Committee by Sir John Maynard .....

Mr. President: No, you cannot do that, unless it has been published.

Sayad Muhammad Hussain (continued): I abide by your decision. Now, Sir, if the undertaking which has been given by the Revenue Member is given effect to and if the law is passed and those benefits are given to these newly started districts, do you think the Government will incur a similar amount of expense to give them the benefits of those undertakings? As Malik Feroz Khan pointed out the settlements of Sargodha and Jhang are nearing completion. Do you think that if one mistake has been committed, another similar mistake should be committed? The assessment will be made and if those benefits are subsequently given, the Government will be morally bound to reassess the district again. That means an extra amount of money, it may be less or more, for giving the benefits of that moral undertaking which has been given in the Council. That is my first argument.

My second argument is that I think it economically as well as politically dangerous for the country. Economically, Sir, the district of Attock, I gather from the discussion,—I have not been to that place,—is a barani district.....

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia: No *maraba* there?

Sayad Muhammad Husain (continued): No I have not been there myself, but from the speech of Malik Muhammad Amin Khan I gather that it is quite a barani *ilaka* depending entirely on rain. For the last three or four years there have been droughts in it as there has been no rain whatever. The population of the district has been depleted. People have died and most of them have died fighting for the cause of the Empire on the battle fields of France and of Mesopotamia. Is it proper to reassess in these circumstances a district which is so poor and to deprive it from all the benefits of the new law and at a time when prices are falling to a normal level. The same mistake was made in about 1878 when there was war between the States of America and at that time as now prices rose automatically and for some time it seemed that India was very prosperous and very fertile. Many districts were reassessed at that time in the Bombay Presidency—I am describing all this from the Economic History by Romesh Chandra Dutt—and soon afterwards the prices fell to a normal level. The result was famine in the Bombay Presidency. Many people perished and Government had to reassess those places again. What was the condition then? Wheat was sold at Rs. 10 per maund. It has come down now to between Rs. 3 and Rs. 4 per maund. Is that the normal price? The only thing which is still expensive is cotton. The reason for the rise in the price of cotton is that the cotton crop has failed in America and Egypt. But a district where this crop is never sown cannot benefit by the high price of cotton. Then again the district of Attock is the recruiting ground of the Punjab. It is this district which contributed so largely in the War. The people of Attock have shed their blood on the battlefields of France and Mesopotamia for the sake of the Empire. Is this the time to deprive them of the benefit of the new law and to re-assess their district? Its political effect will be very bad. In the circumstances I wholly support the resolution of my friend, Malik Muhammad Amin Khan, and ask that it should not be re-settled at this time. Then, Sir, I wish to record a protest. The Bill which the present Council was in the best

[Sayad Muhammad Husain.]

position to deal with ought to have been put before this Council to be passed into law. The present members may come into the new Council or not. The new Council will not know what amendments to make in that Bill. It may be a better Council, yet the fact remains that some of the present members will not be there and some of the official members will not be there.

I therefore request that the district should not be re-assessed and until the Bill has been passed into law, no further sanction for a new settlement should be given.

Chaudhri Ali Akbar [Kangra-cum-Gurdaspur (Muhammadan), Rural] (Urdu): Sir, it is admitted on all hands that the Attock District is not a fertile district but a very poor one. So care should be taken that no unnecessary burden is put on its people. Like other districts, in that district too there are Tahsildars and Patwaris who keep all sorts of records concerning the land and its produce. From these records and entries by these officials, the annual produce of different sorts of land in the district can be known. The average produce of these lands and the average market prices for the preceding five years should be taken and then, if it seems necessary and proper in the light of these statistics, an increase in the land revenue could be made either by the Council or the Finance Department. It will be good to spare these poor people the burden of five lakhs of rupees which are the expenses of the settlement. They require no *bandobast* for they are thoroughly good people. *Bandobast* is needed for *badmashes* (evil doers). There is no need of regular settlement proceedings when the people are willing to pay any amount of extra assessment which may be imposed on them. The Government is requested, not to show any special favour to these people, but simply to deal with them justly. These people have served the Government loyally in the Great War. They should not be unnecessarily burdened.

To take so many lakhs of rupees from these people and then to spend these lakhs upon them without any necessity to do so is no less than to "knock their heads with their own shoes." If the Finance Member gives me no satisfactory answer then I will support the Malik Sahib.

Mr. C. M. King (Financial Commissioner): Sir, the object, I gather, of this amendment is to prevent the re-assessment of the Attock District. The demand for Rs. 40,000 is intended to meet the expenses of the extra establishment including the Settlement Officer who will be appointed to re-assess this district and if this demand is not granted re-assessment of the Attock District cannot take place. Therefore the first thing this House should consider is, what will this Province lose by the failure to re-assess the Attock District? Some figures have been given in the explanatory memorandum which will give the members an idea of what the loss is likely to be. The Commissioner of Rawalpindi in his review of the forecast report has estimated the annual increase due to re-assessment at Rs. 2,40,000. The cost of re-assessment which will be spread over three or four years is estimated at five lakhs of rupees. Therefore we may say that the cost will be recouped in a little more than two years.

3 P.M.

Thereafter this Province will reap the full advantage of the increase in the assessment amounting to Rs. 2,40,000. If we assume that that assessment is to last say for 30 years the total assessment will come to 72 lakhs which will be a great loss if the re-assessment does not take place.

In judging this question I would ask the members especially those who are closely connected with the Attock District to take an impersonal view of the case. It may be hard for the actual land revenue payer of the Attock District to have to pay an increased assessment, but surely it is equally hard to the person who is not an inhabitant of Attock and who has to pay an enhanced assessment while his fellow zemindar in Attock is allowed to get off with a low assessment. I am now thinking of two districts which are in many respects somewhat similar to Attock, namely Gurgaon and Hissar. Is it fair that the zemindars of Hissar should have to pay more while the zemindars of Attock have to pay less? That is my first answer to the argument advanced by Malik Muhammad Amin. He wished the re-assessment of Attock to be postponed or not to take place at all because it was a dry tract.

Another point was that the population had decreased. The figures he has quoted, and which I do not dispute, undoubtedly show that between the years 1911-21 there was a decrease of population. The reason for the decrease is not far to seek. It appears to me to be due to the influence of the epidemic in 1918. But although the population has gone down there is one thing certain and that is that cultivation has not gone down. The cultivated area remains the same. That means that the population has not decreased to such an extent as to cause any area of the district to go out of cultivation. If therefore there are enough persons to cultivate the tract fully it does not seem to me that the mere fact that the population has diminished is a good reason to bring forward for not increasing the land assessment. In some places in congested areas the fact that there is a decrease in population might even be an argument in favour of increasing the assessment.

Then my friend has talked about the indebtedness of the district. He has told us that there is a large amount of debt due to the co-operative credit societies. As far as I know indebtedness to co-operative credit societies is a sign of prosperity and not of poverty. On this point my friend Mr. Calvert will correct me if I am wrong. There are figures, however, which show that indebtedness far from increasing has decreased very considerably. I find that in the year 1906-07, the earliest year for which figures are available, the area mortgaged was 105,000 acres. In the year 1920-21 the area was only 78,000, that is to say, about 75 per cent. of what it was 15 or 16 years ago. Not only has there been a decrease in the area mortgaged but there has been an actual increase in the amount of mortgage money per acre. In 1901-11 in the Attock Tahsil the mortgage money per acre was Rs. 53 and in the year 1911-12 to 1920-21 the mortgage money was Rs. 119. I have got figures for other districts, but they bear the same proportion and I do not think I need weary the house by quoting them.

I now come to the selling price of land per acre. In the years 1901-02 to 1910-11 the selling price per acre was Rs. 78 and in the years 1911-12 to 1920-21 the average selling price in the Attock Tahsil was Rs. 244 per acre.

[Mr. C. M. King.]

Looked at from another point of view the selling price of land in Attock Tahsil which was 145 times the land revenue in the years 1901-02 to 1910-11 became 827 times the land revenue during the last decennial period. These things do not seem to prove the increasing poverty of the people which our friend Malik Muhammad Amin suggested by quoting the figures of indebtedness to local co-operative societies. The fourth reason which Malik Muhammad Amin brought forward was that this district had done extraordinarily well in recruiting. I admit, Sir, that the district did do well in recruiting and at the time steps were taken to ascertain whether any such general reward as is implied by the postponement of the re-settlement of the area was desirable. It was at the time decided that the re-assessment of the Talagang Tahsil which was then due should be postponed for five years. Talagang has enjoyed the reward to which it was deemed to be entitled by the postponement of its enhancement of land revenue for five years. The object of my friend Malik Muhammad Amin as regards that has therefore been gained. As regards the other tahsils a special reference was made to the Deputy Commissioner, Mr. Butler, your predecessor in this House, and Mr. Butler definitely stated as his opinion that it was not necessary on account of recruiting services to give the special reward of a postponement of re-assessment.

My friend Malik Firoz Khan Noon rather ruthlessly tore Malik Muhammad Amin's arguments and said that he did not see anything in them at all. I have endeavoured to answer them as best as I can. I won't go to the length my friend has gone in of disposing them. I have tried to explain exactly what they are. Mr. Feroz Khan has objected to this re-assessment on a totally different ground. It seems to me that he has based his main attack on a misapprehension of facts. I think that I am fairly right in saying that his argument was this: "Why have they settlements now? First let the district officers have a thorough enquiry made into the increased prices of cultivation, of rent and so on, then let them report to Government and then let Government decide, and if it is worthwhile then order re-assessment." I think that that was his argument. Well, Sir, I am rather surprised at Mr. Feroz Khan Noon because he is the son of a Settlement Officer and he ought to know that there is such a thing as a forecast report and that no re-assessment is made until that forecast report has been considered. We have had a forecast report of the Attock District. We have not only had a forecast report but we have published the orders of Government on that forecast report. So that the main facts on which we propose to have a re-assessment of the Attock District are known or ought to be known to any one who chooses to read the Gazette.

My friend Pir Muhammad Husain, attacked this demand on yet another ground. He said that there is a Land Revenue Bill under consideration and until that Land Revenue Bill is passed we ought not to have a re-settlement, because the Honourable Member for Revenue has given his word that every assessment which takes place after the date on which he made the statement will share in the benefits which a district would obtain if it had been re-assessed under the law which it was proposed to introduce and to pass. Well Sir, I may say at once that if the re-assessment of Attock Tahsil involved a further re-assessment in a year or two after the Land Revenue Bill which we hope will soon be made into law—in the course of the next year I hope—and if I thought that the district would have to be again re-assessed in order that

the Honourable Revenue Member's pledge might be kept, I should entirely be with him in thinking that re-assessment at the present time was unnecessary. But, Sir, there is such a thing as intelligent anticipation and the Government have endeavoured intelligently to anticipate the provisions of the Bill which is before or is about to be before the Government of India. In framing these proposals for re-assessment of the Attock district care has been taken not to employ any standard which would not be employed if the Bill were law. As an example—I do not think I am divulging any secret—if the new law says that the standard of assessment shall be one-third net assets then in calculating what we shall get from a new settlement at the present time we are not going to base our standard on a half-net assets but on a third net assets.....

Sayad Muhammad Husain: But if the Council reduces it to one fourth, what will be the result?

Mr. C. M. King (continued): The answer to that is that the pledge of my friend the Revenue Member was quite clear. He would accept any modification of the law which was agreed to by Government and which Government brought forward before the House and was able to pass as law. I cannot go further on that point but I imagine that if the House wishes to reduce the amount of the standard to one-fourth, it would cause Government very seriously to reconsider the question whether the Bill should be pushed through as a Government measure or not.

One member, I think it was Pir Muhammad Husain, drew attention to the fact that prices have now fallen and that in consequence of this fall instead of eight or ten rupees per maund as they were getting they are getting something like three or four rupees. Well, I wish the House to understand exactly what the position is, and I hope they will bear with me when I go somewhat into detail. I will take the case of wheat only. The price of wheat assumed for purposes of commutation at the time of the last settlement in the Talagang Tahsil was Rs. 2-3-0 per maund. In the forecast report the Commissioner assumed the rise of prices at 33⅓ per cent. Therefore on that basis the commutation price of wheat now would be assumed at Rs 2-15-0 a maund, *i.e.*, 47 annas a maund. I do not know that that can be regarded as a high price. I must ask the members further to remember that that is not necessarily a settled price, but it is a price below which ordinarily for the next 20 years we may hope that the zemindar will never have to sell his produce. That does not seem to me to show that we have done anything exacting or anything harsh in the prices we have assumed in our proposals for taking increased assessment from this tract.

Then my friend, Chaudhri Ali Akbar, asked a very pertinent question. He asked "why cannot you raise the whole revenue automatically?" That is a most attractive proposal and I may say that it has received the closest attention of the Commissioner and myself. We would like to do so for many reasons, but I regretfully decided that that was not possible in the Attock District because there is a considerable change in the methods of cultivation. For instance, in one tahsil alone there has been a large increase in the number of wells. You can understand that if you were simply to increase automatically the land revenue in a dry tract by 50 per cent., you would not

[Mr. C. M. King.]

be taking a sufficient increase if you were to apply the same 50 per cent. to lands now irrigated by wells. To apply such an all-round automatic rate would be very unjust to other barani land where no wells had been sunk. Partly for that reason and also among other reasons because it was found that in one tahsil at least, the Talagang Tahsil, re-measurement was absolutely imperative, Government decided on my recommendation that a complete re-settlement should take place in Attock. But we have not entirely closed the door on the suggestion made by Chaudhri Ali Akbar. If in any assessment circle or in any *chak* it is found possible without making a completely detailed enquiry to do something like what Chaudhri Ali Akbar has suggested we shall undoubtedly do it. It will have the effect of lessening the cost and I shall be personally very glad if it can be introduced in any *chak* but I warn the House that I do not think it is possible to introduce it.

Well, Sir, I hope that I have proved to the House that in coming to them with the proposal for a demand for Rs. 40,000 which involves the proposal that there should be a new assessment of the Attock District, we have not done anything outrageous, we have not done anything harsh. We have only endeavoured to do justice not only to the Attock District but to several other districts less favourably situated, and I hope that with this explanation the House will accept this demand.

Mr. Miles Irving: Sir I beg to move—

"That the question be put."

The motion was carried.

Mr. President: Supplementary grant under consideration, amendment moved—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 40,000 in respect of the item of Rs. 40,000—Re-settlement of the Attock District".

The question is that that reduction be made. The Council then divided—Ayes: 30; Noes: 25.

AYES, 30.

Mian Ahmad Yar Khan, Daultana.
Malik Firoz Khan, Noon.
Chaudhri Ali Akbar.
Khan Sahib Pir Ali Haidar Shah.
Rai Sahib Lala Ganga Ram.
Chaudhri Ata Ullah Khan.
Sardar Balwant Singh.
Khan Bahadur Rai Wali Muhammad Khan.
Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Fazl Ali.
Chaudhri Ghasi Ram.
Chaudhri Ghulam Muhammad.
Rana Muhammad Jamil Khan.
Khan Sahib Amir Khan.
Rai Sahib Misar Mela Ram.
Chaudhri Nabi Bakhsh.
Mr. Moti Lal, Kaistha.
Khan Bahadur Raja Muhammad Akbar Khan.
Chaudhri Muhammad Hayat Khan.
Sayad Muhammad Husain.
Chaudhri Kharak Singh.
Sayad Muhammad Raza Shah.
Khan Muhammad Saif Ullah Khan.
Nawabzada Muhammad Irshad Ali Khan.
Mr. Ganpat Rai.
Rai Bahadur Lala Panna Lal.
Rai Sahib Chaudhri Raja Singh.
Sardar Sangat Singh.
Chaudhri Shafi Ali Khan.
Khan Bahadur Malik Muhammad Amin Khan.
Lala Uttam Chand.

NOES, 25.

The Hon'ble Sir John Maynard.	Lieut.-Col. W. C. H. Forster.
The Hon'ble Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia.	Mr. H. Calvert.
The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain.	Mr. G. Anderson.
Mr. R. A. Mant.	Mr. E. A. Scott.
Mr. C. A. H. Townsend.	Lala Atma Ram.
Mr. D. J. Boyd.	Sardar Bahadur Gopal Singh, Labana.
Mr. Miles Irving.	Captain Sardar Gopal Singh.
Mr. J. Coldstream.	Mr. K. L. Rallia Ram.
Mr. A. J. Gibson.	Mr. Manohar Lal.
Mr. C. M. King.	Khan Bahadur Khwaja Yusaf Shah.
Mr. H. P. Tollinton.	Rai Sahib Lala Thakar Das.
Colonel R. Heard.	Mr. Edward Ernest Clarke.
	Mr. Owen Roberts.

The amendment was carried.

Mr. Ganpat Rai [Lahore and Ferozpore-*cum*-Sheikhupura (Non-Muhammadan)]: Sir, I beg to move—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 40,000 in respect of the item of Rs. 40,000—Re-settlement of certain estates irrigated by the Upper and Lower Chenab Canals".

As the time is short I think it proper to speak in urdu.

(Urdu) Some honourable members will wonder why I a non agriculturist should take so much interest in this matter. Though all the people whom I represent are not agriculturists, many of them are so and most of them are connected with the agriculturist classes on account of their dealings with the latter.

I have spent much of my life in villages and like a countryman fully know the sort of life the village people lead. I have also been connected with some of the Upper and Lower Chenab Canal estates and have been living there. I have to say three or four things. When Government comes to us and demands grant of money we find that it has already taken in hand the project and begun the work for which money is asked for from the Council. Before the Council grants money to defray the expenses of the Settlement of Gujranwala and Sharakpur Government officials have already gone there for that very purpose, re-settlement.

It is said there will be an increase in the income of the Province. The income for the first few years will go to pay the expenditure incurred upon this settlement. Why then should any settlement be made at once? It is better that this settlement be postponed till the Land Revenue Bill is passed and becomes an act of the Legislature. The Government will not lose, as has been alleged, seventy-two or eighty lakhs of rupees. Why has the Bill been delayed for two years? Why has it not been put before the Council for consideration and for getting it passed? The fact is that Government wishes to get an increase in the Land Revenue and this increase must be made anyhow. If the Land Revenue Bill is to be passed next year why should the people be unnecessarily troubled now?

[Mr. Ganpat Rai.]

The settlements of Gujranwala and Sharakpur should not be taken in hand.

Hardly ten years have elapsed since the settlement of Wazirabad and Tahsil Sharakpur. I think the last settlement was made in 1913. But now it is intended that a new settlement should again be made. At first it was thought that re-settlement is to be confined to those estates only which were nominally assessed and which have greatly risen in value and production, but now both the districts are included in the proposal. At first we were told that in Gujranwala, Settlement is to be made of *Bangar* lands only but later on the *Khadir* lands too were included. The real object o the Government is to take as much land revenue from the zemindars as possible. At first assessment was imposed on land only, then water rates were added and now the zemindars have to pay three sorts of taxes :—

(1) Permanent land revenue,

(2) Water rate, and

(3) Land Revenue in addition to the permanent Land Revenue charged upon those lands which pay water rate.

But how far have the zamindars profited by this ? Canal irrigation has not been made much use of. The land has not even become properly moistened before new preparations for another settlement, with the object of increasing the Land Revenue are being made. I think a permanent settlement for fifty or sixty years should be made so that future generations at least may profit by it. Tahsil Sharakpur has always been in a bad plight. In 1896-97 a great famine occurred there. The crops failed, the cattle died and the zemindars were ruined, The Government being moved by the calamity that befell these people sanctioned one lakh of rupees in order to enable land to be irrigated from the Anni stream. With regard to the settlement previous to the last one, the Punjab Government appointed Mr. Casson Walker to report upon it. Mr. Casson Walker reported that an increase in the land revenue on the *Khadir* was not possible. The Government in its forecast had suggested an increase. The Financial Commissioners after having read the report reported to the Government that the revenue could not be reasonably increased. So is the case now. This grant should not be passed as the people are in great difficulty.

4 P.M. There is no reason why re-settlement should be taken in hand when the Land Revenue Bill has not been passed. The lands of Sharakpur and Wazirabad are water-logged and I see no ground on which new settlement should be made.

Mr. President: Supplementary grant under consideration, amendment moved—

> "That the grant be reduced by Rs. 40,000 in respect of the item of Rs. 40,000—Re-settlement of certain estates irrigated by the Upper and Lower Chenab Canals."

The question is that that reduction be made.

Sayad Muhammad Husain [Montgomery (Muhammadan), (Rural)] : (Urdu) : Sir, I speak for the information of the Government member to facilitate their reply. I will discuss Gujranwala, Hafizabad and Sharakpur separately. I fear the Government will sustain loss if it pursues its former policy. The lands of Hafizabad are water-logged. Others enjoy profits from the canals, but Hafizabad, Wazirabad and Gujranwala have sustained a loss. The people could have sued the Government for damages but they were loyal and did not do so. On the river side too the lands have deteriorated and become useless The poor people cannot even support themselves, and this is general all over the tahsil. No industry can be initiated there but a soap factory. I know of many pieces of land which have become waste before they have even received a drop of water The people did not take any action because they were satisfied that they would not have to pay the revenue on land fallen out of cultivation. The revenue officer at the last settlement fixed the revenue rates after taking all the local circumstances into consideration and yet the rates were thought to be heavy.

Still the people had begun to re-claim the lands, but now if the re-settlement is enforced they will desert them again. Moreover the re-settlement scheme will have to be given up after all and the Government would have to give some compensation to the wronged landowners because British justice is proverbial. Plague and influenza havoc played have in Gujranwala and the oppression in connection with recruiting which the poor people had to undergo was terrible with the result that the cultivators have diminished in numbers.....

Mr. President: It is difficult to follow the honourable member. He is speaking very fast. Will he please speak more slowly.

Sayed Muhammad Husain (continued): The House of Commons has decided in favour of passing a new Settlement Bill and no power on earth can keep it back. Why should we deprive this poor district of the advantages of the new Act? In the circumstances the two newly appointed Settlement Officers, who are only Extra Assistant Commissioners, will be put in an awkward position. If they enhance the assessment they will be doing an injustice, and they will be reluctant to reduce it for fear of their promotion being stopped. With these few words I support the amendment.

Chaudhri Ata Ullah Khan [Gujranwala (Muhammadan), (Rural)] (Urdu) : Sir, after the detailed speech of Honourable Sayed Muhammad Husain there is no necessity to say anything more about the matter, but I too express a few ideas. In Hafizabad water is lacking, so the lands are not watered properly. When the cultivation flourished revenue had increased, but now that the land is losing its productive power, revenue should be proportionately decreased Gujranwala has become the abode of waterfowl and the reason is that a good deal of land has became water-logged. The Financial Commissioner is aware perhaps of the increased death rate in Gujranwala owing to the unhealthy water logging of the land. This is how the matter stands and yet a re-settlement is going to be made. In the end this attempt will have to be given up and heavy loss will have been incurred. Moreover, it would be unjust to the farmers if re-settlement is made. I support the amendment.

Diwan Bahadur Raja Narendra Nath [Punjab Landholders (General)] (Urdu): Before further discussion on the subject I would like to know whether the refusal of the Council to sanction this grant would be of any use. Because once before when the Council had refused sanction to a grant for a settlement refusal was held to be of no weight. To force the Council to give decisions which would not be enforced is absurd.....

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia: May I ask the Raja Sahib to make himself more clear I have not followed him.

Diwan Bahadur Raja Narendra Nath: Do you want me to explain myself in English?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia: No, I can understand Urdu quite well. But I would like to know particularly which settlement you are talking about.

Diwan Bahadur Raja Narendra Nath (Urdu): In the case of Jhang settlement perhaps.

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia The Raja is under a wrong impression and there is no use in pursuing the matter.

Diwan Bahadur Raja Narendra Nath: Then I resume my seat.

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia (Revenue Member): Sir, I am not going to deal with the technical part of this question. That I will leave to my friend the Financial Commissioner to deal with as he is in charge of the grant which is asked for from this Council. One or two statements have been made in this House about which I should like to make a few remarks. The members of this House seem to presume that every settlement that is taken in hand is taken in hand with the object of increasing the land revenue. I will try and remove this misapprehension and would say that that is not generally correct. Wherever an enhancement is possible there an enhancement is made, but where it is not possible and a reduction is desirable, Government is prepared to make that reduction. The assessment of an *ilaqa* means that we are taking whatever is due and rightly due from the people of that part, and if there is any decrease to be made in the assessment, Government is not afraid of lowering the assessment and is prepared to lower it. My friend has said that the Tahsils of Sharakpur and Wazirabad are water-logged. May I ask if it is not right for Government to find out if this is true, and if the area is water-logged to reduce the land revenue in that part? Does this House mean that Government should shut its eyes and not re-settle certain *ilaqas* which are water-logged? Surely this House is not going to ask Government to take this course. We must make sure that an enquiry into the state of a certain *ilaqa* is absolutely necessary, and if we find that it is necessary, we must appoint Government officers to look into the thing. For that purpose we must come to this House for a grant. If that grant is refused *ipso facto* the result will be that Government will not be able to make any enquiry and any reduction due to afford relief to the cultivator will not be made. Is it the intention of this House to stop Government from doing its duty and making the enquiry?

When the last amendment was being discussed, Mr. King put forward the Government case very strongly, but it seems to me that this House had previously made up their minds to reject that demand. They did not consider the effect of their action in rejecting a Bill which was put forward by Mr. Mant two days ago on the provincial finances. They very well know the state of the provincial finances. We have a normal deficit of something like 90 lakhs a year, and if that deficit is to be met, and as Mr. Mant pointed out, our bankers, the Government of India, have refused to finance this Province, then surely Government must explore all legitimate sources of increasing income, and for that purpose as I have said before an enquiry has to be made, and if that enquiry is to be made, then this House must be prepared to sanction expenditure on it. With these few words I will leave the subject to be dealt with more fully by my friend the Financial Commissioner.

Mr. C. M. King (Financial Commissioner) Sir, I am sorry Sayad Muhammad Husain is not in this room now because I want to repudiate very strongly one suggestion he made. (Sayad Muhammad Hussain then entering the chamber). I am glad Mr. Muhammad Hussain has come in, because the remarks I wish to make have reference to his speech. I feel sure that when I bring certain facts to his notice he will realise his mistake. He has brought a very serious charge against two officers who have been appointed to take charge of these settlements, namely, that they in order to curry favour with Government, in order to obtain promotion, will deliberately enhance the assessment no matter whether the enhancement is deserved or not. I repudiate that suggestion with all my power. . . .

Sayad Muhammad Husain: I did not make that suggestion, Sir.

Mr. C. M. King (continued): I am glad to hear that. What I heard was something very much like what I stated and I felt it my duty to repudiate it.

I now come to the actual facts. We are asking for re-settlement which will cost six lakhs of rupees, for which during the current year we require Rs. 70,000, of which we have got Rs. 30,000 by way of reappropriation and we apply for a supplementary grant for Rs. 40,000. We are taking up a settlement which will cost about six lakhs of rupees, which, if finally completed, will bring in a return of six lakhs a year by way of increase in the revenue to Government. Thus the cost of the settlement will be paid in a single year.

Then again, Sir, there are in the various divisions two distinct kinds of lands, land which is greatly benefitted by the canal and land which has suffered loss by the canal not only because it is water-logged but because the cultivators have been attracted away from areas which were fairly fertile before the canal came into existence but which in comparison with canal irrigated areas are now looked upon with contempt by their former occupants. We have got to deal with those two classes of land. While thus on the one hand we anticipate a very great increase of revenue, on the other we anticipate a fall also. If, therefore, the House refuses us this grant we shall not only not be allowed to obtain an increase in revenue unless other means are adopted, but we shall also be precluded from giving relief to a large body of persons who are deserving of relief. This fact was fully realised at the time when orders were passed on the last settlement, and it was for that reason that a short term settlement was sanctioned. There was a danger which has not perhaps been as great as it was thought to be

[Mr. C. M. King.]

at the time, there was a danger that whole tracts would be depopulated by people going out to the canal colonies. That has not happened; nevertheless there are areas which were cultivated before but which are not now cared for, and it is very difficult to get tenants for them and they are going out of cultivation and it is necessary to redistribute the revenue.

(*At this stage the President left the chair which was occupied by the Deputy President*).

I have given a general statement of the situation and the reasons why this re-assessment is necessary. I will not weary the House with any further remarks. I only wish to insist on these two points, namely, that if the House refuses this grant it not only foregoes a very large increase of revenue but it also proposes to inflict a continual injury on a number of deserving zemindars.

Sayad Muhammad Hussain: Sir, I beg to move—

"That the question be no put."

The motion was carried.

The Deputy President: Supplementary grant under consideration. Amendment moved—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 40,000 in respect of the item of Rs. 40,000—Re-settlement of certain estates irrigated by the Upper and Lower Chenab Canals."

The question is that that reduction be made.

The Council then divided: Ayes 29; Noes 19.

AYES 29.

Sodi Lal Singh.
Mian Ahmad Yar Khan, Daultana.
Malik Feroz Khan, Noon.
Chaudhri Ali Akbar.
Khan Sahib Pir Ali Haidar Shah.
Chaudhri Atta Ullah Khan.
Sardar Balwant Singh.
Khan Bahadur Rai Wali Muhammad Khan.
Chaudhri Ghasi Ram.
Chaudhri Ghulam Muhammad.
Sayad Ghulam Muhammad Shah.
Rana Muhammad Jamil Khan.
Khan Sahib Amir Khan.
Rai Sahib Misar Mela Ram.
Chaudhri Nabi Bakhsh.
Mr. Moti Lal, Kaistha.
Khan Muhammad Abdullah Khan.
Khan Bahadur Raja Muhammad Akbar Khan.
Chaudhri Muhammad Hayat Khan.
Sayad Muhammad Husain.
Chaudhri Kharak Singh.
Sayad Muhammad Raza Shah.
Khan Muhammad Saif Ullah Khan.
Mr. Ganpat Rai.
Rai Bahadur Lala Panna Lal.
Lieutenant Sardar Raghbir Singh.
Rai Sahib Chaudhri Raja Singh.
Chaudhri Shafi Ali Khan.
Khan Bahadur Malik Muhammad Amin Khan.

NOES 19.

The Hon'ble Sir John Maynard.
The Hon'ble Saidar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia.
The Hon'ble Khan Bhahdur Mian Fazl-i-Husain.
Mr. R. A. Mant.
Mr. C. A. H. Townsend.
Mr. D. J. Boyd.
Mr. Miles Irving.
Mr. J. Coldstream.
Mr. A. J. Gibson.
Mr. A. Latifi.
Mr. C. M. King.
Mr. H. P. Tollinton.
Colonel R. Heard.
Mr. H. Calvert.
Mr. G. Anderson.
Mr. E. A. Scott.
Khan Bahadur Khwaja Yusaf Shah.
Mr. Edward Ernest Clarke.
Mr. Owen Roberts.

The amendment was carried.

The Deputy President: The question is—

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 24,700 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 1924 in respect of Land Revenue."

The motion was carried.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION GRANT.

Mr. C. A. H. Townsend (Chief Secretary): Sir, I beg to move—

"That supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 14,430 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 1924 in respect of General Administration."

The Deputy President: The question is—

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 14,430 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 1924 in respect of General Administration."

Mr. Gaupat Rai [Lahore and Ferozepore-*cum*-Sheikhupura (Non-Muhammadan)] (Urdu): Sir, I beg to move—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 1,630 in respect of the item of Rs. 1,630—Charges for the establishment and travelling allowance of the Financial Advisor."

Sir, we are constantly hearing to-day that the Government is in want of money. But on its side it goes on incurring fresh expenditure. The present case is that of a new financial advisor. The money asked is said to be Rs. 1,630, but the total pay is estimated at Rs. 12,000. We are merely considered to be play things. Our permission is solicited formally to show to the public that the Council is a reformed Government. The Government employ the servants first and then ask our permission to pay them. We did our level best to stop this sort of thing but could not achieve success. Why is a new financial advisor employed? Has any embezzlement been committed? Moreover it is not clear what will be his duties. What would he do except simply superintend and check the accounts? If an expert were employed as financial advisor, say for example an engineer, I would not have objected to it. I hope that the Council will reject this demand.

(*At this stage Mr. President resumed the chair.*)

Mr. President: Grant under consideration. Amendment moved—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 1,630 in respect of the item of Rs. 1,630—Charges for the establishment and travelling allowance of the Financial Advisor."

The question is that that reduction be made.

The Hon'ble Sir John Maynard (Finance Member) : Sir, I am rather surprised at my friend Mr. Ganpat Rai complaining that the Council is deprived of all authority when it has to-day passed amendments which will involve a reduction in the provincial revenue of Rs. 8,40,000 per annum. I should have thought that even Mr. Ganpat Rai with his insatiable desire for the diminution of the Provincial resources would have recognised that the proceedings of this afternoon have shown quite clearly that the Council is indeed a reality and that its authority is very large. Now, as regards the particular item, I remember that my friend who made this proposal was himself a member of the Committee which considered the proposal and was satisfied that it was a good one.....

Mr. Ganpat Rai : Sir, with your permission I may say, and the Honourable Revenue Member who is sitting by the side of the Honourable Finance Member, will bear me out, that I hold to-day the opinion I held in that Committee at Simla.

The Honourble Sir John Maynard (continued) : Evidently then there was a minority of opinion in that Committee. I was not here at the time but I am told that my friend represented that minority. Now I will explain to this House that this particular proposal is a proposal for retrenchment. When the Members and Ministers attempted to go thoroughly into the question of retrenchment in every department, they considered with each head of department what the possibilities were of effecting reduction in that department. At a very early stage we invited the heads of the Canal Department to meet us and attempted to consider by what method it was possible to effect a reduction in the enormous capital expenditure on new construction which is being undertaken. I mean the Sutlej Valley Project. We had to consider what possibilities there were of effecting a reduction. Looking at precedents in other departments, in particular the precedent of the Army Department of the Government of India, which has appointed its own Financial Advisor who is not himself a military man, we suggested that the best method of procedure was to appoint a Financial Advisor who would be able by perpetual scrutiny of each proposal in the Canal Department to arrive at a satisfactory conclusion as to which can be reduced or which can be cut out altogether. In considering this proposal we had a certain amount of opposition on the part of the Canal Engineers. They did not very much like this idea of the introduction of some one from outside who would be perpetually scrutinising their proposals and possibly making suggestions for reduction. However, acting on the advice of a Member of Government who is himself a well-known business man and who was of opinion that by this method we could hope to effect very large reductions in the total expenditure on the Sutlej Valley Project, we came to the conclusion that this was a thoroughly wise measure and therefore in spite of some opposition on the part of the Canal Department we decided to introduce it. It is my considered opinion, and I am sure that I have the support of the members of the Council, that out of the five crores of expenditure on the Sutlej Valley Project and which may rise to 7 crores we may hope for a large diminution by the assistance of the Financial Advisor. The salary of this officer is very insignificant as compared to large savings to be effected by him. We shall thus be able to effect a real economy and I therefore trust the House will agree to the demand.

Mr. President : Supplementary grant under consideration, amendment moved—

> "That the grant be reduced by Rs. 1,630 in respect of the item of Rs. 1,630—Charges for the establishment and travelling allowance of the Financial Advisor".

The question is that that reduction be made.

The motion was lost.

Mr. Ganpat Rai : Sir, I am sure the Honourable the Finance Member will not accuse me of obstructing or standing in his way by causing a loss of 8 lakhs of rupees a year, if I move this amendment. Sir, I beg to move—

> "That the grant be reduced by Rs. 5,000 in respect of the item of Rs. 5,000—Composition of articles for the Press".

The Honourable the Finance Member fully knows that when he brought this proposal for the first time. . . . .

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : Will not the honourable member talk in Urdu ?

Mr. President : The honourable member suggests to you to talk in Urdu.

Mr. Ganpat Rai (continued) : I have my own discretion in the matter. In the first year out of respect for the Finance Member and at his desire we very willingly accepted his suggestion and allowed him to try this experiment after the abolition of the Publicity Bureau. Anybody who has observed the agency which tried the experiment will conclude that the agency is not reliable. I do not propose to impute any motives to the Finance Member, because he has been working honestly in the interests of the Government and the people. But I am fully aware that this money asked for will not be usefully spent and will not serve the object which the Honourable the Finance Member has at heart. Of course if this money is meant as a subsidy to certain newspapers or to help certain persons that is a different matter. But I am sure that these Rs. 5,000 will not advance the cause which the Finance Member has at heart. I therefore request him to seriously consider the matter further and make enquiries and if he satisfies himself that this money will be usefully spent, I shall be the first person to sanction even a thousand rupees more than what he asks. But I am sure that an expenditure on this item will be a mere waste and I ask, is it fair to incur this expenditure just now when our financial condition is crippled ? For these reasons I have brought forward my amendment and I trust Government will see its way to accept it.

5 P.M.

Mr. President : Supplementary grant under consideration, amendment moved—

> "That the grant be reduced by Rs. 5,000 in respect of the item of Rs. 5,000—Composition of articles for the Press".

The question is that that reduction be made.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard (Finance Member) : Sir, I may perhaps simplify the discussion by agreeing to reduce the figure to Rs. 2,500.

Mr. Ganpat Rai (continued) : Sir, I have no objection to make that change in my amendment.

Mr. President: First I will put your amendment. Afterwards you may move another amendment. Supplementary grant under consideration, amendment moved—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 5,000 in respect of the item of Rs. 5,000—Composition of articles for the Press."

The question is that that reduction be made.

The motion was lost.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard (Finance Member): With your permission, Sir, I beg to move—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 2,500 in respect of the item of Rs. 5,000—Composition of articles for the Press".

Mr. President: Supplementary grant under consideration, amendment moved—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 2,500 in respect of the item of Rs. 5,000—Composition of articles for the Press."

The question is that that reduction be made.

The motion was carried.

Mr. Ganpat Rai: Sir, I beg to move—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 7,800 in respect of the item of Rs. 7,800—Clerical Establishment."

(Urdu): Sir, in order to oblige the Honourable the Minister for Education I will speak in Urdu. My amendment on the resolution is that the sum of Rs. 7,800 should be reduced.

The explanation given of this demand is—that a provision of Rs. 12,3916 was made in the current year's budget under the head "22—C (*a*)—General Administration—Civil Secretariat—Pay of Establishment for Persian Office Clerks." This provision was sanctioned by the Council at the time of the passing of the Budget. Now we are told that it has been found that this was an under-estimate to the extent of Rs. 21,000. The real thing is that when the Budget is put before the Council, certain sums are rejected. But when the next session begins, sanction is demanded for the award of those rejected items on the plea that the former estimates were incorrect.

Such mistakes do not become the Government, who are maintaining an establishment of very experienced officers—of 30 years' standing—secretaries and their assistants.

Now if the Government wish to increase their finances by heavy taxation, why have new settlements at all?

I say, it is not proper for the Government to treat us like children. If you once estimate a certain sum, there is no need to clamour for more and speak about the balances that you save.

Now, in this particular case let the new Council assemble and then do what it likes.

With these words I launch forward my amendment.

Mr. President: Supplementary grant under consideration, amendment moved—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 7,800 in respect of the item of Rs. 7,800—Clerical Establishment."

The question is that that reduction be made.

Mr. C. A. H. Townsend (Chief Secretary) : Sir, Mr. Ganpat Rai has ascribed to Government certain attributes that we really cannot boast of. The explanation of this item is a very simple one. After all, at the time of the preparation of the budget there is a great press of work in all offices, we are men and our clerks are men, and it is the truth and nothing but the truth that it is an arithmetical mistake. To err is human and to forgive divine. I can really to do nothing more than just place the facts before the Council. There has been no increase of establishment of any kind. It has already been cut down to the minimum and I can only ask the House to reject this amendment.

Mr. Ganpat Rai : Sir, after listening to this explanation I have no hesitation in asking for leave to withdraw my amendment. It is not stated in the printed memorandum that it is a mistake in calculation.

Mr. President : You need not state your reasons for withdrawing your amendment. Do you ask for leave to withdraw your amendment ?

Mr. Ganpat Rai : Yes, Sir.

The amendment was by leave withdrawn.

Mr. President : The question is—

> "That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 11,080 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 1924 in respect of General Administration."

The motion was carried.

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE GRANT.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard (Finance Member) : Sir, I beg to move—

> "That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,58,564 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 1924 in respect of Administration of Justice."

Mr. President : The question is—

> "That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,58,564 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 1924 in respect of Administration of Justice."

Sayad Muhammad Husain [Montgomery (Muhammadan) Rural] : Sir, I beg to move—

> "That the grant be reduced by Rs. 1,00,000 in respect of the item of Rs. 1,00,000—Fees to Public Prosecutors and Government Pleaders."

I am sorry, Sir, that I am going to move this most important amendment at a time when the House is practically empty. So I have to invoke the help of the official members. The amendment I am moving is in the interest of economy, so I would depend on the help of the official members and hope that they will take a sympathetic view.

As I have pointed out here before, a very great amount of money is being spent on the upkeep of the Public Prosecutors. They are drawing salaries not commensurate with the amount of work they do, besides we can get men of equal qualifications on much lesser emoluments. Sir, notwithstanding the fact that once the Council passed a resolution to the effect that

[S. Muhammad Husain.]

a reduction be made in the expenditure which is being incurred on the fees of the Public Prosecutors the resolution was not acted upon. The result was that by giving them a permanent salary we incurred an excess expenditure of Rs. 50,000 or more. This question again was fully threshed out in the Retrenchment Committee and we were thankful to the Legal Remembrancer (Mr. Prenter) who is not here now, who said that he would reduce it by Rs. 1,00,000. Had we asked him to make a reduction of two lakhs, he would have agreed to it. The reduction was made and no grudge was felt by the Public Prosecutors, and I think that reduction was a very small reduction. The pay of Public Prosecutors is so high that actually a Public Prosecutor living in a district draws the highest salary next to the Deputy Commissioner. He gets a higher pay than the officer before whose court he appears. Public Prosecutors get double first class when travelling, while the officers, the Extra Assistant Commissioners, before whom they have to appear get double second. The position is most ridiculous. The pay of Public Prosecutors is very high. It ranges between Rs. 800 and Rs. 1,300. If any place falls vacant, there are hundreds of applicants for it. Of course, there are lots of things taken into consideration while making a selection, for instance, the services, the political views, etc., of the applicant and the best man is selected for the post. I would suggest it to you that the pay of the post be reduced, and I hope the Government benches will have no objection to that, with a view to seeing whether the present incumbents will leave their places or will stick to them. In these circumstances I move that this sum be reduced.

Mr. President: Supplementary grant under consideration, amendment moved—

> "That the grant be reduced by Rs. 1,00,000 in respect of the item of Rs. 1,00,000—Fees to Public Prosecutors and Government Pleaders."

Maulvi Muharram Ali Chishti [Lahore City (Muhammadan), Urban], (Urdu): Sir, many a time I have objected to this increase in grants. There is no reason why I should not co-operate with my friend Sayad Muhammad Husain in demanding a decrease now.

Last time when this question was before the Council, the Government seeing that our votes were more than the number of official votes gave way and accepted a decrease.

I would be very pleased to prove to the Government the extravagance and absurdity of this demand. There are many legal experts on the Government benches but we lawyers know something about the condition of our profession. Sir, what I want to say is that the Public Prosecutors and Government Pleaders are overpaid. If a committee of lawyers were to be appointed in order to nominate these Public Prosecutors, etc., I am sure the services of very able lawyers could be hired on much smaller emoluments.

But I daresay that this employment is only to provide for the favourites and the candidate is generally selected and recommended by the District Magistrate. But the truth is that only the Magistrate or Judge in whose courts such a Vakil habitually pleads can gauge his abilities as a lawyer, therefore a District Magistrate cannot be an authority and the matter is not even referred to the Judges of the High Court who are-

supposed to be legal experts. In my opinion the Finance Member can get the services of eminent lawyers at much cheaper rates .....

Mr. President: The honourable member does not seem to be relevant. If he sees the memorandum he will observe that the demand has nothing to do with Public Prosecutors or Government Pleaders. It relates to private practitioners engaged by District Magistrates to conduct Crown cases when the Public Prosecutors are otherwise engaged.

Maulvi Muharram Ali Chishti (continued): These people too are appointed at random, and there is no regard for real merit. The number of Public Prosecutors being very large and their salaries very high, the payments of these extra men must be reduced. I hope the Honourable the Finance Member will consider the question very favourably.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: I have got one suggestion to make which might possibly meet the objection of the mover of this amendment. I quite agree that the scale of remuneration in the Law Department Manual is not up-to-date. The Law Department Manual requires revision. If he withdraws the amendment I shall be most happy to appoint a committee of vakils to go into the question of charges fixed in the Manual. But as regards the demand now made, I must say that it is not possible to make any reduction, because the expenditure will be actually incurred before the close of the year and is inevitable.

Sayad Muhammad Husain: In view of the assurance of the Finance Member that a committee will be appointed to go into the question of fees to legal practitioners, I beg leave to withdraw the amendment.

The amendment was by leave withdrawn.

Mr. President: The question is—

> "That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,53,564 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 1924 in respect of Administration of Justice."

The motion was carried.

POLICE GRANT.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard (Finance Member): Sir, I beg to move—

> "That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 3,05,672 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 1924 in respect of Police."

Mr. President: The question is—

> "That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 3,05,672 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 1924 in respect of Police."

Mr. Ganpat Rai [(Lahore and Ferozepore-*cum*-Sheikhupura) (Non-Muhammadan)]: Sir, I beg to move—

> "That the grant be reduced by Rs. 55,571 in respect of the item of Rs. 1,11,142—Additional Police to restore the reduction made in 1916".

[Mr. Ganpat Rai.]

At the last budget session when the estimates came before the Council, we were very pleased that the Honourable Member in charge of this department agreed that out of the total budget estimate of Rs. 1,13,33,000 a reduction should be made to Rs. 1,07,25,000, and it was stated that the suggestion to reduce a certain number of the establishment had been made by some higher authority. I cannot say at this moment what authority was meant, but that is quite immaterial. The fact is that we were satisfied because the expenditure not only since 1916 but since 1921 has been climbing up every year. I find that in the Budget Estimates of 1921-22 the total amount for the year 1919-20 was Rs. 84,92,753, in 1920-21 it went up to Rs. 98,92,000 and the following year again it went up to over a crore, the figure which I have already given. One cannot understand why the expenditure should go up by leaps and bounds. We have not grudged even to-day the supplementary demand which heads the list of demands, namely, the demand for Rs. 75,559. We never said a word against it. Then there is another item of Rs. 1,70,450 and so far as I know no amendment has been proposed and I do not think any member is going to object to it. We were relieved that under Police, Government was able to manage with what they got last year and when they are getting more than 2 lakhs of rupees additional grant for the new disturbances which have broken out, I submit, Sir, that surely if they attempt to do it the amount can be reduced by Rs. 55,000 or Rs. 60,000. This is the chief reason why I have moved this amendment. It cannot be said that this figure was not anticipated at the time of the budget. Now, the Government is going to reorganise the Police Department and at a time when our Treasury shows a deficit. If this item had been on account of some urgent necessity arising, I think I would have hesitated myself before moving my amendment. I would have studied the whole question and then attempted to make an amendment, but this is the question of revising the whole establishment, when no money is available. My submission is that this scheme should wait until better days. It may be said that this is the recommendation of the Committee. But, Sir, the Committee was appointed by the Council. The Committee rejected the proposal, and I may be allowed to say that there was no necessity for appointing a Committee to revise the pay of the establishment of that department unless it was intended to increase that expenditure. Therefore I ask the member in charge to restore the member and revise the pay and bring the establishment up to what it was in 1916 by degrees, by gradual steps and not all at once. If we give half the amount this year, surely the Government can ask for three-fourths next year, and for the full maximum the year after, but to ask for the whole amount all at once is not doing justice to the tax-payer of the Province at all when the expenditure in this department has increased on account of other circumstances and that amount is being given ungrudgingly. Surely this is a case in which a gradual revision should be made and I hope the Honourable Member in-charge of this department will consider this suggestion I have made and try to meet the demands of this Committee. With these remarks I ask that the amount be reduced from Rs. 1,11,142 to Rs. 55,571 without touching the amount which exceeds 2 lakhs of rupees.

Mr. President: Supplementary grant under consideration, amendment moved—

> "That the grant be reduced by Rs 55,571 in respect of the item of Rs. 1,11,142—Additional Police to restore the reduction made in 1916."

The question is that that reduction be made.

Maulvi Muharram Ali, Chishti [Lahore City (Muhammadan), Urban]. (Urdu) : Sir, I have considered and seen the statistics relating to this matter, and I have had the honour to be one of the Members of the Committee. It would be very improper if I keep quiet and don't impart my ideas to the House. I am against bringing an amendment for the reduction of half the sum whenever a demand is made by a member of the Government. This reminds me of a story that a man, who, whenever any bill was put before him, was in the habit of reducing it by one-half.

I do not find anything in the speech of my honourable friend, Mr. Ganpat Rai, which may give us some idea as to why this demand is unreasonable. We have got to look to the extent of crime in the Punjab. If crime is rising, then to bring forward an amendment as this kind means nothing less than suicide. Extra police has been employed to curb the Babbar Akali Gang. If the gang had been left to pursue its own course we should not have found the Honourable the Revenue Member in his seat to-day. The members of that gang killed a number of Sikhs—their own brethren. In order to save innocent people, additional police had to be employed; and such expenses will increase in proportion to the number of crimes. When the lives and property of honest and law-abiding people are in danger, what steps does the honourable gentleman propose? Should the members of the Legislative Council go and keep a watch over them? It is strange that Mr. Ganpat Rai has vented his spleen on the members of the Police Committee, many of whom were non-officials.

Mr. Ganpat Rai : Sir, I rise to a point of order. I never raised that point in my amendment.

Mr. President : The honourable member is out of order. He is dealing with another matter. The amendment relates to restoring the reduction made in 1916. This has nothing to do with the additional police required for the Jullundur District.

Mr. Ganpat Rai : If he wishes to distinguish himself, he can deliver that speech outside.

Mr. President : Order, order.

Maulvi Muharram Ali Chishti : I rise to a point of order. The honourable member must not make personal attacks. When he expects others to be patient when he is criticising them, he should also be patient when he is being criticised.

Mr. President : Mr. Ganpat Rai has explained that he did not criticise the members of the Police Committee.

Mr. C. A. H. Townsend (Chief Secretary) : Sir, may I suggest that some of the additional police may be brought in to restore order in this House and to settle matters between the two honourable members!

The Council then adjourned till 2 o'clock on Thursday, the 24th October 1923.

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PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Thursday, 25th October, 1923.

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

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

REDUCTION IN PRICE OF COUNTRY SPIRITS.

2729. Rai Sahib Lala Thakar Das: Is it a fact that Government contemplate taking steps for lowering the price of country spirits in the next financial year beginning from April 1st, 1924?

(*b*) If so, why?

The Honourable Lala Harkishan Lal: I regret that the answer to this question is not yet ready. It will be communicated to the honourable member when ready.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF VENDORS OF COUNTRY SPIRITS.

2730. Rai Sahib Lala Thakar Das: (*a*) Will Government be pleased to state the recommendations, said to have been made to the Financial Commissioner for the consideration of the Excise Department, by some association of the distillers and licensed vendors of country spirits of the Punjab?

(*b*) Which, if any, of these recommendations, and with what modifications, are being proposed to be accepted by the Government (1) in the interests of temperance, (2) in the interests of Excise revenue?

The Honourable Lala Harkishan Lal: I regret that the answer to this question is not yet ready. It will be communicated to the honourable member when ready.

2731. *Cancelled.*

RESIGNATION OF MUNICIPAL MEMBERS.

2732. Rai Sahib Lala Thakar Das: Will Government be pleased to state what steps, if any, they have taken, or propose to take, to remove the communal tension, obtaining in the Punjab which has resulted and is further likely to result from the resignation of Hindu, and in some Municipalities, of Hindu, Christian and Sikh members in a number of the Municipal Committees of the Punjab?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain: Communal tension resulting in the resignation of members of some Municipal Committees in the Punjab appears to have been much exaggerated, and in many cases can be taken as a healthy sign of an increasing interest in local self-government. Government are convinced that this tension will decrease as the justice of the principles laid down in the note on the re-constitution of local bodies is understood and vindicated in practice.

RESIGNATION OF HINDU MEMBERS OF MUNICIPALITIES.

2733. Rai Sahib Lala Thakar Das: Will Government be pleased to state in which of the Municipalities of the Punjab all the Hindu members, or a majority of them, have tendered their resignations, giving necessary particulars in the matter of acceptance or otherwise of their resignations.

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain: I regret that the answer to this question is not yet ready. It will be communicated to the honourable member when ready.

REASONS FOR RESIGNING MUNICIPAL SEATS.

2734. Rai Sahib Lala Thakar Das: Will Government be pleased to state what reasons had been assigned by the Hindu members and others for resigning their seats on the various Municipal Committees of the Punjab in each of the several cases which have occurred recently?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain: Lahore, Multan, Ferozepore and Amballa so far as Government have information. In the last named committee the members concerned have withdrawn their resignations and are reconsidering them.

IMMOVABLE PROPERTY IN MUNICIPAL AREAS AND MEMBERS OF AGRICULTURAL TRIBES.

2735. Rai Sahib Lala Thakar Das: (*a*) Is it a fact that members of agricultural tribes, since the enforcement of the Punjab Alienation of Land Act in the Punjab, have been without hindrance buying land and immovable property in Municipal areas of the Punjab, both from agriculturists as well as from non-agriculturists?

(*b*) If so, will Government be pleased to consider the desirability of introducing such legislative measures as would result in debarring members of agricultural tribes from buying land and immovable property in the Municipal areas of the Punjab?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia: The answer to the first part of the question is in the affirmative and to the second part in the negative.

MANUFACTURE OF *KIRPANS*.

2736. Sardar Sangat Singh : Is it a fact that the Deputy Commissioner of Sialkot has recently given notice to one Sardar Prithipal Singh to take out a license for manufacturing *kirpans* while his factory has been manufacturing *kirpans* without license for the last 18 months? Why was the manufacturing of *kirpans* without license permitted for such a long time?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia : I regret that the answer to this question is not yet ready. It will be communicated to the honourable member when ready.

DETENTION OF *AKALIS* AT JAITO RAILWAY STATION.

2737. Sardar Sangat Singh : Is it a fact that the police is searching all the trains at Jaito Railway Station and detaining *Akalis* there? Will Government be pleased to state under what section of the Criminal Procedure Code this action is being taken and what is the justification therefor?

Mr. C. A. H. Townsend : Jaito Railway Station is not now under the Punjab Government, and therefore it is regretted that the information asked for is not available.

MULTAN CENTRAL JAIL.

2738. Sardar Sangat Singh : Is it a fact that the authorities of the Multan Central Jail recently refused to allow a non-official visitor to visit that jail? If so, will Government be pleased to state the reasons for it? What action, if any, has been taken by Government against the Superintendent of the jail concerned?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : In April 1923 the Superintendent of the Multan Central Jail informed a non-official visitor that if he had come to assist in upholding discipline the Superintendent would be glad to accompany him on his visit, but that if he persisted in addressing prisoners in a manner detrimental to jail discipline he could not allow the visitor to enter. The visitor refused to give any undertaking on the subject and went away. The Superintendent has been informed that he had no authority to refuse admission to the non-official visitor.

ALLEGATION AGAINST MR. WADIA, SUPERINTENDENT OF MULTAN CENTRAL JAIL.

2739. Sardar Sangat Singh : Does the Government know that the newspaper *Akali-te-Pardesi* has made definite allegations against Mr. Wadia, Superintendent of the Multan Central Jail, about his treatment of political prisoners, and has challenged for an open enquiry and even for a civil suit against itself? If so, what action does the Government contemplate in the circumstances?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : I regret that the answer to this question is not yet ready. It will be communicated to the honourable member when ready.

REGISTRATION OF PUNJAB AND BENGAL BANK, LIMITED.

2740. Sardar Sangat Singh: (*a*) Is it a fact that an application for the registration of a new Bank to be called "The Punjab and Bengal Bank, Ltd." has recently been made to the Registrar, Joint Stock Companies, Punjab?

(*b*) Will Government please ascertain and state whether the promoters of this new Bank are in reality the same gentlemen who promoted the Amritsar National Bank, Ltd. (in liquidation)?

(*c*) If the answers to above are in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to instruct the Registrar, Joint Stock Companies, to withhold the registration of the new Bank till such time as the promoters discharge their liabilities in the old Bank which is in liquidation?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia:

(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Three promoters are the same as those who promoted the Amritsar National Bank, Limited (in liquidation).

(*c*) The Punjab and Bengal Bank, Limited, was registered on the 18th September.

PAUCITY OF SIKHS IN THE FOREST DEPARTMENT.

2741. Sardar Sangat Singh: (*i*) Will Government please lay upon the table a statement showing (*a*) the total number of permanent clerical appointments in the various grades of the Forest Department, and (*b*) the number of appointments held by the Sikhs in each grade?

(*ii*) Will Government be pleased to state how many new hands have been employed to fill vacancies in the clerical establishment of the Punjab Forest Department during the last twelve months? How many of them were confirmed and how many of these were (*a*) Muhammadans, (*b*) Hindus and (*c*) Sikhs?

(*iii*) Will Government be pleased to consider the claims of Sikhs in filling future vacancies in view of the paucity of Sikhs in the Forest Department?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh Majithia: A statement as required by the member in sub-clauses (*i*) and (*ii*) of his question is laid on the table.

As regards (*iii*) the Chief Conservator of Forests, Punjab, is already cognizant of the fact of the paucity of Sikhs in the clerical branch in the Forest Department, but owing to the fact that very few applications are received from Sikhs for such appointments and that out of those that are received there are rarely qualified men, he has not been able to improve matters in this respect. Service in the clerical branch of the Forest Department is very unpopular owing to transfers to remote localities in the hills, such as Bashahr, and might be a reason for the small number of applications.

Statement showing the total number of permanent clerical appointments in the various grades, etc., of the Forest Department, Punjab, put up in reply to Council Question No. 2741, by Sardar Sangat Singh.

Grades.	Total No. of sanctioned appointments.	No. of appointments held by Sikhs in each grade.	Vacancies that occurred during the last 12 months, i.e., 15-10-22 to 15-10-23.					Remarks.
			No. of vacancies.	Filled by Sikhs.	Hindus.	Muhammadans.	Christians.	
Superintendents, Rs. 300—20—400.	4	....	..	...	...	...	...	
I grade, Rs. 150—10—250	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	
II grade, Rs. 100—6—160/8—200.	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Stenographers' grade, Rs. 100—5—150.	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	
III grade, Rs. 75—5—100/5—125.	28	1	1	1	...	..	...	
IV grade, Rs. 40—2—80/2—90	101	8	14	1	6	6 *2	1	2 Muhammadans only were confirmed in this grade and the rest are on probation. * One of these men served only for a few days and was dismissed and the other resigned after about a month.

Retrenchment of Sub-Registrars.

2742. Khan Bahadur Sayad Mehdi Shah: (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state the principles on which some of the Sub-Registrars have been retrenched in the Punjab, and lay on the table a list of all such appointments?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table the last five years' registration figures of all the places which have been retrenched?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain: (*a*) A copy of Punjab Government letter No. 17754-(Home—Regn.), dated 21st June 1923, together with a list of offices already reduced, or to be reduced at the close of the current year, is laid on the table for the information of the honourable member.

(b) The figures available are as follows :—

Name of offices which have already been abolished.	No. of documents registered.
1. Fatehabad (1922) ...	174, 232 and 209 during the three years 1918—1920.
2. Pakpattan (1922) ...	Does not exceed 300 per annum.
3. Thatha Gurmani (1922) ...	298, 397 and 394 during the three years 1918 to 1920.
4. Faridabad (1923) ...	Figures not available. The office was abolished on the recommendations of the local officers and Inspector-General of Registration, Punjab.
5. Alipur (1923)	656
6. Jampur (1923)	499
7. Rajanpur (1923)	166

Name of offices which will be abolished from 1st April, 1924.	No. of documents registered during 1922.
1. Hansi	444
2. Sirsa	428
3. Gohana	201
4. Gurgaon	263
5. Rewari	328
6. Palwal	240
7. Ballabgarh	312
8. Kaithal	410
9. Kharrar	323
10. Narnaingarh	386
11. Simla	268
12. Fazilka	393
13. Khangah Dogran ...	415
14. Phalia	403
15. Shahpur	391
16. Bhalwal	262
17. Khushab	486
18. Sargodha	118
19. Pind Dadan Khan ...	464
20. Kahuta	415
21. Isa Khel	Vacant from 29th March 1921.

The figures for the remaining years with regard to which the honourable member enquires are not readily available.

No. 17754 (Home-Regn.,) dated 21st June 1923.

From—The Secretary to Government, Punjab, Transferred Departments,

To—The Inspector-General of Registration, Punjab.

SUBJECT:—*Proposal to abolish the posts of certain Sub-Registrars.*

IN reply to your letter No. 57, dated 6th April, 1923, I am directed to convey the orders of the Punjab Government (Ministry of Education) on the proposal referred to above.

2. The offices of all departmental or honorary sub-registrars, the number of documents registered by whom during 1922, as shown in the statement attached to your letter under reference, did not exceed 500, will be abolished with effect from the close of the current financial year. This paragraph does not apply to offices which are not situated at a Tahsil headquarters, the retention of which will be considered in each case on the expiry of the current term of the present incumbent. I am to request that you will take steps to inform all incumbents of posts which are to be brought under reduction under the terms of this paragraph that their services will no longer be required after the close of the year.

3. Offices in which the number of documents registered during 1922 exceeded 500, but did not exceed 749, will not be closed immediately, but the case of each will be considered on its merits at the conclusion of the current term of the present incumbent.

4. Offices in which the number of documents registered during 1922 was 750 or more will be retained.

5. The work of the Sub-Registrars whose offices are brought under reduction will be done by the Tahsildars or Naib-Tahsildars of the tahsils in which the sub-districts concerned are situated.

ABOLITION OF THE POST OF SUB-REGISTRAR, PIND DADAN KHAN.

2743. Khan Bahadur Sayad Mehdi Shah: (*a*) Is it a fact that the post of Sub-Registrar has been abolished in the Pind Dadan Khan Tahsil?

(*b*) Is it also a fact that the people of the tahsil have submitted many memorials for the retention of that post?

(*c*) If the answers to the above are in the affirmative, will the Government be pleased to consider the desirability of retaining the post?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain: (*a*) The post will be abolished with effect from 1st April 1924.

(*b*) One memorial has been received.

(*c*) As the number of documents registered in 1922 was only 464, in view of the demand for retrenchment of expenditure the retention of the post has been considered unnecessary.

GRANTS OF SQUARES TO RAJPUTS IN COLONIES.

2744. Chaudhri Ali Akbar: (*a*) Is it a fact that Rajputs have not been granted any land as *abadkars* in the Colonies?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Government be pleased to state the reasons for which the Rajputs as a class have been deprived of this privilege ?

(*c*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the negative, will the Government kindly place upon the table a statement showing the distribution of squares of land to Rajputs in the Colonies for the purposes of *abadkari* only excluding the grants to *sufedposhes*, etc. ?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia : Efforts are being made to collect the information required, but it is not yet available.

ATTENDANCE OF *ZAILDARS* AT TAHSIL HEADQUARTERS.

2745. Khan Bahadur Sayad Mehdi Shah : (*a*) Is it a fact that *Zaildars* are required to attend tahsil headquarters at the end of every month ? If so, for what purpose ?

(*b*) Is it a fact that they generally spend about three days in the journey to the tahsil and back ?

(*c*) Does the Government know that they are called there at their own expense ?

(*d*) If the answers to the above are in the affirmative, will the Government be pleased to issue orders to discontinue this practice and require the *Zaildars* to submit their reports by post if at all necessary ?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia : The duties of *Zaildars* are enumerated in Land Revenue Rule 9, which contains no such provision as that given in part (*a*) of this question.

The remainder of the question accordingly does not arise.

REVISION OF SALARIES OF TAHSILDARS.

2746. Khan Bahadur Sayad Mehdi Shah : (*a*) With reference to the answer given to my question No. 1627 * on 3rd August, 1922, will the Government please state whether any decision has been reached on the revision of the grades and pay of the Tahsildars ?

(*b*) Is the Government now in a position to make an announcement on the subject ?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia : Government regret that the answer to both parts of this question must in the present financial stringency be in the negative.

ALLOTMENT OF SQUARES TO HORSE-BREEDERS IN MONTGOMERY DISTRICT.

2747. Khan Bahadur Sayad Mehdi Shah : (*a*) Is it a fact that squares of land in the Montgomery District are being allotted to horse-breeders of other districts ?

(*b*) Is it a fact that horse-breeders of the Lyallpur District are debarred from this distribution ?

(*c*) Will the Government please consider the desirability of removing these restrictions from this district as well ?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia : The information is being obtained and will be communicated to the honourable member later.

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* Volume IV, page 177.

DENOMINATIONAL AIDED SCHOOLS IN THE FEROZEPORE DISTRICT.

2748. **Sardar Kartar Singh:** Will the Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of Sikh, Hindu, Muhammadan and Christian Institutions (Schools) within the Ferozepore District?

(*b*) which of them are on the aided list?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain: The honourable member is requested to refer to the annual list* of recognised schools issued by the Education Department, copy laid on the table.

GRANT-IN-AID TO SCHOOLS.

2749. **Sardar Kartar Singh:** (*a*) Will Government be pleased to state the amount of revenue paid by the Sikh, Hindu, Muhammadan and Christian *Zamindars* of the Ferozepore District respectively?

(*b*) Is it a fact that the amount of grants-in-aid being received by each community from the Government is as follows:—

	Rs.
Hindus	22,600
Muhammadans	5 000
Christians	3,000
Sikhs	2,000

(*c*) Will the Government kindly take steps to give grants-in-aid to the institutions of each community in future in proportion to the amount of revenue realized from them respectively?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i Husain: (*a*) Necessary information is being collected and will be communicated to the member when ready.

(*b*) Grants-in-aid given to each community during last financial year in Ferozepore District are:—

	Rs.
Hindus	22,608
Sikhs	1,644
Muhammadans	4,680
Christians	1,836

(*c*) The matter of the grant-in-aid is under consideration and is not as simple as the honourable member appears to think.

BHUPINDRA KHALSA HIGH SCHOOL, MOGA.

2750. **Sardar Kartar Singh:** Will the Government be pleased to state if any applications for grants-in-aid were made by the Bhupindra Khalsa High School, Moga, and the Khalsa High School, Muktsar? If so, what has been the fate of those applications?

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* Not printed.

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain: The attention of the honourable member is invited to items 21 and 25 of the statement furnished with my answer to council question No. 2520.*

GRANT-IN-AID TO SCHOOLS IN JULLUNDUR DIVISION.

2751. Sardar Kartar Singh: Will the Government be pleased to state if any orders have been issued to the Divisional Inspector of Schools, Jullundur Division, not to recommend any new institutions for grant-in-aid, and if so, does this order affect the Secondary Schools started by *zamindars* in rural areas?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain: No such order has been sent to the Inspector; but in the present financial stringency it is extremely difficult to admit new schools to the grant-in-aid list.

PUNITIVE POLICE IN CERTAIN VILLAGES OF MUKTSAR AND MOGA TAHSILS.

2752. Sardar Kartar Singh: Will Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) if it is a fact that punitive police has been posted at villages Harike Kalan, Khokhar and Bhutiwala in the Muktsar Tahsil, villages Gholia Kalan and Gholia Khurd in the Moga Tahsil of the Ferozepore District? If so, what were the reasons that led to the posting of the punitive police in those villages;

(*b*) what is the amount of contributions to be levied from each village for the maintenance of punitive police in those villages;

(*c*) whether all the inhabitants of these villages, irrespective of whether they are innocent or guilty, are required to contribute;

(*d*) whether they are prepared to take steps to remove punitive police from the aforesaid villages?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: I regret that the answer to this question is not yet ready. It will be communicated to the honourable member when ready.

PUNITIVE POLICE AT PANIPAT.

2753. Rai Sahib Lala Ganga Ram: (*a*) Is it a fact that in 1916-17 the cost of punitive police at Smalka and Chaurasi villages was recovered from Hindus only?

(*b*) Will the Government please state whether the cost of the punitive police, that has been stationed at Panipat, will now be recovered from Muhammadans only?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: I regret that the answer to this question is not yet ready. It will be communicated to the honourable member when ready.

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*Volume V, page 25.

SPECIAL POLICE CONSTABLES AT PANIPAT.

2754. Rai Sahib Lala Ganga Ram: Will the Government please state the number of special police constables, Hindus and Muhammadans separately, who were enlisted at Panipat and also their position and social status?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: I regret that the answer to this question is not yet ready. It will be communicated to the honourable member when ready.

PATROL DUTY IN MAUZA ALIPUR, DISTRICT MUZAFFARGARH.

2755. Pir Akbar Ali: Will Government kindly state—

(*a*) whether the residents of *Mauza* Alipur, Tahsil and Police Station Muzaffargarh, have been compelled to do patrol duty without the Punjab Village Patrol Act (VIII of 1918) having been enforced according to law;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that a considerable amount of money by way of fine was collected there; if so, by whose orders it was levied and how it was disposed of;

(*c*) whether the police officers had any hand in it; and if so, to what extent;

(*d*) whether there are any other villages in the same district in which similar practice has been followed and how it has been dealt with by the proper authorities;

(*e*) whether the aforesaid Act has been duly enforced and in how many villages of the said district;

(*f*) whether such a state of emergency had arisen that the Act could legally be applied; and if so, the said emergency may kindly be explained?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: I regret that the answer to this question is not yet ready. It will be communicated to the honourable member when ready.

EXTENSION OF A SHOP IN TAUNSA.

2756. Sayad Ghulam Muhammad Shah: Will Government be pleased to state if it is a fact—

(*a*) that one Nebah, son of Lakhu, a resident of Taunsa, Dera Ghazi Khan District, extended his shop in the sadar bazar in October 1922;

(*b*) that during the *Muharram* the *Tazias* pass through the sadar bazar and that the bazar is also used as a grain and fodder market;

(*c*) that both the Hindu and Muhammadan residents of the bazar protested against the extension of the shop and appealed to the Deputy Commissioner for its demolition;

(*d*) that the Deputy Commissioner ordered the demolition of the extension within fifteen days ;

(*e*) that the extension of the shop has not been demolished up to this time.

(*f*) If the answers to the above are in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state what steps they propose to take to enforce the orders of the Deputy Commissioner ?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : I regret that the answer to this question is not yet ready. It will be communicated to the honourable member when ready.

ESTABLISHMENT OF A SMALL TOWNS COMMITTEE OR MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE AT TAUNSA.

2757. Sayad Ghulam Muhammad Shah : Is it a fact that Taunsa, District Dera Ghazi Khan, is not a village but a town ? If so, will the Government be pleased to consider the advisability of declaring it a Notified Area or establishing there a Small Towns Committee or a Municipal Committee ?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husa'n : The honourable member's attention is invited to Punjab Government notification No. 16196, dated 26th May 1923, a copy of which is laid on the table. A small Towns Committee is to be established at Taunsa.

No. 16196.

DATED 26TH MAY 1923.

IN exercise of the powers conferred by section 3 (1) and (2) of the Punjab Small Towns Act, 1922, the Punjab Government (Ministry of Education) propose to declare the local area at Taunsa in the Dera Ghazi Khan District, as defined in the Schedule hereto annexed, to be a Small Town under the Punjab Small Towns Act, 1922.

Any inhabitant of the said local area, who desires to object to the proposal, should submit his objection in writing to the Punjab Government (Ministry of Education) through the Deputy Commissioner and Commissioner within three months from the date of publication of this notification :—

SCHEDULE.

North	... ...	Satan Wah.
South	... ...	Sanghar torrent bed.
East	... ..	Rakh Shamilat Deh.
West	... ...	Graveyard and Rakh Shamilat Deh.

Punjab Government notification No. 1621, dated 15th January 1923, is hereby cancelled.

MUGHALPURA TECHNICAL COLLEGE.

2758. **Diwan Bahadur Raja Narendra Nath**: Will the Honourable Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) what staff has been entertained for the Mughalpura Technical College;

(*b*) how many posts have been given to Europeans and how many to Indians;

(*c*) whether for posts to which Europeans have been appointed any effort was made to find competent Indians;

(*d*) whether the posts of senior professorships were advertised in Indian papers?

The Honourable Lala Har Kishan Lal: (*a*) One Principal.

Three Assistant Professors of Mathematics, Chemistry, and Physics.

Two lecturers of Physics, Mathematics.

Three Assistant Demonstrators of Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics.

One Mechanic.

One Carpenter.

(*b*) One post, that of Principal, has been given to a European, ten to Indians.

(*c*) Reply is in the negative.

(*d*) Reply is in the negative.

PUNITIVE POLICE AT PANIPAT.

2759. **Lala Atma Ram**: Is it a fact that in 1916 or 1917 when there was an apprehension of disturbance from the Hindus at Samalkha near Panipat on the occasion of *Id-ul-Zuha* punitive police was stationed there and its cost was borne by the Hindus to the entire exclusion of the Muhammadans? If so, will Government kindly keep it in mind while realizing the cost of punitive police ordered to be stationed at Panipat?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: I regret that the answer to this question is not yet ready. It will be communicated to the honourable member when ready.

SPECIAL CONSTABLES AT PANIPAT.

2760. Lala Atma Ram: Will Government be pleased to state whether any special constables have been enlisted at Panipat?

If so, will Government kindly state—

(*i*) the number of special Hindu constables,

(*ii*) the number of special Muhammadan constables,

(*iii*) the ratio of Hindu and Muhammadan special constables to their respective populations?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: I regret that the answer to this question is not yet ready. It will be communicated to the honourable member when ready.

URS OF PIR BAHRAM IN THE BARADARI AT DEVI SATHAN IN PANIPAT.

2761. Lala Atma Ram: Will Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether there is the tomb of Pir Bahram situated at Devi Sathan in Panipat and whether his *Urs* has ever been celebrated there?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) be in the negative, will Government be pleased to state if it is a fact that the Muhammadans at Panipat intend to hold the *Urs* of Pir Bahram in the *Baradari* at Devi Sathan in Panipat?

(*c*) Will Government be pleased to enquire and state whether anything has already been decided by the High Court about the aforesaid *Baradari* at Devi Sathan in Panipat?

Mr. D. J. Boyd: I regret that the answer to this question is not yet ready. It will be communicated to the honourable member when ready.

TAXES OTHER THAN LOCAL RATES LEVIED BY DISTRICT BOARDS.

2762. Lala Atma Ram: Will Government kindly state whether there are any District Boards in the Punjab which have levied any other tax in addition to the local rate?

If so, will Government kindly lay on the table a statement showing—

(i) the name of the District;

(ii) the kind of the tax;

(iii) the total amount of the tax levied;

(iv) the persons or the class or classes from which the tax is recoverable;

(v) the persons or the class or classes which are exempted from the tax?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain: Yes. A statement giving the information called for by the honourable member in as far as it was possible to collect it in the time is laid on the table :—

Name of District Board.	Kind of the tax levied.	Total amount of the tax realised during 1922-23.	Persons or the class or classes from which the tax is recoverable.	Persons or the class or classes exempted from the tax.	Remarks.
		Rs.			
Rohtak ...	Profession tax	24,264	All persons who are not principally engaged in agriculture.	(1) Other than those mentioned in column 4.	
Ambala ...	Ditto	17,158	Ditto ditto	(2) Widows.	
Lahore ...	Ditto	49,626	Ditto ditto	Ditto	
Jhang ...	Ditto	3,638	Ditto ditto	(1) and (2) ditto.	
				(3) Carpenters and blacksmiths whose sole source of income is service to the proprietary body of the village for which they receive wages in kind of cash harvest.	
Gujranwala ...	*Halgeat* tax	The tax came into force from 1st April 1923, and estimated annual income from it is about Rs. 50,000.	All persons who possess an annual income in excess of Rs. 200 derived from— (1) Property which is not subject to local rate and is not live-stock or other agricultural produce owned by persons who are mainly dependent on agriculture for their livelihood. (2) Any profession (including labour).	(1) Other than those mentioned in column 4. (2) Sweepers, widows and beggars.	
Jhelum ...	Ditto	Estimated annual income from the tax is about Rs. 25,000.	All persons who possess an annual income in excess of Rs. 200 derived from any source, viz., service, labour, business, etc., except payments on account of (*a*) military pensions, (*b*) wages in kind received by agricultural kamins for the *sep* work done by them and (*c*) the income derived from property subject to local rate, live-stock or other agricultural produce owned by persons who are mainly dependent on agriculture for their livelihood.	See column 4.	

Gurdaspur ...	Ditto	The tax has recently been imposed. No income during 1922-23	All persons, whether agriculturist or otherwise, who possess an annual income in excess of Rs. 800 derived from property not subject to local rate.	(1) Other than those mentioned in column 4 (2) Menials who are totally dependent on agriculture for their livelihood.
Attock ...	Ditto	7,517	All persons who possess an annual income in excess of Rs. 800 derived from property which is not subject to the local rate and is not live-stock or other agricultural produce owned by persons who are mainly dependent on agriculture for their livelihood.	Other than those mentioned in column 4.
Karnal ...	Ditto	13,665	Ditto	Ditto
Dera Ghazi Khan	Ditto	13,145	Ditto	Ditto
Shahpur ...	Ditto	...	Ditto	Ditto
Amritsar ...	Ditto	6,332	Ditto	Ditto
Muzaffargarh	Ditto	12,552	Ditto	Ditto
Ludhiana ...	Ditto	...	Ditto	Ditto
Rawalpindi	Ditto	...	Ditto	Ditto
Mianwali ...	Ditto	10,518	All persons who possess an annual income in excess of Rs. 800 derived from property which is not subject to the local rate and is not live-stock or other agricultural produce owned by persons who are mainly dependent on agriculture for their livelihood. All persons who possess an annual income in excess of Rs. 800 derived from property which is not subject to the local rate and is not live-stock or other agricultural produce owned by persons who are mainly dependent on agriculture for their livelihood.	Ditto Ditto
Gurgaon ...	Ditto	The tax was not enforced in the year 1922-23.	Ditto	Ditto
Hoshiarpur ...	Ditto			

HAISIYAT TAX IN THE HISSAR DISTRICT.

2763. Lala Atma Ram: (*a*) Is it a fact that the Hissar District Board has proposed the imposition of *Haisiyat* tax in the Hissar District?

(*b*) If so, will Government kindly state whether this new tax proposed to be levied in the Hissar District has been levied in any other district in the Punjab?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain:—

(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Yes.

PANIPAT RIOTS.

2764. Lala Atma Ram: Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table copies of the orders issued by the various Government officials in connection with the Panipat riots?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: Government does not think it desirable to lay on the table copies of orders of this character.

BAWA MUL RAJ, BEDI, ASSISTANT SURGEON, BHERA.

2765. Lala Atma Ram: (*a*) Is it a fact that B. Mul Raj, Bedi, Assistant Surgeon, Bhera, was suspended by the Civil Surgeon of Sargodha and that his order was *ultra vires*? If so, what steps have been taken against the Civil Surgeon?

(*b*) Will Government be pleased to state—

(*i*) the cause of suspension of B. Mul Raj;

(*ii*) the findings of the higher authorities;

(*iii*) the period during which he actually remained under suspension;

(*iv*) the correct period which would have been necessary to investigate the case?

(*c*) Is it a fact that B. Mul Raj, Bedi, has asked for the copies of the findings and orders of the higher authorities? If so, will Government kindly state whether these copies have been supplied to him? If not, why not?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain: (*a*) Yes. No steps have been taken against the Civil Surgeon, who acted in good faith.

(*b*) (*i*) Bawa Mul Raj, Bedi, was suspended for insubordination.

(*ii*) The higher authorities were satisfied that this charge was proved and they found Bawa Mul Raj, Bedi, guilty of it.

(*iii*) Bawa Mul Raj, Bedi, was under suspension from the 19th February 1923 till the 6th June 1923, both dates inclusive.

(*iv*) Question not understood.

(*c*) Bawa Mul Raj, Bedi, asked for copies of the finding and orders of the higher authorities and he has been supplied with copies of such documents as he was entitled to under the rules.

Lala Atma Ram : Have you recorded an order to that effect ?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : Yes. So far as I remember.

GAZETTED OFFICERS UNDER SUSPENSION.

2766. Lala Atma Ram : Will Government be pleased to state whether any time limit has been fixed for departmentally deciding the cases of gazetted officers under suspension ? If so, what is the period fixed ? If not, will Government kindly consider the advisability of doing so ?

Mr. C. A. H. Townsend : No limit has been fixed for the period within which final orders must be passed on a departmental enquiry. The time required for a decision depends upon the facts alleged and the nature of the evidence in each case. As it would be impossible to make a general rule suitable to all cases, Government do not consider it desirable to fix a limit.

COMMUNAL REPRESENTATION AMONGST MUNSIFFS, ETC.

2767. Mian Ahmad Yar Khan, Daultana : Will Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of Hindus, Muhammadans, Sikhs and others on 1st January 1921 amongst—

(*i*) Munsiffs,

(*ii*) Sub-Judges,

(*iii*) Senior Sub-Judges,

(*iv*) District and Sessions Judges, and

(*v*) Public Prosecutors ;

(*b*) the number of Hindus, Muhammadans, Sikhs and others on 1st September 1923 amongst—

(*i*) Sub-Judges,

(*ii*) Senior Sub-Judges,

(*iii*) District and Sessions Judges, and

(*iv*) Public Prosecutors ?

Mr. C. A. H. Townsend : The honourable member is referred to the Punjab Quarterly Civil Lists for January 1921 and July 1923, respectively, which contain the required information.

PREPONDERANCE OF ONE COMMUNITY OVER OTHERS IN PUNJAB MUNICIPALITIES.

2768. Rai Sahib Lala Thakar Das : Will Government, when framing rules relating to the reconstitution of Punjab municipalities, be pleased to consider the desirability of providing that whatever principle regarding the allotment of seats among various communities may ultimately be decided upon, it be so modified as to ensure that in no case and for no reason what-

soever there be preponderance of members of one community over those of all the others put together, and that the nominated officials who are Christians be taken to belong for the purpose of this regulation to the community which has got more seats than any other?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain: The honourable member's attention is invited to the note on the reconstitution of the Municipal Committees and District Boards in the Punjab, a copy of which has already been supplied to him. When the subject is taken up for reconsideration, his suggestion will be duly examined.

HINDU AND *MUSLIM* POLITICAL OFFENDERS.

2769. Rai Sahib Lala Thakar Das: (*a*) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a list of all the persons excluding Sikhs (with names, places of residence, nature of offence, punishment awarded, date of release of those released) who have been convicted in the Punjab from January 1st 1921 up till now for the offences of civil disobedience, sedition and other political offences?

(*b*) How many of them were Muhammadans and Hindus, respectively?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: I regret that the answer to this question is not yet ready. It will be communicated to the honourable member when ready.

SIKH POLITICAL OFFENDERS.

2770. Rai Sahib Lala Thakar Das: Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a list of the Sikhs (with names, places of residence, nature of offence, punishment awarded, date of release of those released) who have been convicted in the Punjab from January 1st, 1921, up till now for the offences arising out of *Akali* activities?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: Over 4,400 Sikhs were convicted of offences connected with the *Guru-ka-Bagh* affair alone. The Government regret that they cannot undertake to collect material for a detailed answer which would involve undue expenditure of time and money.

PERSONS ORDERED TO FURNISH SECURITY UNDER SECTION 107 OR 108, CRIMINAL PROCEDURE CODE.

2771. Rai Sahib Lala Thakar Das: (*a*) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a list of all the persons who have been ordered to furnish security under section 107 or 108, Criminal Procedure Code, on account of their political activities, during the period beginning with January 1st, 1921, up till now?

(*b*) How many of them (with names and description) refused to furnish security and with what results?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: In order to answer this question completely it would be necessary to refer to District Officers and there is no time to do so. The Government regret therefore that they cannot give the desired information.

POLITICAL PRISONERS.

2772. Rai Sahib Lala Thakar Das: Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a list of all the political prisoners in the Punjab (with names and description, etc.,) who, after having been convicted for political offences, have given undertakings to be of good behaviour and thus secured their release, giving details of terms of sentences undergone and the periods of imprisonment remitted during the period beginning with January 1st up till now?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: I regret that the answer to this question is not yet ready. It will be communicated to the honourable member when ready.

FLOGGING OF POLITICAL PRISONERS.

2773. Rai Sahib Lala Thakar Das: Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a list of all the political prisoners (with names and description), including Sikhs, who, during the period beginning with January 1st, 1921, up till now received, while in the jails, the punishment of flogging, owing to breach of discipline, detailing the nature of alleged indiscipline in each individual case?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: I regret that the answer to this question is not yet ready. It will be communicated to the honourable member when ready.

2774. Rai Sahib Lala Thakar Das: Will Government be pleased to state whether they are prepared to issue orders that no amount of jail indiscipline shall be made the reason for inflicting the punishment of flogging on political prisoners, and that some other punishment, *e.g.*, enhancement of the original sentence, may be resorted to in lieu of flogging?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: The answer is in the negative.

PROHIBITION OF FLOGGING.

775. Rai Sahib Lala Thakar Das: Will Government be pleased to consider the desirability of taking such legislative steps as should lead to the absolute prohibition of the punishment of flogging?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: The Whipping Act (Act IV of 1909) being an all-India enactment it is not within the competence of the Local Government to repeal it. The Punjab Government is not prepared to take the action suggested in the question.

COMMUNAL TENSION.

2776. Rai Sahib Lala Thakar Das: Will Government be pleased to state what steps they have taken or are intending to take for the removal of the communal tension now prevailing in the Punjab?

Mr. C. A. H. Townsend: It is regretted that communal tension cannot be removed by order of Government: though Government does all in its power to lessen such tension. In this matter unofficial gentlemen who are leaders of the various communities can do far more than can any efforts of Government.

SEPARATION OF JUDICIARY FROM EXECUTIVE.

2777. Rai Sahib Lala Thakar Das: Will Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) what action, if any, they have taken for the separation of judiciary from the executive, and

(*b*) what action they propose taking in this direction?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: (*a*) Magisterial powers have been withdrawn from officers of technical departments in accordance with the recommendations of the Committee.

(*b*) No further action is contemplated at present.

ADMISSION TO GOVERNMENT COLLEGE, LAHORE.

2778. Rai Sahib Lala Thakar Das: Will Government be pleased to state the number of intending Hindu students and that of *Muslim* students who have been refused admission to the Government College, Lahore, since the coming into force of the Minister for Education's 40 per cent. seats shall be reserved for Muhammadans only circular up to the new admissions of September and October 1923?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain: Number of students who were refused admission to the Government College, Lahore—

1922.

Class.	*Hindus.*	*Muhammadans.*
1st Year ...	60	16
3rd Year ...	20	...
1923.		
1st Year ...	94	36
3rd Year ...	44	7

ADMISSION TO MEDICAL COLLEGE, LAHORE.

2779. Rai Sahib Lala Thakar Das: Will Government be pleased to state the number of intending Hindu students and that of *Muslim* students who have been refused admission to King Edward Medical College, Lahore, since the coming into force of the Minister for Education's 40 per cent. seats shall be reserved for Muhammadans only circular up to the new admissions of 1923?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain: The information asked for is given below:—

	1921.	1922.	1923.
Hindu students ...	130	44	26
Muslim students ...	10	*Nil*	1

ADMISSION OF ALIGARH MUSLIM UNIVERSITY STUDENTS TO MEDICAL COLLEGE, LAHORE.

2780. Rai Sahib Lala Thakar Das: (*a*) Will Government be pleased to state if it is a fact that the authorities of the King Edward Medical College, Lahore, have promised the pro-Vice-Chancellor of the Aligarh Muslim University that the duly certified students of that University will be given every facility to enter the King Edward Medical College?

(*b*) If so, will Government be pleased to state, whether or not, those of such students as are not Punjabis, but yet are *Muslims*, will be given the benefit of the 40 per cent. seats shall be reserved for Muhammadans only circular of the Minister for Education?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain: The Principal of the Medical College has made no promise of any kind to the pro-Vice-Chancellor of the Aligarh University.

RAISING OF WATER RATES.

2781. Mr. Ganpat Rai: Will Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that during the summer of 1923 there was a strong general rumour in the rural areas of the Province that the Government were going to double the water rate;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that certain Deputy Commissioners officially contradicted those rumours for allaying the anxiety of the rural people;

(*c*) whether they intend to raise water rate in the near future and, if so, by how much;

(*d*) whether they would be pleased to give the non-official members of the Punjab Council an opportunity of discussing the proposed increased rates?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia: (*a*) and (*b*). Yes. There was a rumour on the Upper Chenab and on the Upper Jhelum Canals that the water rate for rice was to be raised above Rs. 7-8-0 from *kharif* 1923 and on this rumour being brought to the notice of the Head of the Department concerned, it was contradicted by an official intimation to the Superintending Engineers of those Circles that there was no intention of raising the rice rate for this *kharif*. A copy of this order was sent to all other Superintending Engineers for information.

(*c*) and (*d*) The matter is still under consideration

ANNUAL BUDGET PROVISION MADE FOR INDUSTRIES AND AGRICULTURE.

2782. Rai Sahib Chaudhri Lajpat Rai: Will the Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) the average annual budget provision made for Industries and Agriculture, respectively, during the three years immediately preceding the inauguration of the Reformed Council;

(*b*) the average annual budget provision made for the Industries and Agriculture, respectively, during the term of the present Council ;

(*c*) the percentage of increase in the amounts allotted to Industries and Agriculture, respectively, in the budget for 1923-24 as compared with the amounts allotted under each of the two heads in 1919-20 ?

The Honourable Lala Harkishan Lal : The information is being collected and will be communicated as soon as it is obtained.

ARBITRATION BOARDS AND SUPPLY SOCIETIES.

2783. Rai Sahib Chaudhri Lajpat Rai : Will the Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that Arbitration Boards and Supply Societies started by the Co-operative Department a few years ago have been abolished, and if so, whether the abolition was supported by the Head of the Department ;

(*b*) what steps have been taken since the inception of the Reforms to further the cause of co-operation in the province ;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that the proposals of the Registrar of Co-operative Societies for increased staff were disallowed ?

The Honourable Lala Harkishan Lal : (*a*) Arbitration Societies have been abolished ; the abolition was not supported by the Registrar.

Supply Societies have not been abolished. The question probably refers to the special staff engaged on this work which came under retrenchment.

(*b*) Owing to the paucity of funds it has not been possible to develope the co-operative movement as fast as was to be desired but every effort has been made to do what was possible within the limit of the financial provision.

(*c*) Owing to the financinl stringency it has not been possible to sanction the additions to the staff applied for by the Registrar in the last three years.

SCHOLARSHIPS TO SONS, ETC., OF INDIAN SOLDIERS.

2784. Rai Sahib Chaudhri Lajpat Rai : Will the Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether there is any proposal to curtail the amount of money originally intended to be spent each year for the purpose of awarding scholarships to the sons and other near relations of Indian soldiers ;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that the disposal of applications for these scholarships is sometimes delayed ? If so, what steps it proposes to take to avert this delay ?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain :

(*a*) No.

(*b*) In order to avoid delay applications for scholarhips are now considered by District Advisory Committees.

ACTION AGAINST CORRUPT OFFICIALS.

2785. **Rai Sahib Chaudhri Lajpat Rai :** Will the Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number, names and designation of officers for each district against whom action has been taken on the ground of corruption since the publication of the Corruption Enquiry Committee's Report ;

(*b*) the nature of the action

(*c*) the number of the appeals, if any, preferred by the officers concerned and the result of these appeals ?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : The officers detailed below have been dismissed on the recommendation of tribunals appointed in accordance with the recommendations of the Corruption Committee. With the exception of Nos. 2 and 5 all appealed to Government and their appeals were rejected.

1. Sardar Khan, Sub-Inspector of Police, Lahore.
2. Jagat Singh, Sub-Inspector of Police, Montgomery.
3. Sh. Inait Ullah Khan, Sub-Inspector of Police, Jhelum.
4. Mehr Din, Sub-Inspector of Railway Police.
5. Sayad Ali Shah, Sub-Inspector of Police, Gurgaon.
6. Khair Ali Shah, Sub-Inspector of Police, Ludhiana.
7. Amar Singh, Sub-Inspector of Police, Ambala.
8. Hafiz Ullah, Inspector of Police, Dera Ghazi Khan.

Departmental action has been taken in several other cases, but Government has not got full details of the action taken. In a number of promotions recently made to the post of Deputy Superintendent, Police, particular attention has been paid to the reputation for integrity.

RESOLUTION FIXING SHARE OF ZAMINDARS IN PUBLIC SERVICES.

2786. **Rai Sahib Chaudhri Lajpat Rai :** Will the Government be pleased to state whether since the promulgation of the Resolution fixing the share of zamindars in the various branches of the public service it has ever called for figures to see if due effect is being given to the directions laid down in the said Resolution ?

Mr. C. A. H. Townsend : The answer is in the affirmative.

COMMUNAL REPRESENTATION IN GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS.

2787. **Rai Sahib Chaudhri Lajpat Rai :** (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state the total number of officers accepted during the last four years for each of the following posts classifying them as (*a*) Muhammadan

zamindars; (b) Muhammadan non-zamindars, (c) Hindu zamindars; (d) Hindu non-zamindars; (e) Sikh zamindars; and (f) Sikh non-zamindars:—

(1) Extra Assistant Commissioner.
(2) Tahsildar.
(3) Naib-Tahsildar.
(4) Deputy Superintendent of Police.
(5) Inspector of Police.
(6) Sub-Inspector of Police.
(7) Zilladar.
(8) Extra Assistant Conservator of Forests.
(9) Assistant Registrar of Co-operative Societies.
(10) Deputy Director of Agriculture.
(11) Munsiff.
(12) Jailor.
(13) Assistant Jailor.
(14) Excise Inspector.
(15) Excise Sub-Inspector.
(16) Inspectors of Co-operative Societies.

(b) Will the Government be pleased to state how many, if any, Hindu Jats have been accepted during the last four years for each of the posts enumerated in (a)?

Mr. C. A. H. Townsend: I regret that the answer to this question is not yet ready. It will be communicated to the honourable member when ready.

EXPERIMENTAL AND DEMONSTRATION FARMS.

2788. **Rai Sahib Chaudhri Lajpat Rai:** Will the Government be pleased to state—

(a) the number of Experimental Farms in the Province;
(b) the number of Demonstration Farms in the Province;
(c) whether any, and, if so, which of these Farms in (a) and (b) are working at a profit;
(d) in how many of the farms in (a) and (b) the officers in charge are zamindars?

The Honourable Lala Harkishan Lal: (a) Four Government Experimental Farms.

(b) Four Government Seed and Demonstration Farms.

Five District Board Demonstration Farms.

(c) Experimental Farms, as their name indicates, are used for experiments in improved agricultural methods and do not produce a profit.

Demonstration Farms also are not commerical concerns as their object includes demonstration necessitating expensive staff and methods. But of the nine Government and District Board Seed and Demonstration Farms, seven show a profit, *viz.*, Montgomery, Sargodha and Chillianwala (Government Seed and Demonstration Farms) and Raewind, Jullundur, Sialkot and Rohtak (District Board Demonstration Farms).

(*d*) The farm managers are all zamindars except in the case of three farms.

HISSAR CATTLE FARM AND HANSI AGRICULTURAL FARM.

2789. Rai Sahib Chaudhri Lajpat Rai : Will the Government be pleased to state the amount of profit or loss for the last six years in the Cattle Farm at Hissar and in the Agricultural Farm at Hansi, respectively ?

The Honourable Lala Harkishan Lal : The information required is given below. It should, however, be explained that the Hansi Agricultural Farm is an experimental station and as such is not expected to pay. As regards the Hissar Cattle Farm the price of the animals supplied to Local Bodies has till 1922-23 been credited at concession rates and in other respects also the farm has not been run as a strictly commercial venture, its object being to improve the breed of animals in the Punjab and not to make or show a profit.

Statement showing the Profit and Loss in the Government Cattle Farm at Hissar during the six years ending 1922-23.

	Year.	Profit.			Loss.		
		Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.
(1)	1917-18	43,181	1	2	...		
(2)	1918-19	11,534	2	2	...		
(3)	1919-20	...			29,766	3	4
(4)	1920-21	...			90,832	0	4
(5)	1921-22	...			1,16,203	14	5
(6)	1922-23	7,192	10	11			

Statement showing the profit and loss of the Hansi Agricultural Station during the six years ending 1922-23.

	Year.	Profit.			Loss.		
		Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.
(1)	1917-18	...			6,064	13	11
(2)	1918-19	91	0	3	...		
(3)	1919-20	...			3,729	0	11
(4)	1920-21	...			11,403	7	2
(5)	1921-22	...			13,772	4	3
(6)	1922-23	...			10,995	9	6

IMPROVEMENT OF SANITARY CONDITIONS.

2790. Rai Sahib Chaudhri Lajpat Rai: Will the Government be pleased to state the amount spent during the last three years on the improvement of sanitary conditions—

(*a*) of urban areas;
(*b*) of rural areas?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain: It is regretted that a reply cannot be given to the honourable member because it is not clear from the question whether expenditure by Government or by local bodies is meant.

STAFF OF THE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE AT LYALLPUR.

2791. Rai Sahib Chaudhri Lajpat Rai: Will the Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) the total number of Indian Professors, Assistant Professors and Demonstrators on the staff of the Agricultural College at Lyallpur;
(*b*) the number of Muhammadan, Hindu and Sikh zamindars, respectively, among them?

The Honourable Lala Harkishan Lal: (*a*) and (*b*) A statement showing the information asked for is laid on the table:—

Statement showing the number of Indian Professors, Assistant Professors and Demonstrators, on the staff of the Agricultural College, Lyallpur.

Designation	Muhammadans.		Hindus.		Sikhs.		Total.	
	Zamindars.	Non-zamindars.	Zamindars.	Non-zamindars.	Zamindars.	Non-zamindars.	Zamindars.	Non-zamindars.
Professors ...	1	...	...	...	2	...	3	...
Assistant Professors ...	2	...	2	4	2	...	6	4
Demonstrators ...	1	...	...	2	1	1	2	3 (One post vacant.)

ADMISSION TO CENTRAL TRAINING COLLEGE.

2792. Rai Sahib Chaudhri Lajpat Rai: Will the Government be pleased to state the total number of admissions to the J. A.-V., S. A.-V and B. T. Classes of the Central Training College at Lahore for the last three years, classifying the annual admissions as zamindars and non-zamindars under each of the three important classes, *viz.*, Hindus, *Musalmans* and Sikhs of the Province?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : The required information is laid on the table :—

Statement showing the total number of admissions to the B. T., S. A. V. and J. A. V. Classes of Central Training College, Lahore, classifying the annual admissions as Agricultural and Non-Agricultural :—

Class.	1921.			1922.			1923.		
	No.	Agriculturist.	Non-Agriculturist.	No.	Agriculturist.	Non-Agriculturist.	No.	Agriculturist.	Non-Agriculturist.
B. T. CLASS.									
Hindu	27	3	24	27	1	26	24	2	22
Muhammadan	12	7	5	22	11	11	23	9	14
Sikh	8	5	3	16	6	10	12	3	9
Christian	4	...	...	3	...	...	2	...	...
Total	51	...	...	67	...	...	61	...	...
S. A. V. CLASS.									
Hindu	40	2	38	26	1	25	28	5	23
Muhammadan	6	3	3	21	12	9	26	9	17
Sikh	7	4	3	14	5	9	10	1	9
Christian	3	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...
Total	56	...	...	81	...	...	66	...	...
J. A. V. CLASS.									
Hindu	22	...	22	24	4	20	19	3	16
Muhammadan	14	7	7	8	2	6	16	8	8
Sikh	13	5	8	5	2	3	8	2	6
Christian	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Total	49	...	...	37	...	...	44	...	...

ADMISSION TO AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE AT LYALLPUR.

2793. Rai Sahib Chaudhri Lajpat Rai : Will the Government be pleased to state the total number of admissions to the Agricultural College at Lyallpur for the last three years from each of the five Divisions of the Province ?

The Honourable Lala Harkishan Lal : A statement containing the required information is laid on the table :—

Statement showing the number of admissions in the main courses of the Punjab Agricultural College, Lyallpur, 1921-22.

Serial No.	Source of applications.	Number of students admitted.								
		1921.			1922.			1923.		
		Agriculturist.	Non-Agriculturist.	Total.	Agriculturist.	Non-Agriculturist.	Total.	Agriculturist.	Non-Agriculturist.	Total.
1	Ambala Division ...	8	1	9	6	...	6	6	...	6
2	Jullundur Division ...	9	1	10	7	2	9	7	3	10
3	Lahore Division ...	8	2	10	8	3	11	9	...	9
4	Multan Division ...	9	1	10	7	4	11	8	2	10
5	Rawalpindi Division ...	5	2	7	8	...	8	11	...	11
6	Delhi ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
7	Indian States ...	2	2	4	2	1	3	6	...	6
8	Other Provinces ...	4	...	4	5	...	5	...	...	...
	Grand Total ...	45	9	54	43	10	53	48	5	53

INCOME AND TAXATION PER HEAD OF POPULATION IN THE PUNJAB.

2794. Mr. Ganpat Rai : Will Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) the estimated annual income per head of the population of the Punjab Province;

(*b*) *per capita* burden of taxation ?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : (*a*) No trustworthy estimate exists of the annual income per head of the population of the Punjab Province.

(*b*) It is impossible to reply to this question without some indication of what the honourable member means by 'taxation,' *e.g.*, whether it includes such different sources of revenue as land revenue and octroi and other local imposts.

DEBT OF THE PUNJAB GOVERNMENT.

2795. Mr. Ganpat Rai: Will Government please state—

(*a*) the total debt of the Punjab Government on 1st January 1921 and at the present time; and

(*b*) the annual interest paid during the last five years?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: (*a*) On 1st January 1921 the Punjab Government had no debt of its own as it had a balance on current account with the Central Government and the Irrigation Capital debt was then a debt of the Central Government. On 1st April 1921 however, the Punjab under the Devolution Rules took over the following debits:—

	In thousands of rupees. Rs.
On account of capital irrigation expenditure ...	21,85,99
On account of balance of Provincial Loan account ...	52,89
Total ...	22,38,88
Against this it had to its credit assignment of balances made to Central Government	1,00,00
Balance of Provincial Loan account	52,89
Cash balance	1,92,84
Total ...	3,45,73
Net indebtedness	18,93,15

The indebtedness of the Punjab on 1st April 1922 was added to by Rs. 2,40,33, a figure arrived at by adding the closing deficit of 1,00,38 to the opening balance of 1,92,84 and substracting the debt on balance of loan account which was paid off. Final figures for 1922-23 have not been received from the Accountant-General.

(*b*) The annual interest paid during the five years ending 31st March 1922 was—

1917-18	76,77
1918-19	77,52
1919-20	77,93
1920-21	75,62
1921-22	70,41

PUNJAB GOVERNMENT DEVELOPMENT LOAN.

2796. Mr. Ganpat Rai: Will Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) what is the total amount subscribed by the public towards the Punjab Government Development Loan raised by the Punjab Government in September 1923, giving details of the amount subscribed by—

(1) banks;

(2) private investors;

(3) investors of above ten thousand rupees;

(*b*) if more than one crore has been subscribed, how the Government intends to spend the total amount ?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : (*a*) The total amount subscribed towards the Punjab Government Development Loan according to the latest figures furnished by the Accountant-General, Punjab, is Rs. 1,91,97,100. A final report has not yet been received, so it is not possible to furnish the details desired.

(*b*) Government intends to spend the total amount subscribed on productive irrigation projects.

Mr. Ganpat Rai : I believe the information will be supplied when the final report is received.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard. : I shall be most happy to furnish the information when received.

GOVERNMENT INSTITUTE OF COMMERCE.

2797. Mr. Ganpat Rai : (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state if it is a fact that the scholarships awarded to the passed students of the Government Institute of Commerce, Lahore, for further studies used to be awarded on considerations of merit only ?

(*b*) If so, will the Government be pleased to state whether it is proposed to award the scholarships this year on communal basis, awarding two to Muhammadans, two to Hindus, and one to Sikhs ?

(*c*) Is it a fact that by this proposal some Hindu deserving students standing high in the list of successful candidates will be deprived of the scholarships ?

(*d*) If so, will the Government be pleased to state the reasons for the change in the principle governing the award of scholarships ?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain :

(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) No. The honourable member's information is inaccurate. There will be one scholarship to be awarded to the candidate who heads the list. There will be five stipends to be given to those who cannot prosecute their studies without them ; and of these two will be for Hindus, two for Muhammadans and one for Sikhs.

(*c*) No, the student who stands highest will get the scholarship irrespective of his community.

It is the intention of Government to help the qualified but poor students of all communities. Those who can afford to prosecute their studies without financial help, need not be given such help from provincial revenues.

LAWRENCE GOVERNMENT EUROPEAN SCHOOL, GHORA GALI.

2798. Mr. Ganpat Rai : Will Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) what is the percentage of Indian pupils who can be admitted to the Lawrence Government European School at Ghora Gali ;

(*b*) what is the total number of European and Indian pupils, respectively, on the school rolls;

(*c*) if it is a fact that the number of the Indian pupils is less than the fixed percentage;

(*d*) if it is a fact that a number of Indian pupils applied for admission and they were not taken in;

(*e*) if so, will Government be pleased to give an undertaking that in future the fixed percentage of Indian pupils if they apply for admission will be taken, and if not, why not?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: I regret that the answer to this question is not yet ready. It will be communicated to the honourable member when ready.

SARDAR KHARAK SINGH.

2799. **Mr. Ganpat Rai:** Will Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) the total sentence passed by the Court at the time of first conviction on Sardar Kharak Singh, President, Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee, now a convict in Mianwali Jail;

(*b*) whether the said Sardar's term of imprisonment has been increased while in jail? If so, for how long, why, and when?

(*c*) what was his weight when he was admitted to the jail and what is it now?

(*d*) whether he has been ill? And if so, for how long, and what is the nature of his illness?

(*e*) whether the said Sardar is wearing any clothes in jail, and if not, why not?

(*f*) whether the said Sardar is being kept in the cells? If so, since when? What is the total period he has been in the cells?

(*g*) whether he is allowed to take walks and to sleep outside the cells?

(*h*) when will his sentence expire in the ordinary course?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: (*a*) Four years. He is confined in the District Jail at Dera Ghazi Khan.

(*b*) He received an additional sentence of nine months on 3rd February, 1928, under section 52 of the Prisons Act, IX of 1894, for (*a*) refusing to wear his clothes and (*b*) refusing to obey orders.

(*c*) His weight on admission to the Dera Ghazi Khan Jail was 127 lbs. and it is now 115 lbs. Standard weight is 113½ lbs.

(*d*) He has not been ill.

(*e*) He is not wearing any clothes excepting the *Kach* as a protest against the Gandhi Cap not being given to his fellow prisoners.

(*f*) He has been kept in cells for the following periods :—

(1) 6th February, 1923 to 6th April, 1923.

(2) 25th April, 1923, to 29th April, 1923.

(3) 18th June, 1923 upto date.

The total period of his being kept in cells upto 16th October, 1923 is 6 months and 2 days, with intervals. He is allowed to take exercise morning and evening for two hours daily and is not allowed to sleep outside the cells.

(*g*) His sentence will expire in the ordinary course on the 5th January 1927.

REFUND OF INDEMNITY RECOVERED FROM INHABITANTS OF WAZIRABAD.

2800. Mr. Ganpat Rai: (*a*) Is it a fact that the Municipal Committee of Wazirabad passed a Resolution No. 37 of 11th April, 1922, as to the refund of indemnity recovered by Punjab Government in 1919 from the inhabitants of Wazirabad and forwarded it to the Deputy Commissioner of Gujranwala for transmission to Punjab Government ?

(*b*) Is it a fact that the Deputy Commissioner of Gujranwala refused to forward the Resolution of the Wazirabad Municipality to Government, though the Deputy Commissioner was requested to do so several times by the Resolutions of the Committee passed in the years 1922 and 1923 ?

(*c*) Will Government be pleased to state why the Wazirabad Municipality have been denied their right to approach the Government ?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : I regret that the answer to this question is not yet ready. It will be communicated to the honourable member when ready.

RETRENCHMENT COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

2801. Mr. Ganpat Rai : Will Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) what action it has taken on the reports of the Retrenchment Committee, including that on the minority report;

(*b*) which of the recommendations of the majority and minority reports have been given effect to and what has been the total reduction ?

(*c*) whether the Government intend to give further consideration to these reports or has the report been filed and no further action is to be taken ?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : (*a*) and (*b*). See answer to question No. 2528.*

(*c*) The Government is still considering certain recommendations of the report.

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* Volume V, pages 81—54.

CORRUPTION COMMITTEE REPORT.

2802. **Mr. Ganpat Rai**: Will Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) the action they have taken on the report of the Corruption Committee up to this time and with what result;

(*b*) the total expenses incurred in connection with this Committee?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: (*a*) Reference is invited to the replies given to the questions Nos. 1597*, 1598 and 2785.

(*b*) Enquiry is being made with regard to the expenditure incurred in connection with the Committee.

LAHORE MUNICIPALITY.

2803. **Mr. Ganpat Rai**: Will Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether they have received representation from non-Muhammadan citizens of the Lahore Municipality with respect to the proposed re-constitution of that Municipality;

(*b*) If so, will Government be pleased to lay on the table all such representations;

(*c*) whether they have considered the draft of the proposed re-constitution of the Municipality with the representations mentioned above and have they passed final orders? If not, when it is likely to do so;

(*d*) from what date and year the proposed re-constitution of the Committee will come into force?

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

(*b*) Copies laid on the table;

(*c*) After taking into consideration these objections the following constitution has been fixed:—

Elected	... 32
Muslims	... 17
Hindus	... 11
Sikhs	... 2
Christian	... 1
European and Anglo-Indian	... 1
Nominated	... 9
Total	... 41

(*d*) As soon as possible.

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*Vol. IV, page 168.

†Vol. V, page 271.

RESIGNATION OF MEMBERS OF LAHORE MUNICIPALITY.

2804. Mr. Ganpat Rai: Will Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) how many non-Muhammadan members of the Lahore Municipality resigned their seats in connection with the proposed re-constitution of that Municipality;

(*b*) when were the resignations tendered and on what date they were accepted by the Government;

(*c*) what action they have taken to fill up the vacant seats;

(*d*) when the address, proposed to be presented to His Excellency the Viceroy in connection with his visit in the 4th week of October, 1923, was adopted by the Lahore Municipality and how many members were present at that meeting and of how many of them were non-Muhammadans;

(*e*) why no action has been taken to fill up the vacant seats for such a long time?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain: (*a*) 12.

(*b*) 5th June, 1923 and 21st August, 1923.

(*c*) *and* (*e*) Such vacated seats as were to be filled by nomination have already been filled. Regarding question whether the seats to be filled by election, should be filled by holding Bye-elections or whether the general election be accelerated has been under consideration, and it appears that the latter course is perhaps more appropriate.

(*d*) The address itself was not laid before the General Committee, but it was signed by 18 out of 19 members.

Muslims 11.
Non-Muslims 7.

Mr. Ganpat Rai: Will the honourable member please say when the two members were nominated?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain: A reference to the *Punjab Government Gazette* of the last month or so will give the honourable member the required information.

COURT-FEE REALIZED BY THE GOVERNMENT.

2805. Mr. Ganpat Rai: Will Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) what is the total amount of the court-fee realized by the Government since its enhancement from 15th January, 1923;

(*b*) what was the total for this period during the last five years preceding that date;

(*c*) whether the income of Government from the sale of non-judicial stamps since the enhancement of that duty from 15th January, 1923 has been in excess as compared with the income of the last five years preceding that date, and if so, by how much?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: It is regretted that the information cannot be obtained in time for presentation to this Council.

EMOLUMENTS OF *ZAILDARS*, ETC.

2806. Mr. Ganpat Rai: Will Government be pleased to state what action they have taken so far to give effect to the Resolution regarding the increase of emoluments of *zaildars, sufedposhes* and *lambardars*?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia: Attention is invited to the decision of Government published in the Gazette of 28th April, 1922, under Home Department notification No. 13242 of 20th April, 1922.

OVERLAPPING AMONGST THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT AND DISTRICT BOARDS.

2807. Mr. Ganpat Rai: Will Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) what action they have taken to give effect to the Resolution of the Punjab Legislative Council regarding overlapping amongst the Public Works Department, Buildings, Roads, Irrigation and District Boards, passed by the Council on 23rd March, 1923?

(*b*) whether any Committee was appointed to consider the above Resolution? If so, when?

(*c*) whether that Committee met at all, and if so, when?

(*d*) if any Committee was appointed and if met, when its report is expected to be laid before the Council or Government?

The Honourable Lala Harkishan Lal: Government is still considering the question of the appointment of a Committee to enquire into the alleged overlapping of duties between the Buildings and Roads and Irrigation Branches of the Public Works Department, and District Boards. The delay in notifying the constitution of the Committee is due to preparation of certain data without which it will be difficult for the Committee to make any headway. Every endeavour is being made to expedite the matter and it is hoped to make an announcement shortly.

ADDITIONAL POLICE IN MEHDIPORE AND ASAL GURUKA, ETC.

2808. Mr. Ganpat Rai: (*a*) With reference to *Punjab Gazette* notifications Nos. 4935—18-4-A-23 and 4962—19-4-A-23 published in Part II of *Punjab Police Gazette*, dated 25th July, 1923, will Government be pleased to state that in what particular details the conduct of the inhabitants of the villages of Mehdipore and Asal Gurnka, etc., in Lahore District, has necessitated the increase in the number of police for the periods of three and one years, respectively?

(*b*) Was (1) any inquiry made, and (2) opportunity given to the inhabitants of those villages to show cause? If so, who made the inquiry and what opportunities were given? If not, why not?

(*c*) Is Government prepared to lay all the papers concerned on the table and if so, will it be pleased to do so?

(*d*) What is the total cost of such additional police for each year for each of these villages?

(*c*) With reference to the notification No. 4960—154-A-23, will Government be pleased to supply similar information with regard to the villages of Harike Kalan, Bhuttiwala and Khokhar in the Ferozepore District ?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : I regret that the answer to this question is not yet ready. It will be communicated to the honourable member when ready.

GOVERNMENT INSTITUTE OF COMMERCE.

2809. Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram : (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state if it is a fact that the scholarships awarded to the passed students of the Government Institute of Commerce, Lahore, for further studies used to be awarded on considerations of merit only ?

(*b*) If so, will the Government be pleased to state whether it is proposed to award the scholarships this year on communal basis, awarding two to Muhammadans, two to Hindus, and one to Sikhs ?

Is it a fact that by this proposal some Hindu deserving students standing high in the list of successful candidates will be deprived of the scholarships ?

(*c*) If so, will the Government be pleased to state the reasons for the change in the principle governing the award of the scholarships ?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain :

(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) No. The honourable member's information is inaccurate. There will be one scholarship to be awarded to the candidate who heads the list. There will be five stipends to be given to those who cannot prosecute their studies without them ; and of these two will be for Hindus, two for Muhammadans and one for Sikhs.

(*c*) No, the student who stands highest will get the scholarship irrespective of his community.

(*d*) It is the intention of Government to help the qualified but poor students of all communities. Those who can afford to prosecute their studies without financial help need not be given such help from provincial revenues.

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIR.

ADDITIONAL TIME FOR OFFICIAL BUSINESS.

Mr. President : There is still a large amount of Government business to be got through and through we shall be able to see better at the close of to-day's sitting how much more time is required, it seems probable that we shall not be able to get through all that is yet to be done by 6 o'clock to-day. I therefore propose to hold an extra sitting to-morrow morning, if necessary, beginning at 10-30 A. M.

PUBLICATION IN URDU OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE COUNCIL.

Mr. President: There is another matter to which I wish to draw the attention of the Council.

The Honourable Maulvi Muharram Ali Chishti put in a motion to the effect "That this Council resolves that the translation of its proceedings be regularly published in Urdu." That is not a resolution and even if it were a resolution it could not be allowed for various reasons. But the matter is one which the Council will do well to take into consideration. The decision rests with His Excellency the Governor under Standing Order 76. If it is the wish of the Council that its proceedings should be published in Urdu, then I will make a representation to His Excellency to that effect. I have had an estimate prepared of the annual cost which would be entailed if this proposal is carried into effect and I find that a somewhat liberal estimate comes to Rs. 5,000 and I am inclined to think that a sum of Rs. 4,000 will cover the annual expense if the proceedings remain about the same length as at present. If the Council wishes and His Excellency decides that these proceedings should be published in Urdu, I think that the expense can be met from savings in the Council budget. We have not engaged one reporter whom it was thought necessary to engage and we also estimated more than we have actually spent under contingencies in case some unforeseen expenditure such as the present one should arise. We can, therefore, I am fairly confident, carry the proposal into effect without any extra grant for this year; and the same will be the case next year because in a similar manner the estimate for contingencies is somewhat in excess of what can actually be foreseen at present. I would ask the Council therefore to consider this proposal and I will take their views on the subject sometime to-morrow.

SURRENDER OF GRANTS.

Mr. Miles Irving (Financial Secretary): Sir, I desire to report to you a surrender. When the Budget for 1923-24 was presented to the Council the demand for a grant under the head "32—Medical" contained an item of Rs. 28,000 for contribution to the Ranchi Lunatic Asylum under the minor head "Lunatic Asylum." This item was voted by the Council. The Government of India have pointed out that the amount payable by any Local Government towards the cost of the upkeep of the Ranchi European Mental Hospital will not be subject to the vote of a local Council, as the amount of such contribution is fixed in accordance with the provisions of the Indian Lunacy Act, 1912, and the Ranchi Mental Hospital Act, 1922, that is to say, it is expenditure of which the amount is prescribed by law. Government has informed the Accountant-General that it has surrendered the sum of Rs. 28,000 so voted by the Council and it has made sufficient provision for the current year as non-voted expenditure.

GOVERNMENTS' DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY AND TOKEN GRANTS.

POLICE GRANT (CONTINUED).

Mr. President: The matter under discussion was—

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 3,05,672 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, 1924 in respect of Police".

To that Mr. Ganpat Rai has moved an amendment—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 55,571 in respect of the item of Rs. 1,11,142-Additional Police to restore the reduction made in 1916."

And that amendment is under consideration.

Mr. R. A. Mant (Officer on Special Duty) : The Honourable Sir John Maynard is in charge of this grant and I only wish to make a few observations in regard to one or two points with which I have had to deal during the last six months. The first point is that this demand for Additional Police really makes for economy. We have had a continual demand during the past six months for extra Police. There was a very bad outbreak of disorder in the Doaba of Jullundur and Hoshiarpur, for the suppression of which we had to call in the aid of troops. We required extra Police and still require them for dealing with portions of the Babar Akali gang. We have not got police reserves sufficient to deal with outbreaks of this kind so we had to employ Additional Police. They had to be paid higher wages than the ordinary Police and they were not equally efficient. It is a very uneconomical arrangement to take on additional men whenever you have an extra demand made on the police. It is really more economical to have a sufficient regular reserve.

Later on troubles broke out in Amritsar and the Amritsar Municipality asked for extra police. We had not got any. They also had to be specially engaged at the cost of the Municipality. Then we had another demand from the Attock District where there are frequent outbreaks of murders and dacoities. There have been many murders there. We had urgent appeals from all the local officers, the Commissioner, the Deputy Commissioner and the Superintendent of Police all representing the urgent need of extra police to keep peace and to keep order in that area. I regret to say we have not been able to supply them. I very nearly quarrelled with one of my oldest friends on this Council the other day, Khan Bahadur Malik Muhammad Amin Khan. I am sorry to see he is not here at present, but he pressed me very strongly to anticipate the verdict of this Council and engage these extra police at once. That I refused to do as I thought it was a matter which ought to come before the Council, but I am sure that members will realise that it is the duty of Government to provide a sufficient force to maintain law and order. The public suffer from it if we don't. The amount of extra men required was carefully considered by a strong Committee and the extra grant asked for is in accordance with the recommendations of that Committee.

There is only one other point I wish to make. Mr. Ganpat Rai suggested that we should wait till better times ; that we should not take on these extra police now ; but should wait till better times.....

Mr. President : The honourable member is not in order in referring to a conversation which took place outside the House.

Mr. R. A. Mant (continued) : I am referring to his speech in moving his amendment.

Mr. President : I beg your pardon.

Mr. R. A. Mant (continued) : Mr. Ganpat Rai suggested that we should wait for better times. Judging from the result of the voting in this House on our attempts to secure extra revenue, I am afraid we shouldhave to wait a long time, and I would ask Mr. Ganpat Rai whether he will guarantee that th burglars and the murderers will wait for better times.

Mr. K. L. Rallia Ram (Representative of Indian Christians) : Sir, I would like just to make a few remarks. I was a member of the Committee which met at Simla in this connection and reference to which was made by Mr. Mant. I can assure the House, Sir, that the Committee went into the matter very carefully.....

Mr. President : The honourable member must be careful not to tell us the details of the meetings of the Committee. Anything that has not been published must not be mentioned.

Maulvi Muhammad Ali Chishti : May I ask, Sir, whether this is a ruling as regards the Standing Committees or as regards all Committees ?

Mr. President : All Committees.

Mr. K. L. Rallia Ram (continued): I am not going to give the details of the proceedings of the Committee. I want only to assure the House that the Inspector-General of Police who was present at the meeting brought home to us the fact that it was impossible for him to carry on his work unless he got this help from the Committee and the Council. We all know perfectly well what has happened in the Province lately. I think we the members of the Council consider ourselves apart from Government. I think that is a mistake. The responsibility is as much ours as that of Government. To illustrate my point I will give an example. I know of a gentleman who was a widower. He had three or four children. He married a widow, who also had three or four children. In time there were added three or four more children. He would make a parade of all these children and say to his wife; "These are yours and those are mine and this set is ours." And that is the way with the members of the Council. We say, this is a matter for which Government is responsible and that is a matter for which we are responsible.

The Honourable Lala Harkishan Lal : Which is the widow in the present case (laughter).

Mr. K. L. Rallia Ram : I am sure that the good sense of the House will prevail and they will help Government and the Inspector-General of Police at this juncture specially.

Sayad Muhammad Husain [Montgomery (Muhammadan), Rural] : Sir, I am sorry to say that I cannot support my friend, Mr. Ganpat Rai, notwithstanding the fact that I am in favour of retrenchment. I think the present time is such that we should not hesitate to sanction the grant. We should not take the responsibility on our shoulders lest something should happen and the blame come to the Council. Let it not be said that troubles came, because we did not sanction the grant. In the circumstances I would ask my friend to withdraw his amendment. The authorities concerned are responsible for peace and order and they know best how much more Additional Police they want, and we should not stand in their way. I hope the honourable member will withdraw his amendment.

Chaudhri Ali Akbar [Kangra-*cum*-Gurdaspur (Muhammadan), Rural], (Urdu) : Sir, the matter under consideration is a simple one which can easily be disposed of. My friend, Mr. Ganpat Rai, in dealing with it at such length has simply wasted our time. Any expenditure incurred for the upkeep of Police cannot be grudged. It is so conducive to the welfare

[Ch. Ali Akbar.]

of the country. In a sense, it increases the income of the Province for it not only saves the Province from losses that would result but also saves it from much unnecessary expenditure which would be necessitated by the disorder and anarchy in the country if no proper police force is kept. The present state of affairs is such that any amount of money spent for the upkeep of Police can hardly be said to be too much and unnecessary. If the conduct of police is complained of, then the police ought to be reformed. The conduct of police towards the public and its treatment with the people has always been harsh and undesirable and throughout the Council term we have been protesting against it. But we have to look to the public peace and order. Police is an indispensable force and I have always been in favour of any addition to it whenever such a question has come before the Council for consideration. No doubt an addition to the police is a burden and so far I agree with Mr. Ganpat Rai, but the present state of affairs is such that I cannot support him.

Malik Firoz Khan Noon : I move, Sir—

"That the question be now put."

Mr. President : The question is—

"That the question be now put."

The motion was carried.

Mr. President : Supplementary grant under consideration. Amendment moved—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 55,571 in respect of the item of Rs. 1,11,142—Additional Police to restore the reduction made in 1916."

The question is that that reduction be made.

The amendment was lost.

Mr. Ganpat Rai [Lahore and Ferozepore-*cum*-Sheikhupura (Non-Muhammadan)] (Urdu) : Sir, I move the following amendment—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 3,000 in respect of the item of Rs. 3,000—New motor cycles for European Inspector and Sergeant employed in controlling traffic on the Rawalpindi-Murree Road."

Sir, a very large amount of money has already been granted to the Police. The Council has sanctioned a sum of Rs. 71,559 and another sum of Rs. 1,70,000. It has sanctioned Rs. 3,02,672 in all. When Government asked the Council for money required to defray the charges of Additional Police in Hoshiarpur and Jullundur the Council voted for it. Reduction in this demand was sought, but no reduction was made. This question came up before the Finance Committee too, but we were told that the Police was so badly needed that no retrenchment in that department was possible. But are the expenses for motor cycles so indispensable that the sum of Rs. 3,000 cannot be saved ?

Mr. President : Supplementary grant under consideration. Amendment moved—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 3,000 in respect of the item of Rs. 3,000—New motor cycles for European Inspector and Sergeant employed in controlling traffic on the Rawalpindi-Murree Road."

The question is that that reduction be made.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard (Finance Member) : There is a very simple answer to this, Sir, and that is that the two motor cycles that we already have, have each run no less than fifty thousand miles. They have become quite unserviceable now after such a use ; and under these circumstances, I am quite confident that the House will not support the amendment.

Mr. Ganpat Rai : Sir, I meant .....

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : I rise to a point of order, Sir. The honourable member has no right to say anything now.

Mr. Ganpat Rai : I desire to give a personal explanation. What I said was that you have got three lakhs of rupees, and you should be able to spare something from there and buy the motor cycles.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : No, Sir, money which is for other purposes cannot be spent on motor cycles.

Mr. Ganpat Rai : In that case, Sir, I beg leave to withdraw my amendment.

The amendment was by leave withdrawn.

Mr. President : The question is—

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 3,05,672 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, 1924 in respect of Police."

The motion was carried.

Education Grant.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : (Finance Member): Sir, I move—

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,00,000 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, 1924 in respect of Education (Transferred)."

The motion was carried.

Agriculture Grant.

The Honourable Lala Harkishan Lal : (Minister for Agriculture) : Sir, I move :—

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 27,000 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 1924 in respect of Agriculture."

The motion was carried.

Industries Grant.

The Honourable Lala Harkishan Lal (Minister for Agriculture): I move, Sir :—

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 60,143 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, 1924 in respect of Industries."

Mr. President : The question is—

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 66,148 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, 1924 in respect of Industries."

Mr. Gokpat Rai [Lahore and Ferozepore-*cum*-Sheikhupura, non-Muhammadan] : Sir I beg to move :—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 20,000 in respect of the item of Rs. 20,000—Additional expenditure in connection with British Empire Exhibition."

At the time of the last Budget, this House had very little opportunity of discussing this point. This question came up when the guillotine process had been introduced and we were not able to discuss it. Objection was taken even then. It is not new. The Honourable Minister in charge did not explain at all the utility and the benefit which will accrue to this Province : and in the absence of convincing reasons, I think no further additional grant should be allowed. Moreover honourable members are well aware that at the present time, the country is of opinion that it should not take any further part in the British Empire Exhibition on account of the Kenya question. These are my reasons for moving the amendment.

3 P.M.

Mr. President : Grant under consideration, amendment moved.

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 20,000 in respect of the item of Rs. 20,000—Additional expenditure in connection with British Empire Exhibition."

The question is that that reduction be made.

The motion was lost.

Mr. President : The question is—

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 66,148 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, 1924 in respect of Industries."

The motion was carried.

CIVIL WORKS (TRANSFERRED) GRANT.

The Honourable Lala Harkishan Lal (Minister for Agriculture) : Sir, I beg to move—

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 70,025 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, 1924 in respect of Civil Works (Transferred)."

Mr. President : The question is—

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 70,025 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 1924 in respect of Civil Works (Transferred)."

Sayad Muhammad Husain [Montgomery (Muhammadan)—Rural] : Sir, I beg to move—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 64,875 in respect of the item of Rs. 64,875—Travelling allowance".

Sir, I have only a few observations to make in this connection. In fact, I move this amendment as a protest. The Council will remem-

ber that in the last budget session a compromise was made between the Council and the Government that the travelling allowance should be reduced by 25 per cent. The travelling allowance was reduced, according to the compromise, in a lumpsum, but no reduction was made in the rate of travelling allowance. My suggestion now is that the Government should try to reduce the rates to the extent of 25 per cent. This has been my motive in bringing forward this amendment. If the Government is prepared to reduce the rate of travelling allowance by 25 per cent., I am prepared to withdraw my amendment.

Mr. President: Supplementary grant under consideration, amendment moved—

"That the grant be reduced by Rs. 64,875 in respect of the item of Rs. 64,875—Travelling Allowance".

Mr. Miles Irving (Financial Secretary): Sir, I should like to explain to his House that a good deal has been done in the way of making reductions in travelling allowance. The allowance for railway fares has been reduced from two fares to one and three-fifths. A certain reduction has also been effected by way of limiting the class of officers entitled to travel in the first class. The minimum salary qualification which would entitle the officers to travel in the first class has been raised from Rs. 600 to Rs. 750. Other reductions have been effected in the matter of mileage. The Government has not so far been able to come to a decision yet as regards daily allowance. It is still under consideration. The honourable members of this House may, however, rest satisfied that the matter has not been lost sight of.

Sayad Muhammad Husain: I am satisfied with the explanation of the Financial Secretary and I therefore beg leave to withdraw my amendment.

The amendment was by leave withdrawn.

Mr. President: The question is—

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 70,925 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 1924 in respect of Civil Works (Transferred)."

The motion was carried.

MISCELLANEOUS GRANT.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard (Finance Member): Sir, I beg to move—

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 3,700 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, 1924 in respect of Miscellaneous."

The motion was carried.

CIVIL WORKS (CAPITAL EXPENDITURE) GRANT.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard (Finance Member) : Sir, I beg to move—

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 35,300 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, 1924, in respect of Civil Works (Capital Expenditure)."

The motion was carried.

REFUNDS RESERVED) STAMPS GRANT.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard (Finance Member) : Sir, I beg to move—

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 67,000 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, 1924, in respect of Refunds (Reserved) Stamps."

The motion was carried.

EXCISE GRANT.

The Honourable Lala Harkishan Lal (Minister for Agriculture) : Sir, I beg to move—

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 80,000 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, 1924, in respect of Refunds (Transferred) Excise."

The motion was carried.

LAND REVENUE GRANT.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard (Finance Member) : Sir, I beg to move—

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 10 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, 1924, in respect of Land Revenue."

Mr. President : The question is—

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 10 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, 1924, in respect of Land Revenue."

Mr. Ganpat Rai [Lahore and Ferozepore-*cum*-Sheikhupura (Non-Muhammadan)] : Sir, I wish to know whether this grant refers to the question of re-settlement of Sheikhupura and Gujranwala.

Mr. C. M. King : Yes, this is on account of the same settlement. Government do not propose to withdraw the demand.

Mr. Ganpat Rai (Urdu) : Sir, this item is directly concerned with the re-settlement of Gujranwala and Sheikhupura districts about which the Council

gave its decision yesterday. The Honourable Financial Commissioner says that the demand will not be withdrawn by the Government which means that no regard is paid to the decision of the Council. The resolutions of the Council are treated as mere scraps of paper. They are not given effect to, otherwise the Government would have refrained from bringing forward this item again. The difficulties of agriculturists of Gujranwala and Sheikhupura have already been enumerated by my honourable friends and I need not repeat them again.

Many a member has gone back satisfied with yesterday's proceedings and to-day a new resolution is brought forward. I hope the Council will stand by its decision since without this affirmation the Council will be nothing but an absurdity.

Maulvi Muharram Ali Chishti [Lahore City (Muhammadan) Urban] (Urdu) : Sir, I missed yesterday's discussion about Gujranwala and Sheikhupura and I am sorry for it. Mr. Ganpat Rai has not discussed the merits and demerits of his amendment, but only professes that it is not fair on the part of the Government to ignore the decision of the Council. He is determined therefore to stick to the Council's decision. Only two reasons may be assigned for the refusal of the Government for not acting upon the resolution of this Council. Either the Government looks down upon the Council's decision and thinks it unimportant or it considers it as impracticable owing to some financial, administrative or other difficulties. Before we blame the Government for committing mistakes or showing utter disregard of our resolutions we ought to consider whether the decision come to by us is reasonable. We surely should not expect that the pay of Zaildars and Lambardars should increase by lakhs and the ordinary routine of administration should go on as usual, while all sources of income are stopped. No unreasonable resolution should be brought forward which the Government cannot accept. Government has our own money to spend upon us. If all sources of income are stopped and all kinds of expenditure incurred, what would be the result ?

Mr. President : Order, order. I was not sure when this motion was moved that it involved the question of a supplementary demand for re-settlement of Sheikhupura and Gujranwala. I am not sure that the motion is in order under Standing Order 32. It appears to me that it raises a question substantially identical with one on which the Council has given a decision yesterday. The point it seems to raise is the question whether the settlements are to take place or not, though the amount actually asked is different.

Mr. C. M. King (Financial Commissioner) : The view I take is that the Council was asked yesterday to give us an additional sum of Rs. 40,000 in order to enable us to carry out certain re-settlements. That, the Council refused. It was a definite proposal that a certain additional sum should be given. But to-day we ask for something quite different. We are asking the Council to allow us to transfer money from one head to another. Government is not asking an additional sum.

Mr. President : I will put it differently. Supposing the Council now comes to the decision to make this supplementary grant. Will it in doing so not be reversing what was decided yesterday ?

Mr. C. M. King : No, Sir, I do not think so. Yesterday we asked for an additional grant and the Council refused it. To-day we are asking for the transfer of Rs. 26,000 from one head to another.

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : Sir, I think the analogy of decree and judgment applies here. Two judges may arrive at the same decision from different points of view. They may give the same decree yet the reasons which brought them to that decision may not be the same. In law we do not look to the judgment. We look to the decree. Similarly some members may have voted from quite different motives arriving at the same conclusion.

Mr. Ganpat Rai : Sir, I may point out that this analogy does not apply. The other day when I wanted to bring a motion on the Court Fees Bill, I was technically right and you ruled that its result would be to negative the decision arrived at previously. Technically the Minister for Education may be right, but practically it is the negation of what we did yesterday.

Mr. President : Considering the circumstances and the possibilities that members may have voted from different motives whether a settlement should be carried out or not or whether a large sum of money should be granted or not, I must allow the motion to proceed.

Maulvi Muharram Ali Chishti (continued) **:** I wish to say, Sir, that before passing a resolution it should be scrutinised by us, whether it is sound, when the Council decides that no re-settlement should take place in a certain place, it should hold good in other places similarly situated. It comes to this that the old settlements may have been as defective as possible yet the Council is not going to check them or re-settle the tracts. A re-settlement does not in every case mean an increase in the revenue. It may also mean a decrease in it. So the refusal of Council to submit to the demands for re-settlement may deprive the agriculturists of a possible benefit which might have arisen out of the re-settlement. To procure facilities for the agriculturists at the cost of Government is a defective principle. If we have committed a mistake yesterday it does not mean we should persist in it. It is unreasonable if we do not confess our mistakes. The Government is not to blame in any way.

Mr. President : The Council arrived at a certain decision yesterday and I just raised the question whether the question to-day before the House is the same. I have ruled that the question is a different one. So the question of upsetting the decision come to yesterday does not arise. If I thought it did arise, I should have ruled the present motion out of order. The Council cannot revise in the same session a decision which it has already come to.

Mr. Ganpat Rai (Urdu) **:** Maulvi Muharram Ali Chishti has termed the decision of the Council as unreasonable so he should take back his words.

Mr. President : I do not think the speaker said that the decision was unreasonable. He said if it was unreasonable, then it was quite right to reconsider it. If he had characterised the proceedings of this Council and the decision of this Council as unreasonable, I should at once have called him to order.

Maulvi Muharram Ali Chishti (Urdu) **:** I will curtail my peech because whenever I rise to speak Mr. Ganpat Rai raises a point of orders and does not

permit me to talk smoothly. The explanation of the President has strengthened my arguments. To-day's resolution is quite a different thing from yesterday's resolution and the Council should consider it with an unprejudiced mind. I hope the Council will pass it as proposed by Mr. C. M. King.

Sayad Muhammad Husa'n [Montgomery (Muhammadan), Rural] (Urdu): Sir, I have risen to say a few words in response to Maulvi Muharram Ali. Maulvi Muharram Ali is not an owner of lands himself and therefore cannot possibly know the real significance of settlements, re-settlements and revenue. It is my personal experience that the land of Sheikhupura and Gujranwala is all waterlogged. A new Bill regarding land settlements is going to be passed and we ought to wait till then. Supposing that the re-settlements which we are going to make are not according to the provisions of the new Bill then unnecessary expenditure and time would have been incurred and our efforts would have been wasted. There is no doubt that we have not enough money to risk in these useless endeavours. This is a plain problem and one which every one should understand easily. Many members have gone back satisfied with yesterday's decision but I hope that the Council will stand by its decision of to-day.

Mr. President: There are two ways of allowing grants: one is that you allow a lump sum; another is that permission is given to Government to transfer from one head to another. These are two differents things; although the underlying object of both grants may be to carry on the settlements. But it may be that the Council is willing to allow the transfer whereas it may not be ready to grant them a lump sum as a fresh grant. So the honourable members should not make a point of saying that this decision, if now given in favour of Government, will be a direct negation of what was decided yesterday. I say that it will not be.

Sayad Muhammad Husain (continued): If this item can be saved Sir, it would be better because it may have to be cut down perhaps by the new Bill. If it is saved now it can be employed for other purposes.

Malik Firoz Khan, Noon [Shahpur West (Muhammadan), Rural]: Sir, we bow to your decision in allowing this grant to be discussed again, but you must remember, Sir, that it was very painful for us having to vote against the Government yesterday.

Mr. Ganpat Rai: Why

Malik Firoz Khan, Noon (continued): And you have put us in a similar difficulty again to-day. The zamindars have paid the Government everything that was wanted ungrudgingly. We know Sir, that eight crores out of the 12 are paid by the zamindars, and if there is any need for further taxation, it is the zamindar that will have to pay; and I can assure you, Sir, that we will willingly pay. Whether we pay in the form of enhanced settlement, or whether we pay in the form of enhanced water rates, we will not grudge this money. Yesterday we gave our full deliberation to this question and after going through the *pros et cons*, we came to the conclusion that we would not agree to that grant being given. We did not think it right that settlement should go on at least until the new law came into

[M. Firoz Khan, Noon.]

force—at least not in the districts of Gujranwala and Sheikhupura. We tried to show all this yesterday; and I think it is very unreasonable and unfair so far as we are concerned to have allowed this to be moved to-day. I think we are prepared to stand by our decision of yesterday.

Mr. President: Again I say that this is not the same. You may have been actuated by that motive entirely. I do not say that you were not. It is a different matter. You must not practically say, when I have given my ruling, that it is wrong. Rightly or wrongly my opinion is that the two questions are separate and the Council should give two separate decisions on it. I do not think that by voting to-day in favour of this grant you will be going against your yesterday's decision. The question may not be different in your mind, but it may be in that of others.

Malik Firoz Khan, Noon (continued): Very well, Sir, all that I can say is that it is not fair for anybody to expect us to do anything else than what we did yesterday. The Government ought not to have placed us in this awkward position. I know the money will have to be provided, and will be provided, and that the zamindars will have to pay.

Sayad Ghulam Muhammad Shah [Shahpur East (Muhammadan), Rural] (Urdu): Sir, we are ready to accept that the resolution with which we are concerned to-day is quite different from yesterday's resolution. The Government is not soliciting our permission for spending new money but wishes to transfer an item of the Forest reserve and grazing lands to the settlement operations of Gujranwala and Sheikhupura, but yesterday money for the settlement of Sheikhupura was refused by the Council. So, where will this money go and how will the amount of Rs. 3,000 for travelling allowance be spent if there are no officers to travel?

Mr. President: The honourable member is under a misunderstanding. The portion of the money which the Government wishes to transfer and which is intended to facilitate the carrying on of the settlement is Rs. 30,000. Rs. 3,000 for travelling allowance is not for the purpose of settlement.

Mr. C. M. King: Sir, the case is explained on page 23 of the memorandum.

Mr. President: It is explained in the memorandum on page 23 under head (*b*). My point is that this reference to the Rs. 3,000 is beside the point.

Sayad Ghulam Muhammad Shah (continued): Sir, I have nothing to do with the Rs. 3,000. I am speaking about the Rs. 30,000.

Mr. C. M. King: On a point of order, Sir, these two items are mixed up. If the Rs. 30,000 are refused, the Government will have to lose Rs. 3,000 also.

Sayad Ghulam Muhammad Shah (continued): I understand what the President says. The Council decided yesterday that the re-settlement of

Gujranwala and Sheikhupura should be postponed on account of financial stringency.

Mr. President: Order, order. The Council did not decide that. All that was decided was to refuse to give a large grant for carrying out the settlement.

Syad Ghulam Muhammad Shah (continued): Sir, the point is that the Council objected to settlement work being carried on now.

Mr. President: The honourable member is simply repeating the same point, namely that the Council decided yesterday that the settlement should not go on. I have ruled that that was not the decision of the Council but that the Council only decided that money was not to be given for a particular settlement. That is all the honourable member is entitled to draw from the decision of the Council given yesterday. He is not entitled to assume that the Council yesterday decided that no settlements are to be held.

Sayal Ghulam Muhammad Shah (continued): I quite agree with the President that the decision of the Council was not final re settlements, and that this demand is not a new one because I know that the money demanded will be transferred from one head to another, but my point is this that the settlement work cannot be carried on with this sum of thirty thousand rupees and the Government will have to come to Council for further demands to carry on the work and if we do not grant them this sum will be wasted.

Mr. President: That is a perfectly legitimate point. But the other point is not legitimate.

Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Faiz Ali [Gujrat West (Muhammadan) Rural] (Urdu): Sir, it is not the function of a Council to prohibit a settlement. It can only decide with regard to money matters. Now, the question is of transferring an item from one branch to the other, and the Council has a right to protest against the neglect which is shown regarding its interests. I do not agree with Maulvi Muharram Ali that the revenue does not always increase but decreases in certain cases too. Usually the revenue increases and exceptions to the rules are not counted in generalization. Unless it is generally believed that the revenue would be increased, a re-settlement is not approved. But one should not grudge a reasonable increase in the revenue. Nevertheless the condition of the poor agriculturists is deplorable. Generally the produce of land is divided equally between the landowners and Government but this is not a sound policy since lands differ in their productive qualities. This system should be abolished. The share taken by the Government is considered to be unfairly large by the poor agriculturists. It should be reduced to $\frac{1}{3}$rd or $\frac{1}{4}$ of the net assets or as the sub-committee thinks appropriate. I beg to say, Sir, that till the new Bill is passed the settlement should be postponed.

Chaudhri Ali Akbar [Kangra-cum-Gurdaspur (Muhammadan), Rural] (Urdu): Sir, I want to ask one question. The objection raised was against the method employed . . . . .

4 P.M.

Mr. President: The honourable member said that he wanted to ask a question. If he will just state what that is, I will ask the Government

[Mr. President.]

Member whether he can meet his wishes. But I do not want another speech. The matter has been sufficiently discussed.

Chaudhri Ali Akbar (continued) : Sir, I want to say this much only that a method was suggested to the Financial Commissioner who in answer to it said that as some of the lands had become *chahi* (irrigated by wells) while some could not be irrigated the method suggested could not be adopted. Sir the records of rights are kept and inspections of crops take place every year. All these records and documents are trustworthy, and why should they not be so when they are signed and attested by the Government officials ? They can give the information required and can fully serve the purpose. There is no need of employing any extra staff. This much only I wanted to say, Sir.

Mr. C. M. King (Financial Commissioner) : Sir, it is rather unfortunate that two items have been put together in one demand, but it is so, and therefore if the Council refuses this grant of Rs. 10 it is committed to refusing the whole demand of Rs. 33,000 the transfer of which from one head to another is desired. No one who has spoken so far has spoken about the Rs. 3,000 for travelling allowance. I take it that none of the members of this Council have any objection to that item being transferred but if there is an adverse vote on that Rs. 10 the Rs. 3,000 also will not be transferred and in consequence of that the efficiency of the people who look after forests in seven or nine districts will be greatly interfered with. They will not be able to do their work and the payments made to them on account of salary will be payment wasted. I am not responsible for the joining together of these two items and I am sorry that it has happened.

We come now to the question of Rs. 30,000 about which the real discussion is. I find it a little difficult to keep within your ruling, Sir, the margin between repeating what was said yesterday and something new is very slight. . . .

Mr. President : I do not object to your repeating arguments used yesterday. I cannot say what the reasons for the decision then come to were, but the decision was not to give a certain sum of money. I only mean that we cannot draw the inference that the wish of the House was that this settlement should not take place.

Mr. C. M. King (continued) : Thank you, Sir. The point about these two settlements is that I wish the honourable members to remove from their mind entirely all idea about the Attock settlement. The decision about that has been come to and that decision is not affected by anything that is being discussed to-day. We are now discussing only the two settlements of Gujranwala and Sheikhupura. The conditions in these two districts are remarkable. They are different from most districts, especially colony districts. Ordinarily you have a homogenity about the land, that is the land is of one kind and you anticipate that there will be a rise all over the area which is to be settled. In these two districts you have partly a prosperous area in which we may justly anticipate great increase in land revenue and partly an area which in consequence of canal irrigation being extended to other parts and in consequence partly of the actual physical action of the canal itself is undoubtedly inferior in comparison with the other area which has prospered exceedingly. When the orders of Government were passed on the last Settlement Report it was recognised that there was this marked differences between the areas of

these two kinds. The Punjab Government at that time in passing orders distinctly said that re-settlement would be necessary not with a view to increasing land revenue but in order to redistribute the charges of the settlement at that time, to redistribute them and in some cases lower them.

My friend Pir Muhammad Husain, and I think Mr. Ganpat Rai, have both laid great stress on the enormous hardship of thinking of putting up an assessment in an area where the people have been washed out, where fertile lands have become duck shooting grounds and where other fertile lands have been ruined owing to the seepage from the canal. They laid great stress on the hardship of re-settlement of these areas. If there is to be any rise in rates of those areas there will be hardship but our primary object is that there should be a rise in rates only in those areas which have improved and not in others where there should be a redistribution and probably a reduction. There are some areas which have been very badly damaged by seepage. About those the Deputy Commissioners have not yet been able to examine properly and come to a decision as to what recommendations should be made to Government to give relief to the cultivators of those areas. It will be one of the duties of Settlement Officers to consider those areas and to submit proposals as to what should be done to them. If the Council refuses this grant, it will be not only depriving this Government of this rise of revenue, which is due on account of the increase of wealth in some parts of the districts of Gujranwala and Sheikhupura, but they will for one year refuse relief to those very worthy people who deserve that relief. Was that point considered yesterday? Is that reasonable? Yesterday we asked for Rs. 40,000 in order to enable us to increase the assessment of these areas by six lakhs of rupees. That was the ostensible reason for our demand. To-day we are asking to transfer Rs. 30,000 from one head to another. I will not pretend to say that the settlements will not go on as before, but I will say that I will write to the Settlement Officers to have regard to these areas that have suffered. I do not wish to hide anything from this Council. The reason why I am making this proposal is that they shall be able to carry on for the next few months at least and then the Government will again come up before this Council for a further grant which will enable us to complete the settlement. I hope that nothing will make members of this Council think that I have any other object. I only say that if you give us Rs. 30,000 we shall be able to carry on. That is the reason why we are pressing the demand of this amount to-day.

Mr. President: The question is—

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 10 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 1924 in respect of Land Revenue."

The Council then divided: Ayes 25; Noes 26.

AYES: 25.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard.	Mr. R. A. Maut.
The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia.	Mr. C. A. H. Townsend.
The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain.	Mr. D. J. Boyd.
The Honourable Lala Harkishan Lal.	Mr. Miles Irving.
	Mr. J. Coldstream.
	Mr. A. J. Gibson.
	Mr. A. Latifi.

Mr. C. M. King.
Mr. H. P. Tollinton.
Colonel R. Heard.
Lieutenant-Colonel W. C. H. Forster.
Mr. H. Calvert.
Mr. G. Anderson.
Mr. E. A. Scott.
Sardar Bahadur Gopal Singh, Labana.
Captain Sardar Gopal Singh.
Maulvi Muharram Ali, Chishti.
Mr. Manohar Lal.
Khan Bahadur Khwaja Yusaf Shah.
Mr. Edward Earnest Clarke.
Mr. Owen Roberts.

NOES 26.

Mian Ahmad Yar Khan, Daultana.
Malik Firoz Khan, Noon.
Chaudhri Ali Akbar.
Rai Sahib Lala Ganga Ram.
Chaudhri Ata Ullah Khan.
Lala Atma Ram.
Lala Kesho Ram.
Khan Bahadur Rai Wali Muhammad Khan.
Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Fazl Ali.
Chaudhri Ghasi Ram.
Chaudhri Ghulam Muhammad.
Sayad Ghulam Muhammad Shah.
Rana Muhammad Jamil Khan.
Malik Najabat Khan.
Chaudhri Nabi Bakhsh.
Mr. Moti Lal, Kaistha.
Khan Muhammad Abdullah Khan.
Khan Bahadur Raja Muhammad Akbar Khan.
Chaudhri Muhammad Hayat Khan.
Sayad Muhammad Husain.
Sayad Muhammad Raza Shah.
Mr. Gaupat Rai.
Rai Bahadur Lala Panna Lal.
Sardar Sangat Singh.
Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram.
Chaudhri Shafi Ali Khan.

The motion was lost.

EXCISE GRANT.

The Honourable Lala Harkishan Lal (Minister for Agriculture) : Sir, I beg to move—

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 10 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 1924 in respect of Excise."

The motion was carried.

FOREST GRANT.

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia (Revenue Member) : I beg to move, Sir—

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 10 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 1924 in respect of Forests."

The motion was carried.

IRRIGATION GRANT.

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia (Revenue Member) : Sir, I beg to move—

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 10 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 1924 in respect of Irrigation."

The motion was carried.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION GRANT.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard (Finance Member): Sir, I beg to move—

> "That a supplemntary sum not exceeding Rs. 10 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 1924 in respect of General Administration."

Mr. President: The question is—

> "That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 10 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 1924 in respect of General Administration."

Mr. Ganpat Rai [Lahore and Ferozepore-*cum*-Sheikhupura (Non-Muhammadan)] (Urdu): Sir, my point is that there are four items—sums of Rs. 16,000, Rs. 8,000, Rs. 1,500 and Rs. 2,250.

I will begin my discussion by taking the above sums from the bottom, *i.e.*, the sum of Rs. 2,250. This is the same sum which the Council rejected after a hot discussion and due consideration during the last budget debate. The Governor did not exercise his right of certifying the amount, which shows that he is also in unison with the Council.

Mr. Miles Irving: Sir, is the honourable member in order in moving an amendment now?

Mr. Ganpat Rai: I am only giving my reasons. . . . . .

Mr. President: You are not entitled to move an amendment. But you are entitled to argue as to the grant.

Mr. C. M. King: Sir, on a point of order. If this case is adversely decided by the Council will the whole item go out or only a part?

Mr. President: The proper course is, if an honourable member objects to one item in a supplementary demand to move an amendment, say that two rupees be reduced in respect of such an item. It would then be understood that the objection is only to that portion or sub-item of the demand and that the Council has no objection to the other items. But unfortunately during the discussion just now on the grant regarding the provision for settlement and travelling allowance this course was not adopted.

Mr. C. M. King: I may point out that the time for giving notice of an amendment has passed, and the honourable member cannot move an amendment at this stage.

Mr. Ganpat Rai (continued): If notice of an amendment is insisted on then I will have to object to the whole demand and the Government will have to hold itself responsible for any criticism that the demands for the other items have been cut down, for my object is not to cut down these sub-items. Thus, for instance, I do not want to touch the expenditure in connection with the visit of His Excellency the Viceroy. If that item is affected by my objecting to the whole demand the whole blame will rest on Government and not on me.

Mr. President: You ought to have given notice of an amendment two days ago.

Mr. Ganpat Rai: You can allow me to move an amendment now.

Mr. President: No, I cannot. The provision regarding two days' notice is absolute and imperative in the case of money demands.

Mr. Ganpat Rai (continued): The Government ought to have acted in accordance with the decision at the time of the budget. Is it worthy of the Government members to again bring forward the same demand. This thing pains me and I am sorry I am compelled to speak against the Government. It is not our wish, but when we find that no regard is paid to our protest, we cannot but act accordingly. It is no use our being.....

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain: Your being a member? (Laughter).

Mr. Ganpat Rai: I am afraid our decision will meet the same treatment at the hands of the Government members, as other resolutions have.

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia: How does the honourable member know that?

Mr. Ganpat Rai: I know it because the list of resolutions given effect to is from time to time published in the Gazette and if the honourable member goes through the Gazette carefully he will find that it is not there. I have made it a point to read the Gazette carefully and I say it with certainty.

Mr. President: This is a new session and I do not think the honourable member is entitled to prejudice the views of the Council by saying that on a certain occasion during the last session the Council expressed a certain view. Let him argue afresh on the merits of this case and not bring in prejudice of that kind.

Mr. Ganpat Rai: Sir, I have to bring it before the Council to remind them that this item was before the Council.

Mr. President: Please obey my ruling.

Mr. Ganpat Rai: Yes, Sir, I bow to your ruling.

Mr. Ganpat Rai (continued in Urdu): I have been directed not to recall the occurrences in the past, but I cannot help repeating that the Government has absolutely ignored the resolution—nay, the orders of the Council. In the explanation of the demand it is given that this payment of the rent is to be restored, this means that the proposal was at first rejected, and now its restoration is demanded. People are against such a thing as the restoration of this sum, and many resolutions will be moved against it. The Government admits that there was no legal agreement about the payment of rent, but merely a moral understanding, but the Government cannot be bound by this, and I do not think the Government member can produce a document to that effect. We members who are responsible to our people cannot stand this, when we see that the public money is wasted like this. It was a mistake to change the tahsil from Zafarwal to Narowal. My honourable friend Mr. King has nodded, which shows that he in his heart agrees

with me. When we fall at your feet, and request you to look to our demands, you merely spurn us. We have as much respect for you as we had before the Reforms Scheme came into force. But when you do not pay heed to our cravings, we have to declare it openly that you cause discontent among the people over very minor affairs. The times are changed, and question of maintaining your prestige no longer exists, for God's sake, do not show "zid" any more. . . .

Mr. President: You are not entitled to ascribe such motives to Government.

Mr. Ganpat Rai: How else am I to express the word 'persistence' if not by 'zid'? If anyone can suggest a better word, I will use that.

(A voice 'istiqlal,' another voice 'israr.')

Mr. Ganpat Rai (continued): I am sorry I have been misunderstood, what I meant to say was that you should not insist on this point, because by doing so you will strike a blow at the prestige of the Council. Besides the people who have been taken to Narowal do not like the idea of living in that tahsil they are clamouring for its rejection. In this last session of the Council it would be much better if we all disperse with feelings of good will and friendship. Be kind to the people and do not insist on anything more. Then, Sir, the next item is.

Mr. Manohar Lal: Sir, I rise to a point of order. When the honourable member does not wish to oppose this or some of the other items, is it necessary for him to make a speech about all the items.

Mr. President: He can only speak in order to get those items rejected.

Mr. Manohar Lal: I thought it was not necessary for him to take the time of the Council.

Mr. Ganpat Rai: That is for me to decide and not for you, Mr. Deputy President.

Mr. Ganpat Rai (continued): The sum of Rs. 20,000 was granted for officers on special duty, then the sum of Rs. 10,000 more was demanded and now again there is a demand for Rs. 8,000 more I think I will shock my friend the Deputy President if I show any inclination to object to the sum of Rs. 16,000 which is being spent on the occasion of His Excellency the Viceroy's visit to the Punjab. In the end I will request the Government not to insist on the restoration of this sum.

Diwan Bahadur Raja Narendra Nath [Punjab Landholders (General)] (Urdu): Sir, it is very difficult for this Council to let the sum of Rs. 27,200 be passed unchallenged, because certain sums are included in this to which many of the members would object. One item, *i. e.*, Rs. 2,250 will be particularly objected to by all the members of this Council to which Mr. Ganpat Rai has drawn the attention of this House and that is about the expenses on transfer of the tahsil to Narowal, which were rejected by the Council in the last Budget session. The Council will be obliged if the Government member withdraws his demand.

Mr. President : I would point out what the object of this demand seems to be. Apparently it will only cover expenditure for fifteen months which has already been incurred and to which Government have already committed themselves. By giving this money, I do not think the Council will in any way countenance Government staying at Narowal permanently. That seems to be the point to which members are opposed.

Diwan Bahadur Raja Narendra Nath : The difficulty is this that we cannot say anything against what we expressed at the time of the budget. If we vote for Rs. 2,250 will that go against what we said on the last occasion at the time of the budget session ? If we do, we shall be going directly against the attitude adopted by us in the last session.

Mr. Ganpat Rai : Is Government prepared to give an assurance that if this item is allowed, the tahsil will remain at Zafarwal unless the Council sanction it to be at Narowal ?

The Hon'ble Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia : The tahsil is at Narowal.

Mr. Ganpat Rai : Then the objection is all the more strong and more grave.

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia (Revenue Member) (Urdu) : Sir, I will say only a few words. My honourable friend Mr. Ganpat Rai has mentioned certain things which are without foundation. For instance he said that His Excellency the Governor was in agreement with the Legislative Council in the matter of not renting this *serai* at Narowal. Sir I challenge that statement.

5 P.M.

Mr. President : The Honourable Member should not bring the name of His Excellency into the discussion. I should have stopped Mr. Ganpat Rai in time before he introduced His Excellency's name to support his case.

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithi (continued) :—I will only add that we have to pay the rent for fifteen months for which period the *serai* has been rented and if the Council sanctions the grant, I am ready to give an undertaking that this lease will not be renewed without the new Council being given an opportunity to discuss the matter.

Diwan Bahadur Raja Narendra Nath : The decisions at which the Council arrived during the budget session was ignored.

Maulvi Muharram Ali Chishti [Lahore City (Muhammadan), Urban] (Urdu): I am sorry, Sir, that I never thought of opposing this amendment. Many a time we have compromised between ourselves. To oppose this amendment would be to oppose the Punjab. We are tired of complaints about Zafarwal since we are hearing them from the Hindus, Muhammadans and Sikhs constantly.

Mr. President : Has the honourable member understood the position ? It is merely this. Before the Council expressed any opinion on this question as to whether the tahsil should be at Narowal or Zafarwal, the Government had, as a matter of fact, rented the *serai* ; and had agreed to pay the rent of that *serai* for a period of fifteen months. That agreement I understand was undertaken before the Council gave any opinion on the subject. Now the rent is to be paid according to the agreement ; and the Council is asked to

provide that money. They say that by giving their vote they will be upsetting their previous decision about the tahsil. That does not seem to be the case. If the Government wish to continue Narowal as the tahsil headquarters they will have to take a further lease of the *serai* and in that case they will have to come to the Council for rent or they will have to build their own tahsil buildings; so that apparently the tahsil cannot stay at Narowal without the provision of the fresh money. I wish to point out exactly the bearings of the matter now before the House and members should not be under the impression that by giving their vote, they will be doing anything against their previous decision.

Maulvi Muharram Ali Chishti (continued): I have taken the matter in the same light in which you have explained, Sir. It is the Parliamentary way of protest to express the feelings at the time of voting a grant. I do not therefore lose the chance of expressing my feelings. I do not understand what the official benches mean by always harping upon this matter. What is the reason, what is the underlying principle and what is the policy covered by this outward show, this is only an administration and the Government should not engage itself in a tug-of-war with the whole public.

[*At this stage the President left chair and the Deputy President occupied it.*]

I positively know that the Hindus and Muhammadans are united regarding this complaint and they wrote to the members of this Council. We do not object to the hearty welcome to the Viceroy. I do not want to make a long speech but the points that I want to bring forward are:—

(1) Government does not gain anything.

(2) Sialkot public opinion is against it.

If a few of the executive members take a wrong view of the matter the Government is not bound to follow. If the Government yield occasionally, its prestige does not suffer. The Government may undertake that the question will be settled according to the public opinion and welfare. Through the Chair I appeal to the official benches to weigh the matter and consider it accordingly.

Diwan Bahadur Raja Narendra Nath: Is the Government prepared to give us the assurance, if we vote for this item, that the tahsil will be shifted to Zafarwal after the expiry of this period of lease?

Mr. C. M. King (Financial Commissioner): We are not prepared to give that assurance. We cannot, Sir, undertake that we shall not move the tahsil from Zafarwal, but we can say this that the renewal of this lease will not be made unless this Council has had another opportunity of expressing itself; and I hope that that will satisfy my friend Maulvi Muharram Ali Chishti. As regards this money we have committed ourselves. We must pay and if we refuse to pay, there will be a suit in the civil court.

Mr. Ganpat Rai: In view of this assurance, Sir, we withdraw our opposition.

The Deputy President: The question is—?

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 10 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 1924 in respect of General Administration."

[The Deputy President.]

The question is that that grant be made.

The motion was carried.

POLICE GRANT.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard (Finance Member) : Sir, I beg to move—

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 10 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 1924 in respect of Police."

Sir, when an amendment was moved to the demand for Rs. 3,05,672 for expenditure on Police as No. 8 of the items of Government business, if I had been permitted by the Chair to exercise the usual right of the Government member to speak on that amendment it was my intention to have given a piece of news to the House. I now with the permission of the Chair propose to give that piece of news. It will assist the members of this House to appreciate the services of the police and to understand the sort of perils that they undergo in the discharge of their duty and the sort of dangers existing in this province at the present moment. I shall read a telegram received from the Deputy Commissioner, Hoshiarpur. It refers to events which occurred last night.

"Horton and Jenkyn arrested Dhanna Singh of Bahbalpur in Mananhana nine miles from Mahilpur last night. His loaded six-chambered revolver was taken away. He was handcuffed. A bomb on his person exploded. Dhanna Singh and five policemen blown to death. One constable in precarious condition. Horton and Jenkyn badly wounded. Civil Surgeon attending. Am arranging to remove them to headquarters."

That, Sir, is an incident which illustrates the perils which the police of this province have to undergo and the House will realise what gratitude we owe to them who have to risk their lives in maintaining the peace of the province.

The Deputy President : The question is—

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 10 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 1924 in respect of Police."

The motion was carried.

MEDICAL GRANT.

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain (Minister for Education) : Sir, I beg to move—

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 10 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 1924 in respect of Medical."

The motion was carried.

AGRICULTURE GRANT.

The Honourable Lala Harkishan Lal (Minister for Agriculture) : Sir, I beg to move—

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 10 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 1924 in respect of Agriculture."

The motion was carried.

INDUSTRIES GRANT.

The Honorable Lala Harkishan Lal (Minister for Agriculture) : Sir, I beg to move—

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 10 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 1924 in respect of Industries."

The Deputy President : The question is—

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 10 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 1924 in respect of Industries."

Mr. Ganpat Rai : Sir, I want to know to which item the demand refers.

The Honourable Lala Harkishan Lal : Please refer to page 34 of the memorandum.

Mr. Ganpat Rai : My complaint is how are we to know to what item the demand refers.

The Deputy President : I must say myself that these supplementary estimates do not agree with the items in the continuous list of business. I think it would be desirable that the token grants should be numbered serially and a clear reference is made in the continuous list.

Mr. Miles Irving : Sir, the difficulty is that the Government list of continuous business is published long after the explanatory memorandum. The explanatory memorandum cannot therefore refer to the continuous list. Whether the Government list of business should contain a reference to the explanatory memorandum is rather a question of procedure for the Honourable President to decide. The Government will have no objection to a reference in the list of business to the page of the memorandum.

The Deputy President : I certainly do not see what possible objection there could be to an indication on the margin of the Government list of supplementary demands to the page of the memorandum.

Mr. Miles Irving : I with the assistance of the Secretary of the Council will certainly see that this is given in future.

The Deputy President : I suppose the honourable member now understands what item this question refers to. It is referred to on page 21 under the head Industries, demand No. 18.

The question is—

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 10 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 1924 in respect of Industries."

The motion was carried.

CIVIL WORKS (RESERVED) GRANT.

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia (Revenue Member): Sir, I beg to move—

> "That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 10 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 1924 in respect of Civil Works (Reserved)."

The motion was carried.

CIVIL WORKS (TRANSFERRED) GRANT.

The Honourable Lala Harkishan Lal (Minister for Agriculture): Sir, I beg to move—

> "That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 10 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 1924 in respect of Civil Works (Transferred)."

The Deputy President: The question is—

> "That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 10 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 1924 in respect of Civil Works (Transferred).

Mr. Ganpat Rai: (Lahore and Ferozepore-*cum*-Sheikhupura (Non-Muhammadan)]: Sir, if the questions which I had put had been answered I would have spared the time of this Council. Instead of this the usual answer 'The answer is not ready. It will be communicated when ready' necessitates my asking the member in charge whether it is a fact that the percentage of admission of Indian boys into the European schools has been fixed at 25 per cent. and what is the number of those Indian boys at present in that school. Is it also a fact that certain Indian boys applied and their applications were rejected and they were asked to wait?

(*At this stage the President resumed the chair.*)

Mr. Ganpat Rai (continued): And they were all rejected and told that their names were on the waiting list. If I am given a satisfactory reply, I won't take the time of this Council.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard (Finance Member): The number of Indian boys in European schools in 1922 was 103, and 159 in 1923.

Mr. Ganpat Rai: I am referring to the particular school—Ghora Gali School—against which there have been so many complaints before the Assembly. The answer was "Go to the Local Government."

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: As regards this particular school the number was either 6 or 7 Indians.

Mr. Ganpat Rai: What is the total number of boys in the school?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: The total number, I am afraid, I cannot give. I have not got the papers here. All I know is that 6 or 7 Indians have been admitted into this school.

Mr. Ganpat Rai: Can I have an assurance that the full percentage fixed for Indian boys will be admitted into the schools?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : Yes, I can give the assurance that I have given once or twice before. Care is taken in all the schools to keep up the prescribed proportion of admission of Indians wherever it is possible to make admissions at all. But if there is any school where the rule is not observed, then it will justify our withholding the grant to that school. In the case of schools under Government management I give an assurance that the rule fixing the number of Indians for admission will be enforced.

Mr. President : The question is—

> "That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 10 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 1924 in respect of Civil Works (Transferred)."

The motion was carried.

Miscellaneous Grants.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard (Finance Member) : Sir, I beg to move—

> "That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 10 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 1924 in respect of Miscellaneous."

The motion was carried.

Irrigation (Construction) Grant.

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia : Sir, I beg to move—

> "That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 10 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 1924 in respect of Irrigation (Construction)."

Mr. President : The question is—

> "That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 10 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 1924 in respect of Irrigation (Construction)."

Mr. Ganpat Rai : Sir, on page 20 of the Supplementary Estimates, demand 6, you will find that a sum of Rs. 2,31,297 was passed by this Council under Irrigation, etc., when that demand was put before the Council a few days ago. Then we come to this item 13 which is now moved in respect of Irrigation (Construction) Rs. 1,40,250. What I want to know is why this item under the same department has been split up into two? What is the object in that?

Mr. Miles Irving (Financial Secretary) : I take it that the point which the honourable member asks to be explained is why the demand for Irrigation appears under two major heads.

Mr. Ganpat Rai : This particular demand for travelling allowance amounting to 4 lakhs is shown in two places. What is the object of splitting it up into two?

Mr. Miles Irving : The reason is that under the accounts rules Irrigation is classified under two or rather three major heads. The purpose is to

[Mr. Miles Irving.]

distinguish between what we call head XIII which is the working expenses of canals which are open and head 55 which is construction of canals. This present demand deals with travelling allowance of engineers on the Sutlej Valley Project, and the former demand deals with the travelling allowance of engineers of canals like the Bari Doab Canal or the Lower Chenab Canal. That is an inevitable distinction in accounts.

Mr. Ganpat Rai : I want to know whether or not this amount of 4 lakhs is subject to the compromise which was arrived at in the Council at the last session ?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia : The honourable member has read that note.

Mr. Ganpat Rai : But that note does not touch that point at all.

Mr. Miles Irving : I think I may explain that that compromise was to the effect that the demand for travelling allowance should be reduced by 25 per cent. of the revised estimates of the year 1922-23. There were no revised estimates for irrigation for the year 1922-23 and as the matter was required for presentation to the Council I put in the old budget figures which were not at all equal to the revised. That to a certain extent explains the difference.

Mr. President : The question is—

> "That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 10 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 1924 in respect of Irrigation (Construction)."

The motion was carried.

CIVIL WORKS GRANT.

The Honourable Lala Harkishan Lal (Minister for Agriculture) : Sir, I beg to move—

> "That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 10 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 1924 in respect of Civil Works (Capital Expenditure)."

The motion was carried.

MEDICAL GRANT.

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain (Minister for Education) : Sir, I request that item No. 35 on the List of Business—Provision of a Maternity of Hospital—be taken up next. There are definite directions of Government and on behalf of Government I make this request. It is for you to agree to it or to overrule it.

Mr. President : Can you give an assurance that it is the Governor's wish that it should be taken up next ?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard (Finance Member) : It is the wish of the Governor.

Mr. President : Has the Council any objection ?

(No one objected.)

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain: Sir, I beg to move :—

"That a sum not exceeding Re. 1 be granted to the Punjab Government (Ministry of Education) in respect of charges that will arise during the course of the year 1923-24 on account of provision of a Maternity Hospital."

Mr. Ganpat Rai [Lahore and Ferozepur-*cum*-Sheikhupura (Non-Muhammadan)]: Sir, before I say anything for or against this motion I should like to know why the amount which was sanctioned last year for purchasing a certain property or building a hostel was not spent and what has been the total cost of sending students to Madras for the purpose of training in this branch of the medical profession? There have been complaints that young men had to go all the way to Madras and spend several months there and all of those who were in the class who would have gone in for the Final Examination could not go to Madras on account of want of room there, who is responsible for this trouble and for keeping back those students from their Final Examination and putting them to unnecessary expense which have been caused to them and to their parents and I believe to some extent to Government?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain: Sir, the honourable member has asked me to explain why the property for which the Council sanctioned a grant was not purchased. My explanation is "act of God". The man who was to sell the house died. There was a dispute between the heirs and we could not buy the house. As a consequence of that "act of God" we had to send students to Madras, otherwise they could not have been trained in Lahore to appear in the examination. We are going to start this hospital in a hired bungalow as a temporary measure and if the honourable member goes on very long over a simple item like this these students will have to go to Madras for a much longer term than otherwise.

Mr. President: The question is —

"That a sum not exceeding Re. 1 be granted to the Punjab Government (Ministry of Education) in respect of charges that will arise during the course of the year 1923-24 on account of provision of a Maternity Hospital."

The motion was carried.

GRANT FOR TALWARA FOREST PROJECT.

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia (Revenue Member): Sir, I beg to move —

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 10 be placed at the disposal of the Governor in Council to meet the charges that will arise for the year 1923-24 on account of the Talwara Forest Project.

The motion was carried.

THE PUNJAB LOCAL OPTION BILL.

The Honourable Lala Harkishan Lal (Minister for Agriculture): Sir, I beg to move —

"That the Punjab Local Option Bill, as reported by the Select Committee, be taken into consideration".

Mr. President: The question is —

"That the Punjab Local Option Bill, as reported by the Select Committee, be taken into consideration".

The motion was carried.

Mr. President: The Council will now proceed to the consideration of the Bill clause by clause.

Mr. President: The question is —

"That clause 1 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was carried.

Mr. President: The question is—

"That clause 2 stand part of the Bill".

Mr. Ganpat Rai [Lahore and Ferozepore-*cum*-Sheikhupura (Non-Muhammadan)] (Urdu): Sir, I propose—

"That in clause 2, sub-clause (5) the words 'other than by way of gift' be omitted."

Unscrupulous people who want to evade the law can do so very easily by saying that the wine was given as a gift.

Mr. President: Clause 2 under consideration. Amendment moved—

"That in clause 2, sub-clause (5), the words 'other than by way of gift' be omitted."

The Honourable Lala Harkishan Lal: I would explain only one thing. The exclusion of gifts only provides for the safety of intimate friends to whom one offers refreshment.

Mr. President: Clause under consideration. Amendment moved—

"That in clause 2, sub clause (5), the words 'other than by way of gift' be omitted."

The question is that that amendment be made.

The amendment was lost.

Mr. Ganpat Rai: I propose—

"That in clause 2, sub-clause (6) (i) before the word 'Club' the word 'European be inserted."

Throughout the cities new clubs have become universal. Wherever a few men meet together a club comes into being such as the musical club, the Wine club and the religious Clubs. Even in the villages clubs have been instituted. If my friend Lala Harkishan Lal wants to save the Punjabis from corruption the word 'European' be added to clause 2 sub-clause 6, otherwise the Bill will prove useless.

Mr. President: Clause under consideration. Amendment moved—

"That in clause (2), sub-clause (6) (i) *before* the word 'club' the word 'European' be inserted."

The question is that that amendment be made.

Mr. President: It is just coming on to six o'clock. I do not know what the wishes of the Council are, whether we should continue sitting or whether we should resume to-morrow morning.

Mr. Ganpat Rai: The Honourable President announced before, that, if necessary, the Council would meet to-morrow at 10-30. Under this impression, many members have left. So it would not be fair to continue sitting now.

Many other members echoed this opinion.

The Council then adjourned till 11 o'clock on Friday, the 26th October 1923.

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PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

EIGHTH SESSION.

Friday, 26th October, 1923.

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

THE PUNJAB LOCAL OPTION BILL.

Mr. President: The amendment before the House was—

"That in Clause 2, sub-clause (6) (*i*), *before* the word 'Club' the word 'European' *be inserted.*"

The discussion on that amendment will now be continued.

The Honourable Lala Harkishan Lal (Minister for Agriculture) (Urdu): Sir, I would indicate a few ideas about this amendment. Perhaps the members of the Council are labouring under the illusion that this Bill has been designed to prohibit the sale and use of liquor altogether, but I respectfully state that the resolution passed by the Council amounted to local option only. The resolution simply meant that facilities given by the shops for procuring wine should be restricted. The Bill has been considered in this light by the Punjab Government and the Government of India, but if any amendment, which modifies the immediate aim of the Bill, is brought forward, I don't think the Viceroy will be at all inclined to accept the Bill. Mr. Ganpat Rai is right in saying that I do not roam about in the streets of the Punjab, but in reality what I do not know about provincial affairs is not worth knowing. If clubs are set up in order to get liquor, it simply means that the temperance movement has not made much progress in the province, but if no wine is used at present in these clubs, then neither would it be used after the Bill has been passed.

Mr. K. L. Rallia Ram (Representative of Indian Christians) (Urdu): Sir, I accept the honourable member's statement, but what we meant is only that no one should take undue advantage of the word "Club". The clubs which are organised on Western lines may not be restricted at all but the definition of the word "Club" being very loose any unscrupulous person may break the law. It is quite possible that clubs may apply for a license when the wine shops are closed. If the honourable member would give a solemn assurance that no license would be granted, Mr. Ganpat Rai would perhaps withdraw his amendment.

The Honourable Lala Harkishan Lal (Urdu): Sir, I would inform my honourable friend, Mr. Rallia Ram, that no license is or will be granted to any club for sale of liquor.

Mr. President: Clause under consideration, amendment moved—

"That in clause 2, sub-clause (6) (*i*), *before* the word 'Club' the word 'European' *be inserted.*"

The Council then divided : Ayes 10 ; Noes 26.

AYES—10.

Mr. K. L. Rallia Ram.	Mr. Ganpat Rai.
Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram.	Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram.
Mr. Moti Lal, Kaistha.	Khan Bahadur Malik Muhammad Amin Khan.
Khan Muhammad Abdullah Khan.	Rai Sahib Lala Thakar Das.
Chaudhri Muhammad Hayat Khan.	
Mian Beli Ram.	

NOES—26.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard.	Lieut.-Col. W. C. H. Forster.
The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia.	Mr. H. Calvert.
	Mr. G. Anderson.
The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain.	Mr. E. A. Scott.
	Khan Bahadur Diwan Abdul Hamid Khan.
The Honourable Lala Harkishan Lal.	Mian Ahmad Yar Khan, Daultana.
Mr. R. A. Mant.	Lala Atma Ram.
Mr. C. A. H. Townsend.	Chaudhri Muhammad Amin.
Mr. D. J. Boyd.	Pandit Daulat Ram, Kalia.
Mr. Miles Irving.	Chaudhri Ghasi Ram.
Mr. J. Coldstream.	Captain Sardar Gopal Singh.
Mr. A. Latif.	Sayad Ghulam Muhammad Shah.
Mr. C. M. King.	Mr. Edward Ernest Clarke.
Mr. H. P. Tollinton.	
Colonel R. Heard.	

The amendment was lost.

Mr. Ganpat Rai [Lahore and Ferozepore-*cum*-Sheikhupura (non-Muhammadan)] : Sir, I beg to move—

"That in clause 2, sub-clause (6), *(iv) after* the word 'Room' the words 'except that kept for Hindus and Muhammadans' *be inserted.*"

(Urdu) : Sir, an exception is made in this Bill in favour of Railway refreshment rooms. Formerly no special arrangement existed for Muhammadans and Hindus on the railways, but now refreshment rooms have been started for them. To protect them from the evils of drink it is incumbent that they should be differentiated from the European refreshment rooms. The liquor should not be allowed into Muhammadan and Hindu refreshment rooms to injure the feelings of a Maulvi, a Haji or a Vaishnu. I hope the Council will pass my amendment.

Mr. President : Clause under consideration, amendment moved—

"That in clause 2, sub-clause (6), *(iv) after* the word 'Room' the words 'except that kept for Hindus and Muhammadans' *be inserted.*"

The Honourable Lala Harkishan Lal (Minister for Agriculture) (Urdu) : Sir, the swadeshi movement has been in progress for a considerable time and the amendment, if carried, would be ruinous to its interests. The result would be that people wishing to take wine will have to go to European rooms where they will get not Indian wines but European wines. If this is what the Council means, I am ready to accept the amendment.

Mr. President : Clause under consideration, amendment moved—

"That in clause 2, sub-clause (6), *(iv) after* the word 'Room' the words 'except that kept for Hindus and Muhammadans' *be inserted.*"

The question is that that amendment be made.

The Council then divided : Ayes 20, Noes 18.

AYES—20.

Mian Ahmad Yar Khan, Daultana.	Chaudhri Nabi Bakhsh.
Malik Firoz Khan, Noon.	Mr. Moti Lal, Kaistha.
Pir Akbar Ali.	Khan Muhammad Abdulla Khan.
Chaudhri Ali Akbar.	Chaudhri Muhammad Hayat Khan.
Lala Atma Ram.	Sayad Muhammad Husain.
Lala Kesho Ram.	Diwan Bahadur Raja Narendra Nath.
Pandit Daulat Ram, Kalia.	Mian Beli Ram.
Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Fazl Ali.	Mr. Ganpat Rai.
Chaudhri Ghasi Ram.	Rai Sahib Lala Thakar Das.
Mr. K. L. Rallia Ram.	
Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram.	

NOES—18.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard.	Mr. J. Coldstream.
The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia.	Mr. A. Latifi.
The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain.	Mr. H. P. Tollinton.
The Honourable Lala Harkishan Lal.	Colonel R. Heard.
Mr. R. A. Mant.	Lieut.-Col. W. C. H. Forster.
Mr. C. A. H. Townsend.	Mr. H. Calvert.
Mr. D. J. Boyd.	Mr. G. Anderson.
Mr. Miles Irving.	Mr. E. A. Scott.
	Mr. Edward Ernest Clarke.
	Mr. Owen Roberts.

The motion was carried.

Mr. President : The question is—

"That clause 2 as amended stand part of the Bill."

The motion was carried.

Mr. President : The question is—

"That clauses 3 and 4 stand part of the Bill"

The motion was carried.

Mr. President : The question is—

"That clause 5 stand part of the Bill".

Mr. Ganpat Rai : Sir, I beg to move—

"That in clause 5 in proviso *after* the word 'electors' the words 'who vote' *be inserted.*"

(Urdu : It is said that powers have been granted to District Boards and Municipalities, but they are granted under conditions which make them impracticable. Outwardly the section is an attempt to facilitate matters, but really it is nothing but a mere scrap of paper. There is a condition that all the electors should be consulted and two-thirds of them should give their sanction to the proposal of the District Board before effect can be given to it. The District Boards extend over 50 miles, some times over 60 and in many places there are no railways. Can you give me any instance in which two-thirds of the electors may have given their votes collectively ?

[Mr. Ganpat Rai.]

The people would not care to incur the expense and the trouble which voting entails. Similarly can you give any instance in any municipality where two-thirds of the registered voters have recorded their votes? Even in the Council where one vote may turn the balance, two-thirds of the electors do not present themselves at the polls. It may be urged that from a community of 10,000 only 1,000 may vote and two-thirds of this number may carry the proposal after voting for it, and that this would be unfair to the remaining 9,000. But my reply to this objection is that the Government should at least believe in members who represent their electors. This clause as it stands indicates that the Government does not believe that representatives represent the views of their electors. So, I think, the amendment ought to be carried.

Mr. President: Clause under consideration, amendment moved—

"That in clause 5 in proviso, *after* the word 'electors' the words 'who vote' *be inserted.*"

The question is that that amendment be made.

Malik Firoz Khan, Noon [Shahpur West (Muhammadan), Rural]: Sir, I do not know what the view of the Honourable Minister in charge of the Bill is; but I think the Bill as it stands, is safer than what it would be after the amendment, if carried. I feel, Sir, always very doubtful about people being justified in suggesting food and drinks for other people who are equally intelligent; but it seems to be the order of the day that something good has to be done in this world; and with that object in view, this Bill has been apparently framed. Now what the Bill says is: That no local body is to enforce this law unless two-thirds of the total number of electors residing in the place agree to its enforcement. It would, in my opinion, be better still if all people residing confirmed it. My learned friend, Mr. Ganpat Rai, however, wishes to make it narrower still. He wishes an enactment like this. Supposing, there is a population of 10,000 at a certain place, out of whom only 5,000 are electors. Out of these 5,000, only 1,000 appear at a certain place; and then they vote. There will thus be only 1,000 people enforcing law against 9,000 people, which I think will be unfair to the latter. I think in countries where there are democratic Governments, I mean Republics, such as New Zealand, Switzerland, etc., these questions are decided by a referendum. The object of the referendum is that the question is referred to the whole body of voters at a certain place. By accepting this amendment, we will be committing a great mistake; and I hope that the honourable member will realise the significance of the amendment that he has brought forward, and that he will not press it further.

Khan Bahadar Chaudhri Fazl Ali [Gujrat West (Muhammadan), Rural] (Urdu): Sir, it is difficult to follow Malik Firoz Khan Noon's speech. Would 9,000 people remain silent while their interests are being trifled with by 1,000? If they do so the inference is that they agree with the 1,000.

It is difficult to record the votes of two-thirds of the electors of a district board. It would have been more simple if two-thirds of the actual voters present at the meeting would have been allowed the same privilege. Notwithstanding the efforts of candidates, even for Council elections, such a large proportion of voters do not come forward and moreover it is not necessary that the public opinion should be so completely represented when considering the question of prohibition of a recognized evil. I therefore support the amendment.

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain: (Minister for Education) (Urdu): Sir, I did not take much interest in this Bill but as the Council is discussing it in a way which tends to jeopardise its sense of responsibility, I feel I should intervene. To prohibit the sale and use of wine is a simple matter and it can be prohibited but not so easily enforced. Will this amendment prevent the use of liquor. Like the Congress and Khilafat volunteers, does this Council imagine that by posting two volunteers at a liquor shop the evil of drink can be eradicated. Even religion has failed in this matter and unless through religious, moral and social sanctions we can build up the individual character to eschew liquors of all sorts, it is no use framing the law except to a limited extend to attain the same end. Let us see what sections 4 and 5 of this Bill contain. They mean that they empower a local body on its own authority to close 66 shops out of 100 shops within its jurisdiction and it can close down the rest under certain conditions. This gives very large powers indeed. However, do not let us forget that a power to close the shops does not really mean that liquor is not being used. If the public sale of liquor is stopped, the secret use is bound to increase and the drink evil will grow worse and we will not be able to know the extent of it by referring to official registers showing the amount sold. The people, I am afraid, will drink more and unless the construction programme of nation-building is taken up, national and individual character improved, religious and moral sanction strengthened, when illicit manufacture is being resorted to, how will we proceed to stop it? By police agency? By excise agency? How useless they are in a matter of this nature, we all know. Will the public come to our rescue? I am afraid not. Public spirit is not yet developed to the extent of making a citizen feel it incumbent upon him to report the cases of illicit distillation, change of hands and possession, to the police or the excise inspector. Would the Muhammadan members then like to be a party to the amendment which increases the use of wine in such a way? If really the province is against the sale or use of wine it can communicate its intention to the district board. To do a thing for the welfare of the public is virtuous indeed, but those who want to distinguish themselves by bringing forward useless amendments would spoil the whole thing. They would like to see in the newspapers that the sale and use of wine is completely blotted out but would not realise that their amendments are impracticable. Neither those amendments nor the police can attain this end. It is only a moral reform that can put the matter right. The honourable members should not develop the mentality of extremists; they should look at the question from the point of view of practical men and then they would realise that the amendment is one that should be rejected.

Mr. C. M. King: I beg to move, Sir—

"That the question be now put."

The motion was carried.

Mr. President: Clause under consideration, amendment moved—

"That in clause 5 in proviso, *after* the word 'electors' the words 'who vote' *be inserted.*"

The question is that that amendment be made.

The motion was lost.

Mr. Ganpat Rai [Lahore and Ferozepore-*cum*-Sheikhupura (Non-Muhammadan)]: Sir, I beg to move—

"That in clause 5, sub-clause (2), the words 'when a resolution has been confirmed . . . . . , thereafter remain in force' *be omitted*."

Mr. President: Your amendment does not seem to make sense.

Mr. Ganpat Rai: Of course the framers of the Bill will look to the grammar. Sir, sub-clause (2) runs as follows :—

"When a resolution has been confirmed under sub-section (1) it shall take effect from the first day of April of the year next following the date of such confirmation and shall thereafter remain in force, provided that at any time such empowered local body may by further resolution declare that such resolution shall cease to have effect upon the 1st day of April in the year next following the date of such further resolution, and such resolution shall accordingly cease to have effect from such date."

This means that the local body will have to pass a resolution every year as to what shops should be closed and what not. And what is more they cannot do it unless they have a referendum of two-thirds electors. Is this reasonable, Sir? Is this commonsense? Do we really mean to be serious? Do you really mean that there should be local option bill or is this merely meant to decorate the Statute Book and to declare that this House passed it? In that case this Bill will be only *nam ke waste*. I am very glad that the Honourable Minister for Education suggested that word. This Bill will be only a dead letter unless some energetic district board or municipality can every year resort to the referendum. Sir, it is not necessary for me to show in elaborate detail the hollowness of the Bill which is being now passed. With these remarks, I move the amendment.

Mr. President: Clause under consideration, amendment moved—

"That in clause 5, sub-clause (2) the words 'when a resolution has been confirmed . . . . . thereafter remain in force' *be omitted*."

The question is that that amendment be made.

Malik Firoz Khan, Noon [Shahpur West (Muhammadan), (Rural)] (Urdu): Sir, Mr. Ganpat Rai has misunderstood clause 5. Clause 5 authorises a local body to stop the sale of liquor by passing a resolution. It nowhere restricts the time to one year. I think that Mr. Ganpat Rai prepared his amendment in the dark and when he was very tired. I will repeat my remarks by saying that Mr. Ganpat Rai has misunderstood the whole thing when he says that the restriction will be for one year only; in reality it will be for ever. The clause runs as follows :—

12 Noon.

"When a resolution has been confirmed under sub-section (1) it shall take effect from the first day of April of the year next following the date of such confirmation . . . . . "

(*Starts translating in Urdu.*)

Mr. Ganpat Rai: As this Bill has been translated into Urdu, I think the honourable member should read the authorised translation rather than give his own translation.

Malik Firoz Khan, Noon (continued): So you will see, Sir, that the wording is clear. It says :—

"When a resolution has been confirmed under sub-section (1) it shall take effect from the first day of April of the year next following the date of such confirmation and shall thereafter remain in force."

Mr. Ganpat Rai: Will the honourable member read the proviso?

Malik Firoz Khan, Noon (continued): That means, Sir, that it shall remain in force for ever thereafter, provided that it is not revoked by the same local body, and if the same local body does not revoke, then the resolution will remain in force for ever. I hope, Sir, that I have removed the very serious misunderstanding under which my friend has been speaking, and I hope he will not press his point further.

Lala Kesho Ram [Amritsar City (Non-Muhammadan)]: Sir, I would submit that if this amendment is accepted then this section will become an absurdity, because every resolution takes effect if a committee has passed it. Of course, there should be a provision in this Act as to when that resolution will take effect, whether it will take effect straightaway, or whether it will take effect six months or a year after the resolution is passed. This part of the Act is very necessary and if this amendment is accepted the resolution will not take effect at all. I hope the honourable member will withdraw this amendment. His speech would lead one to conclude that every year a resolution has to be passed. But there is no such provision in the Act and I am at a loss to understand how he has arrived at that conclusion. I hope that Mr. Ganpat Rai will withdraw his amendment.

Mr. C. M. King: I beg to move—

"That the question be now put."

Mr. President: The question is—

"That the question be now put."

The motion was carried.

Mr. President: Before I put the question, I should like to say that I had some hesitation in letting this amendment be moved. It seems to me that if it is passed the Council will have to consider whether the remaining section will make any sense at all or not, or whether it would be possible for the drafting committee to ascertain what the intention of the Council is. I do not say, pass it or do not pass it. As I read it there is no sense left in the clause unless Mr. Ganpat Rai means that this will be simply a second proviso. He may mean that, I do not know.

Mr. Ganpat Rai: I was waiting, Sir, after hearing the two members give their interpretation, for the honourable member in-charge to say whether the meaning I have put is wrong. The honourable member in charge is not coming forward and I take it that the other members are wrong.

Mr. President: I do not want another speech. Clause under consideration, amendment moved—

"That in clause 5, sub-clause (2), the words 'when a resolution has been confirmed ..... thereafter remain in force' *be omitted*."

The question is that that amendment be made.

The motion was lost.

Mr. President: The question is—

"That clause 5 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was carried.

Mr. President : The question is—

"That clause 6 stand part of the Bill."

Diwan Bahadur Raja Narendra Nath [Punjab Landholders (General)] : Sir, I beg to move—

"That in clause 6, in proviso, *for* the words 'the Collector is of opinion for reasons to be recorded in writing' the words 'Local Government on the report of the Collector decides' be *substituted*."

(Urdu) : Sir, my point is easy to understand. A Commissioner or Deputy Commissioner is not responsible to any representative body elected by the people. Local Government means the Minister, who is responsible to the Council consisting of elected representatives. Besides a Minister is supposed to be a man in touch with Indian public opinion. As an officer of Government, he cannot be oblivious to administrative needs. He will attach due weight to the report of the Deputy Commissioner as to the extent to which illicit distillation or smuggling is likely to be encouraged. If the matter rests entirely with the Commissioner, or Deputy Commissioner, the Minister will not be able to interfere even if he differs from executive officers.

Mr. President : Clause under consideration, amendment moved—

"That in clause 6, in proviso *for* the words 'the Collector is of opinion for reasons to be recorded in writing' the words 'Local Government on the report of the Collector decides' *be substituted*."

The question is that that amendment be made.

Sayad Muhammad Husain [Montgomery (Muhammadan), Rural] (Urdu) : Sir, this amendment is a very sound one and we all of us should give it our approval. We should strike at the root of the liquor evil and we must stop people from its use, just as we act in the case of theft, arson, murder, etc. The Commissioner or the Deputy Commissioner will ignore the whole thing, and my honourable friend, Raja Narendra Nath's proposal is excellent that the Minister being responsible to the Council, which can demand his dismissal by passing a vote of censure,—should be made the referee who will watch both points of view—the public and the Governments.

For instance, if we take the case of districts where illicit distillation of liquor is carried on on a large scale, they will no doubt be deprived of this benefit. If the finances of the Government suffer a loss by stopping the sale of liquor, the Government can replenish its purse by other means, but the suppression of liquor will save the morals of the people. Raja Sahib being a retired Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner can realise this point. I hope the Council will consider the amendment favourably.

Mr. C. M. King (Financial Commissioner): Sir, I have to oppose this amendment. The real reason for my opposition is that it will involve many changes of policy. Under the Bill as it stands the Collector is authorised to ignore for the moment the resolution of a local body that the number of shops should be reduced if there has been a great amount of smuggling or illicit distillation carried on by the people of his district. The amendment says that the same thing may be done not by the Collector but by the local Government. Let us see what the practical result of these two proposals is. Supposing a local body, for example the District Board of Amritsar, passes a resolution and the number of shops is reduced to one-third of what it was in 1923, and the Deputy Commissioner knows that there has been a great deal of illicit distillation there, he cannot, as he would be able

under our proposals in this Bill, go on with the same number of shops, but he has at once to reduce the number of shops to one-third of what it was before, say, if there are 18 shops, he will reduce them to six. Then he will have to submit a report to the Local Government. Then possibly after the lapse of some time, the report is accepted as correct, and comes back to the Collector; these shops which will have been temporarily closed will be re-opened again. This seems to be a round about procedure, to which we are not going to agree.

Some of the members seem to think that the Collector is a superman; that he can issue any order and do anything that he likes, whereas the Honourable Minister is subject to the Council, is subject to the Government and is a part of the Government. That is a totally wrong conception of the position. The Collector is a subordinate officer of the Government, and like any other subordinate officer of the Government, obeys the Government's orders exactly. Although it is not mentioned in our Bill, the control of the Local Government is there the whole time, and the Collector will do everything by virtue of the authority vested in him by Government in regard to this. The convenience therefore of having the Collector as the originator of these arrangements is very great indeed. He is also subject to the Commissioner, as I pointed out. The effect of the Raja Sahib's amendment will be that we shall still have to call for a report; but instead of getting continuity, the Raja Sahib's amendment will result in a break of continuity, and we shall eventually get the same thing in the end.

Mian Beli Ram [Hoshiarpur (Non-Muhammadan), Rural] (Urdu): Sir, I have not been able to catch the sense of the Honourable the Financial Commissioner's proposal. By "local body" is meant District Board or a Municipal Board. The Deputy Commissioner is the Collector, and being the President of one of them at least knows all about his district. If the Deputy Commissioner believes that in such and such part liquor is being sold or distilled illicitly, I do not think the District Board will pass a resolution against the wish of the Deputy Commissioner. Suppose the Board passes a resolution inspite of the Deputy Commissioner's opposition; the Commissioner can reject the proposal.....

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh Majithia: What about the local bodies having non-official chairmen?

Mian Beli Ram (continued): As to the case of non-official chairmen of local bodies we have already had very bitter experience. When there was a proposal to make a non-official chairman of the District Board, I opposed it. Wherever non-official chairmen have been appointed I think we shall have to replace them soon. Now in this case even if the District Board does pass the resolution, if there is opposition from outside, the question is what will be the procedure. Therefore, in my opinion this amendment is worthy of receiving a unanimous assent.

Mr. D. J. Boyd (Home Secretary): I move, Sir—

"That the question be now put."

Mr. President : The question is :—

"That the question be now put."

The motion was carried.

Mr. President : Clause 6 under consideration. Amendment moved :—

"That in clause 6, in Proviso, *for* the words "the Collector is of opinion for reasons to be recorded in writing" the words "Local Government on the report of the Collector decides *be substituted.*"

The question is that that amendment be made.

The Council then divided : Ayes 19, Noes 22.

AYES 19.

Rai Sahib Lala Ganga Ram.
Lala Atma Ram.
Lala Kesho Ram.
Khan Bahadur Rai Wali Muhammad Khan.
Khan Bahadur Chaudhri Fazl Ali.
Chaudhri Ghasi Ram.
Captain Sardar Gopal Singh.
Mr. K. L. Rallia Ram.
Rai Sahib Chaudhri Chhotu Ram.
Mr. Moti Lal, Kaistha.
Chaudhri Muhammad Hayat Khan.
Sayad Muhammad Husain.
Diwan Bahadur Raja Narendra Nath.
Mian Beli Ram.
Rai Bahadur Lala Panna Lal.
Rai Sahib Chaudhri Raja Singh.
Mr. Manohar Lal.
Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram.
Rai Sahib Lala Thakar Das.

NOES 22

The Honourable Sir John Maynard.
The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia.
The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain.
The Honourable Lala Harkishan Lal.
Mr. R. A. Mant.
Mr. C. A. H. Townsend.
Mr. D. J. Boyd.
Mr. Miles Irving.
Mr. J. Coldstream.
Mr. A. Latifi.
Mr. C. M. King.
Mr. H. P. Tollinton.
Colonel R. Heard.
Lieut.-Col. W. C. H. Forster.
Mr. H. Calvert.
Mr. G. Anderson.
Mr. E. A. Scott.
Mian Ahmad Yar Khan, Daultana.
Malik Firoz Khan, Noon.
Pandit Daulat Ram, Kalia.
Khan Bahadur Khwaja Yusaf Shah.
Mr. Edward Ernest Clarke.

The amendment was lost.

Mr. President : The question is—

"That clause 6 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was carried.

Mr. President : The question is—

"That clause 7 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was carried.

Mr. President : The question is—

"That clauses 8 and 9 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was carried.

Mr. President : The question is—

"That clause 10 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was carried.

Mr. President : The question is—

"That clause 11 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was carried.

Mr. President : The question is—

"That this be the preamble to the Bill."

The motion was carried.

The Honourable Lala Harkishan Lal (Minister for Agriculture): Sir, I beg to move—

"That the Punjab Local Option Bill be passed."

Mr. President : The question is—

"That the Punjab Local Option Bill be passed."

The motion was carried.

THE PUNJAB OPIUM SMOKING BILL.

The Honourable Lala Harkishan Lal (Minister for Agriculture) : Sir I beg to move—

"That the Punjab Opium Smoking Bill as reported by the Select Committee be taken into consideration."

Mr. President : The question is—

"That the Punjab Opium Smoking Bill as reported by the Select Committee be taken into consideration."

The motion was carried.

Mr. President : The Council will now consider the Bill clause by clause. The question is—

"That clauses 1 to 4 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was carried.

Mr. President : The question is—

"That clause 5 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was carried.

Mr. President : The question is—

"That clauses 6 to 11 stand part of the Bill".

The motion was carried.

Mr. President : Clause 12.

Mr. J. Coldstream (Legal Remembrancer) : Sir, I beg leave to move the following amendment :—

"In clause 12, *after* the word 'arrested' the words 'and not released under section 13' *be inserted*".

Sir, section 12 as drafted says that every person arrested should be forwarded to the Magistrate. At the same time section 13 allows the person to be released by the officer arresting on his furnishing bail. It is therefore necessary, I think, that in clause 12 the words "and not released under section 13" should be inserted after the word "arrested." Therefore I move the amendment.

Mr. President : Clause under consideration, amendment moved—

"That in clause 12, after the word 'arrested' the words 'and not released under section 13' be inserted."

The question is that that amendment be made.

The motion was carried.

Mr. President : The question is—

"That clause 12 as amended stand part of the Bill."

The motion was carried.

Mr. President : The question is—

"That clauses 13 to 18 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was carried.

Mr. President : The question is—

"That this be the preamble to the Bill."

The motion was carried.

The Honourable Lala Harkishan Lal (Minister for Agriculture) Sir, I beg to move—

"That the Punjab Opium Smoking Bill be passed."

Mr. President : The question is—

"That the Punjab Opium Smoking Bill be passed."

The motion was carried.

Mr. President : The Council will now adjourn and meet again for the ordinary sitting at two o'clock. With regard to the photograph about which mention was made some days ago, it will be taken immediately after His Excellency leaves the Chamber and not before his arrival.

Has the House come to any decision about the question of translation of the proceedings in Urdu ?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : This subject may be taken up in the afternoon.

Mr. President : I do not want to deprive the non-officials of the time allotted for their business.

Diwan Bahadur Raja Narendra Nath : Now the attendance is small. There will be a bigger attendance in the afternoon and so the subject may be taken up then.

Mr. President : Very well, I have no objection.

The Council then adjourned till two of the clock.

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

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

Canal Advisory Committees.

2810. Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram: Will Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether Canal Advisory Committees have been appointed in all the Irrigation Divisions in the Civil Division of Multan;

(*b*) how many meetings of each such Committee have been held during the last year;

(*c*) what was the date of the last meeting in each Irrigation Division?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia: The information is being collected and will be placed on the table when ready.

Small Towns Committee at Serai Sidhu.

2811. Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram: (*a*) Has the Minister for Education received representations from the residents of Serai Sidhu in Multan District saying that they do not wish to have a Small Towns Committee there?

(*b*) If so, will Government be pleased to state why such a Committee is going to be established there?

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

(*b*) Serai Sidhu is the headquarters of a sub-tahsil and in the opinion of the local officials is eminently suitable to be constituted a Small Town under the Act. Full weight has been given to the views of the few residents who put in a representation against the proposal.

Retrenchment of posts of Assistant Surgeons.

2812. Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram: Will Government be pleased to state how many Assistant Surgeons with war services to their credit have been brought under reduction this year, and what are their names?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain: I regret that the answer to this question is not yet ready. It will be communicated to the honourable member when ready.

COMMUNAL REPRESENTATION AMONGST CANDIDATES FOR NAIB-TAHSILDARSHIP IN MULTAN.

2813. Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram: Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a list of candidates of each community for Naib-Tahsildarship (other than Qanungos) whose names have been accepted during the last 3 years in the Civil Division of Multan?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia: The Divisional list of Candidates for the post of Naib-Tahsildar in the Multan Division, corrected up to 1st January 1923, shows that there are 22 Naib-Tahsildar Candidates (other than Qanungos) in the Multan Division who were accepted during the 3 years 1920 to 1922. Out of the twenty-two there were fourteen Muhammadans, six Hindus and two Sikhs (twenty-two in all).

SUB-JUDGES.

2814. Khan Muhammad Abdullah Khan: (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state the percentages to total population of *Muslims*, Hindus, Sikhs and Christians, respectively, in the Punjab?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to state—

(*i*) the total number of Sub-Judges in this province irrespective of their classifications,

(*ii*) total number of Sub-Judges, 1st class,

" " " 2nd class,

" " " 3rd class,

" " " 4th class?

(*c*) Will the Government be pleased to state—

(*i*) the total number of Sub-Judges belonging to each of the four communities referred to in (*a*),

(*ii*) the total number of Sub-Judges according to their classification belonging to each of these communities?

Mr. C. A. H. Townsend: I regret that the answer to this question is not yet ready. It will be be communicated to the honourable member when ready.

DISTRICT AND SESSIONS JUDGES.

2815. Khan Muhammad Abdullah Khan: Will the Government be pleased to give the total number of officiating appointments of the posts of District and Sessions Judges filled in during the last two years ending with June 1923 and also their distribution amongst *Muslims*, Hindus, Sikhs and Christians?

Mr. C. A. H. Townsend: Of the eleven Provincial Civil Service officers appointed to officiate as District and Sessions Judges during the last two years ending with June 1923, six were Hindus, two Muhammadans and three Christians.

PERIOD FOR REDEMPTION OF MORTGAGE.

2816. Khan Muhammad Abdullah Khan: (*a*) Is the Government aware of Mr. Justice Moti Sagar's ruling restricting the period for redemption of mortgage through the Civil Courts to one year after a mortgagee's failure to redeem his mortgage under the redemption of Mortgage Act?

(*b*) Has the Government considered the injurious effects of the ruling on the rights of the agriculturist classes for whose benefit this Act was enacted?

(*c*) Does the Government intend to amend the Redemption of Mortgage Act so as to minimize the evil effect of a ruling based on analogies derived from the Transfer of Property Act which is not enforced in the Punjab.

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia: (*a*) No.

The rest of the question does not arise.

SRESHTA NITI GOVERNMENT HIGH SCHOOL, RAWALPINDI.

2817. Rai Sahib Sardar Harnam Singh: Arising out of the answer given to my question No. 2309* on 8th March 1923, will Government be pleased to state what action they intend to take to impart religious education in accordance with the conditions of the gift to Government of the building and site of the Sreshta Niti School by the late Rai Bahadur Sardar Boota Singh?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain: With reference to my reply to question No. 2309, no community has expressed a desire to make arrangements for the religious teaching of its boys inside the school outside the ordinary school hours.

AKALIS WOUNDED AT RAWALPINDI RAILWAY STATION.

2818. Rai Sahib Sardar Harnam Singh: (*a*) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a copy of the medical report received in connection with the enquiry held by the local authorities of Rawalpindi regarding the condition and number of *Akalis* wounded at the Rawalpindi Railway Station on the 30th April last when they were proceeding to Amritsar *viâ* Rawalpindi after their release from Campbellpur Jail?

(*b*) Is it a fact that the said Medical Officer inspected three places which are at a distance of about one mile from one another and examined over 425 cases within a period of 2½ hours?

(*c*) Will Government be pleased to state if the services of any local Sikh or other non-official gentlemen were requisitioned or any other persuasive measures taken to induce the *Akalis* to leave the Railway platform before obtaining the aid of police and military forces to remove them forcibly?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: (*a*) and (*b*) The information asked for will be found in the Press *Communiqué*,† dated 5th May, 1923, of which a copy is laid upon the table.

(*c*) Some local gentlemen who professed to have influence urged that they could get the *Akalis* to leave the Station premises if the police were

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* Volume IV, page 1092.
† Volume V, page 15.

withdrawn. The police were therefore removed, but the local gentlemen were unable to fulfil their undertaking.

INDIAN MEDICAL SERVICE OFFICERS IN THE PROVINCE.

2819. Pir Akbar Ali : Will the Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the services of at least six Indian Medical Service Officers have been requisitioned for the province during the last three years or so ;

(*b*) whether of these six Indian Medical Service Officers, five are Hindus and one is a European ;

(*c*) whether they have recently requisitioned the services of three more I. M. S. Officers ;

(*d*) whether there is only one *Muslim* I. M. S. Officer at the present time in the Punjab ;

(*e*) whether the population of the *Muslims* in the province is more than 50 per cent ?

(*f*) If the answers to (*a*) to (*e*) are in the affirmative, will the Government be pleased to consider the advisability of asking that the three officers now requisitioned may be *Muslims* ?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : I regret that the answer to this question is not yet ready. It will be communicated to the honourable member when ready.

NOTIFIED AREA COMMITTEE, NANKANA.

2820. Mr. Ganpat Rai : Will Government be pleased to state why the Notified Area Committee of Nankana Sahib in the Sheikhupura District has not been raised to the status of a Municipal Committee or a Small Towns Committee ?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : Absence of demand for the change and presence of consideration which rendered the maintenance of *status quo* for the time being desirable

DRAINAGE SCHEME OF NANKANA.

2821. Mr. Ganpat Rai : Will Government be pleased to state when the Drainage Scheme of Nankana Sahib is to be executed ?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : Neither Government nor the Sanitary board have received applications for any such scheme. The honourable member is advised to apply to the local body itself for the information.

ROAD FROM NANKANA RAILWAY STATION TO THE *JANAM ASTHAN*.

2822. Mr. Ganpat Rai : Is it a fact that the road from the Railway Station of Nankana Sahib to the *Janam Asthan* is in a very bad condition ? If so, will Government be pleased to have it repaired ?

The Honourable Lala Harkishan Lal : The road in question not being maintained by the Public Works Department, Government has no knowledge as to its condition. The matter will however be brought to the notice of the District Board concerned through the Commissioner, Lahore Division.

INDIAN EXECUTIVE ENGINEERS IN CHARGE OF HEAD WORKS DIVISIONS.

2823. Lala Kesho Ram: Will the Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) how many Head Works Divisions there are in the Punjab Irrigation Department;

(*b*) how many Indian Executive Engineers have held permanent charge of Head Works Divisions during the last ten years;

(*c*) how many Assistant Executive Engineers have held permanent charge of Head Works;

(*d*) if it is a fact that as a rule Head Works Divisions and sub-divisions have been under the charge of European Executive Engineers and Assistant Executive Engineers;

(*e*) if so, will the Government be pleased to state why the Indian officers have not been placed in charge of such divisions and whether they are prepared to consider the advisability of placing Indian officers in future in charge of such divisions and sub-divisions?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia:

(*a*) 9.

(*b*) 5.

(*c*) 7.

(*d*) It is not a fact that as a rule Head Works Divisions and Sub-Divisions have been under the charge of European Executive and Assistant Executive Engineers.

(*e*) *Vide* (*d*) above.

PRECEDENCE OF MR. HIPPOLETTE, MR. FORDHAM AND MR. D'AROY ON THE PUNJAB PROVINCIAL CADRE.

2824. Mr. Ganpat Rai: (*a*) Arising out of the answer given to Dr. Owen's question No. 1882 on 30th October 1922, will the Honourable the Minister for Education be pleased to lay on the table the correspondence which passed between this Government and the Government of India on the subject of the order of precedence of the following three members of the Indian Medical Department on the Punjab Provincial Cadre, *viz.*, Mr. Hippolette, Mr. Fordham and Mr. D'Aroy?

(*b*) Is it a fact that the appointments which the gentlemen mentioned in (*a*) held prior to their transfer to the Punjab were not purely provincial ones?

(*c*) Will Government be pleased to state if there are some definite rulings supporting the cases of each of the gentlemen mentioned in (*a*)?

(*d*) If not, will the Honourable the Minister for Education be pleased to refer the whole question to the Government of India for their decision and ruling and communicate the result to me?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain: (*a*) Orders as to the precedence of the officers referred to were received from the Director-General, Indian Medical Service. It is regretted that Government cannot communicate the correspondence between him and the Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals, or enter into discussion on the orders passed.

(*b*), (*c*) and (*d*). In view of (*a*) above do not arise.

RELEASE OF MARTIAL LAW PRISONERS OF AMRITSAR CITY.

2825. Lala Kesho Ram: (*a*) Will Government be pleased to state if it is a fact that the Municipal Committee of Amritsar passed the following resolution on 17th July 1923 recommending the release of Messrs. Ratto and Bugga and other Martial Law prisoners of the Amritsar City :—

> "That in view of the present instructions that His Most Gracious Majesty the King-Emperor has been pleased to issue to the Governor-General of India authorising and empowering His Excellency to grant full pardon to offenders in His Majesty's name, the Amritsar Municipality strongly recommend to His Excellency the Governor-General to exercise this right for the immediate release of all Martial Law prisoners of Amritsar City."

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to state if the above resolution was forwarded by the Punjab Government to the Governor-General of India? If so, with what recommendation and with what result?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: No resolution of the Municipal Committee, Amritsar, such as is referred to in the question has been received by Government.

RESOLUTION REGARDING INCREASING THE PAY OF PEONS.

2826. Mr. Ganpat Rai: Will Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether effect has been given to the resolution regarding increasing the pay of the peons in this province?

(*b*) if so, to what extent and in which districts of the province?

(*c*) why full effect has not been given to the resolution by Punjab Legislative Council?

(*d*) what was the total amount of pay and allowances allowed to peons of different grades before 1st January 1923 and what is the total now?

(*e*) Will Government be pleased to give full effect to that resolution at least in Lahore and other important districts of the province?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: (*a*) The reply is in the negative except as stated in reply to (*b*) below.

(*b*) The compensatory allowance of Re. 1 per mensem originally sanctioned for peons serving in Lahore was extended, with effect from 1st April 1922, to the peons serving in Lyallpur, Sargodha, Rawalpindi and Amritsar.

(c) It was discovered that to give full effect to the resolution would mean an extra expenditure of more than Rs. 1,83,238 per annum, which did not seem justified in view of the financial position of the province.

(d) The total amount, monthly, of pay and allowances allowed to peons of different grades in the whole of the province, for the month ending 31st December 1922, was Rs. 53,443 as below :—

	Rs.
Pay	52,143
Compensatory allowance of Re. 1 per mensem allowed to peons stationed at Lahore, Amritsar, Lyallpur, Sargodha and Rawalpindi ...	1,300
Total ...	53,443

The above figures are approximate. There has been no increase in pay and allowances since 31st December 1922.

Prices of food-grains have fallen considerably since the proposal was first raised and further expenditure does not seem justified in view of the financial position of the province.

ENGLISH AND VERNACULAR LOCAL DAILIES SUBSCRIBED BY GOVERNMENT.

2827. Mr. Ganpat Rai : Will Government be pleased to state what English and Vernacular Local Dailies (Newspapers) are subscribed by Government and how many copies of each such papers are so subscribed for ?

(b) Is there any ban on any such newspaper in any department of Government and, if so, why ?

Mr. C. A. H. Townsend : I regret that the answer to this question is not yet ready. It will be communicated to the honourable member when ready.

PROSECUTION OF "KESARI" AND "PARTAB."

2828. Mr. Ganpat Rai : Will Government be pleased to lay on the table the reports on which the prosecution of the *Kesari* and *Partab* newspapers were sanctioned by Government ?

Mr. C. A. H. Townsend : It is not understood what the word "reports" in the honourable member's question means. The "Kesari" was prosecuted under section 108, Criminal Procedure Code, for an article that it published on May 28, 1923.

The "Partab" was prosecuted under section 124-A and 153-A, Indian Penal Code, for an article that it published on May 31, 1923.

COMMUNAL REPRESENTATION IN ABOHAR MUNICIPALITY.

2829. Mr. Ganpat Rai : Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether their attention has been drawn to a memorial, dated 28th September, 1923, submitted by a large number of rate-payers of Abohar

Mandi in Ferozepore District to His Excellency the Governor regarding representation of Hindu and Muhammadan communities on Abohar Municipality?

(b) Will Government be pleased to lay a copy of that memorial on the table?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state what action it has taken on that memorial?

(d) Will Government be pleased to state what was the strength of Hindu and Muhammadan representation on Abohar Notified Area before its elevation to municipal status and what is the present strength on the Municipal Committee?

(e) Will Government be pleased to state on what basis the strength of Hindu members has been reduced and that of the Muhammadans increased?

(f) Will Government be pleased to state what is the total male population and the voting strength of Hindus and Muhammadans, respectively, in the above Municipality?

(g) Will Government be pleased to state what is the total of taxes paid by Hindus and Muhammadans, respectively, in the said Municipality?

(h) Will Government be pleased to give an undertaking that various objections raised in the above memorial will be duly considered?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain: The matter is under consideration.

ABOHAR MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE.

2830. Diwan Bahadur Raja Narendra Nath: Will the Honourable Minister for Education be pleased to state whether it is a fact—

(a) that the population of Abohar is 8,800, of whom 6,700 are Hindus and 2,100 are Muhammadans;

(b) that there are 1,650 Hindu voters against 400 Muhammadan voters;

(c) that for the last few years out of 10 elected members there have been 8 Hindu and 2 Muhammadan members;

(d) that under recent orders the number of Hindu elected members has been reduced from 8 to 4, that of Muhammadan members remaining the same.

If the answers to the above are in the affirmative, will the Honourable Minister for Education be pleased to state on what principle he has kept the proportion of 1 : 2 between Muhammadan and Hindu seats, the average of voting strength and population of Muhammadans giving the proportion of 1 : 3, or more accurately speaking of 7 : 24?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain: The matter is under consideration.

WATER RATE ON TURNIPS, ETC.

2831. **Khan Muhammad Saifullah Khan:** Will Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) what is the water rate charged per acre for turnips, grains and rapeseeds sown separately;

(*b*) whether a higher rate is charged on mixed crops of these commodities?

(*c*) Will the Government please consider the advisability of equalising the rates assessable on the crops named above whilst sown separately or mixed with each other?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh Majithia :
(a) and (b). The rates charged are as follows :—

Name of crop.	Present rates.																					
	Western Jumna Canal.			Sirhind Canal.			Upper Bari Doab Canal.			Lower Bari Doab Canal.			Upper Chenab Canal.			Lower Chenab Canal.			Upper Jhelum Canal.			Lower Jhelum Canal.		
	Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.
Fruits	2	8	0	3	4	0	2	12	6	2	4	0	2	4	0	2	4	0	2	4	0	2	4	0
	3	0	0	3	8	0	3	2	6	2	8	0	...			3	0	0	2	8	0	3	0	0
Gram ...	3	8	0	4	8	0	3	11	6	...			...			...			3	0	0	...		
	4	0	0	6	0	0	...			4	0	0	3	0	0	4	0	0	...			4	0	0
Oilseeds ...	4	0	0	4	0	0	3	12	6	...			...			3	12	0	...			...		
	...			...			...			5	0	0	4	0	0	...			4	0	0	5	0	0
Pulse and Gram	...			...			...			...			...			4	0	0	...			...		
Pulse and Sag	...			...			...			...			...			...			...			...		

(a) The matter has already been taken into consideration, but no final decision has been arrived as yet

CIVIL VETERINARY DEPARTMENT, NORTHERN CIRCLE.

2832. Khan Muhammad Saifullah Khan: With reference to my question No. 2026,* part (*b*), put on 10th November 1922, will the Government please give the names of the officials of Civil Veterinary Department, Northern Circle, Punjab, only who served overseas in the Great War?

The Honourable Lala Harkishan Lal: The names are—

(1) Rahmat Khan.
(2) Ghulam Hussain, II.
(3) Bhim Sain.
(4) Chanchal Singh.

CIVIL VETERINARY DEPARTMENT.

2833. Khan Muhammad Saifullah Khan: (*a*) Reference my question No. 2028,† part (*a*), put on 10th November 1922, will the Government please give the names of men promoted on account of war services in the Northern Circle of the Punjab Civil Veterinary Department since 1919?

(*b*) Will Government be pleased to give the names of those officials of the Punjab Civil Veterinary Department who have been promoted during the last five years for reasons other than war service?

The Honourable Lala Harkishan Lal: (*a*) The names are as follows:—

(1) Shahab Din, I.
(2) Mohamad Akbar Khan.
(3) Chanchal Singh.
(4) Bhim Sain.
(5) Muhammad Sarwar Shah.

(*b*) During the last five years commencing from October 1918 the following promotions were made amongst the following subordinate Veterinary staff employed in the Civil Veterinary Department as well as amongst the ranks of Deputy Superintendents:—

1. Pandit Janki Nath, M. Talib Khan. } Promoted from Inspectorship to Deputy Superintendentship.

2. (1) Sochet Singh.
(2) Muhammad Ashfaq.
(3) M. Muhammad Abdullah.
(4) Pandit Sarwan Dass.
} Promoted from 1st grade Veterinary Assistantship to Farm Overseership at the Government Cattle Farm, Hissar.

(5) Bhai Khidmat Singh.
(6) Pandit Pars Ram.
(7) Thakur Singh.
(8) Jan Muhammad.
(9) Habib Ullah.
(10) Muhammad Taqi.
(11) Harbilas.
(12) Shah Muhammad Khan.
(13) Hitya Nand.
} Promoted from 1st grade Veterinary Assistant to Inspector.

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* Volume IV, page 614.
† Volume IV, page 616.

3.	(1) M. Muhammad Abdullah, II.	Promoted from 2nd grade to 1st grade.
	(2) Shiv Ram.	
	(3) Hazura Singh.	
	(4) Hamir Singh.	
	(5) Khan Muhammad.	
	(6) Muhammad Ali Khan.	
	(7) Charag Din.	
	(8) Siraj Din.	
	(9) Muhammad Sharif.	
	(10) Jalal Muhammad Khan.	
	(11) Baldeo Singh.	Now in the Co-operative Department on deputation.
	(12) Abdul Ghani.	
	(13) Sadiq Ali Khan.	Promoted from 2nd grade to 1st grade.
	(14) Fiaz Ali.	
	(15) Mohan Ganpati.	
	(16) Sant Singh.	
	(17) Abdul Rahman.	
	(18) Bhagat Singh.	
4.	(1) Sewa Singh.	Promoted from 3rd grade to 2nd grade.
	(2) Inayat Ullah.	
	(3) Niamat Ullah.	
	(4) Karam Dad Khan.	
	(5) Sapuran Singh.	
	(6) Jawala Singh.	
	(7) Ghulam Farid.	
	(8) Barkat Ullah Khan.	
	(9) Said Ahmad.	
	(10) Ghulam Hassan.	
	(11) Ali Ahmad.	
	(12) Natha Singh.	
	(13) Jafar Ali.	
	(14) Bhagat Singh, II.	
	(15) Uttam Chand.	
	(16) Raghbir Singh.	
	(17) Muhammad Beg.	
	(18) Ghulam Hussain, I.	
	(19) Abdul Haq.	
	(20) Ghulam Hussain, III.	
	(21) Ram Krishna.	
	(22) Fazal Shah.	
	(23) Muhammad Ismail.	
	(24) Sada Ram.	
	(25) Ganda Singh.	

The above list does not include the names of those members of the staff who were temporarily promoted from one grade to another.

It also does not include names of those who were promoted during these five years but are now no longer borne on the Civil Veterinary Department list.

It excludes the names of those who were promoted permanently or *quasi*-permanently, but were subsequently reduced to lower grades as punishment or for misconduct or for neglect of duty.

AMRITSAR DISTURBANCES.

2834. Chaudhri Nabi Bakhsh: Will Government be pleased to state the exact date on which it first took measures to put a stop to the disturbances which took place in Amritsar on the 11th of April 1923 and on the 7th and 8th of May 1923, respectively?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: Government took measures to stop the disturbances in Amritsar on the dates on which these disturbances occurred.

COMPLAINTS MADE BY *MUSSALMANS* AGAINST HINDUS IN AMRITSAR.

2835. Chaudhri Nabi Bakhsh: Will the Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) the exact number of complaints made by the *Mussalmans* against the Hindus in Amritsar and how many of them have been enquired into and how many are still pending enquiry by the Police;

(*b*) the number of complaints made by *Mussalmans* upon which no action has been taken by the Police, and why?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: I regret that the answer to this question is not yet ready. It will be communicated to the honourable member when ready.

GOVERNMENT SUBSIDY TO NEWSPAPERS.

2836. Chaudhri Nabi Bakhsh: Will Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) which of the provincial papers are being subsidised by Government with the amount of subsidy given to each,

(*b*) what are the objects of such subsidies and to what head the expenditure is charged?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: (*a*) and (*b*) None of the provincial newspapers is being subsidised by Government.

SUFEDPOSHES AND LAMBARDARS IN AMRITSAR DISTRICT.

2837. Chaudhri Nabi Bakhsh: (*a*) Will Government kindly give the total number of *Sufedposhes* and *Lambardars* in the Amritsar District by communities?

(*b*) Is it a fact that in the Amritsar District the number of Muhammadan *Sufedposhes* and *Lambardars* is being reduced?

(c) If so, will Government be pleased to draw the attention of the officers concerned to this matter?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia: I regret that the answer to this question is not yet ready. It will be communicated to the honourable member when ready.

NOMINATION OF MUHAMMADANS ON THE AMRITSAR DISTRICT BOARD.

2838. Chaudhri Nabi Bakhsh: (a) Is it a fact that majority of the nominated members of the Amritsar District Board belong to the community which already enjoys a majority in the elections also?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state why the claim of Muhammadans are overlooked in making nominations on the Amritsar District Board?

(c) Will Government please draw the attention of the Deputy Commissioner and the Commissioner towards the principles obtaining regarding nominations?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain: (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) This has already been done.

COMMUNAL REPRESENTATION IN JANDIALA NOTIFIED AREA.

2839. Chaudhri Nabi Bakhsh: Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) the population and the number of voters of each community in the notified area of Jandiala, District Amritsar;

(b) the number of members belonging to each community in the above-mentioned notified area;

(c) the proportion of the number of members of each community to its population and the principles upon which the proportion was fixed;

(d) whether they are prepared to consider the question of re-adjustment of the proportions? If not, why not?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain: (a) The population of the principal communities in the notified area of Jandiala is as follows:—

Hindus and others	2,624
Muslims	4,142
Sikhs	698

As the system of election does not prevail here there are no voters.

(b) Hindus 2, Muslims 2, Sikh 1.

(c) 1,312 Hindus have one member.

2,021 Muslims have one member.

698 Sikhs have one member.

The Commissioner makes this appointment and at such short notice it is difficult to say whether the information desired can be made available.

(*d*) The question does not arise as the notified area will in due course be replaced by a Small Town Committee in which general non-communal electorates will be constituted on a territorial basis with equal franchise for all.

SMALL TOWNS COMMITTEES IN CERTAIN VILLAGES OF AMRITSAR DISTRICT.

2840. Chaudhri Nabi Bakhsh: Is it a fact that the Muhammadans of certain villages in the Amritsar District have made representations to the Government praying for the establishment of Small Towns Committees in those villages and praying also that the number of members be fixed according to population;

(*b*) What action do Government propose to take on these representations?

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

(*b*) The principle to be followed in the case of Small Towns, is laid down in paragraph 2 of Punjab Government letter No. 4015-S., dated 29th September, 1925, a copy of which is laid on the table.

No. 4015-S., dated Simla, the 29th September, 1925.

From—A. LATHE, Esq., O.B.E., I.C.S., Secretary to Government, Punjab, Transferred Departments,

To—All Commissioners of Divisions and Deputy Commissioners in the Punjab.

I AM directed to address you on the procedure to be adopted in establishing Small Towns and Small Town Committees in the Punjab. Preliminary notifications under section 3 (1) of the Small Towns Act have already issued in respect of 121 proposed small towns, and the Local Government will now proceed to consider objections, and to communicate to each Commissioner, district by district, the proposed number of nominated and elected members for each Town Committee.

2. Deputy Commissioners will then be required to divide each town into wards, each electing not more than one member, and delimited according to local convenience with natural boundaries and with an approximately equivalent population.

3. The wards as delimited will then be communicated by Commissioners to Government; and notifications under section 3 (3) of the Act (establishing the small town), under section 4 (1) (fixing the constitution) and under section 4 (2) read with rule 1 of the Small Town Electoral Rules published with Punjab Government notification No. 18388, dated the 27th June 1922 (scheduling the wards) will be issued by the Local Government. Proposals should be submitted in the forms I, II and III attached to this letter.

Draft I.
Draft II.
Draft III.

4. Deputy Commissioners are requested to frame voters' registers for each small town, and as soon as the number of elected members is communi-

cated by Government these can be divided into lists for each ward on the franchise specified in rule 2 of the Electoral Rules. Under rule 7 of the said rules every effort must be made to put these registers before the public before December 31st, 1923, in order to the holding of the first elections in all small towns on a date between the 10th April and the 10th May 1924 (rule 6 of the rules). With this object Deputy Commissioners must put through the preliminary step of division into wards and preparation of registers with expedition.

5. When the elections have been held under the rules, Commissioners will appoint nominated members as specified in the notification fixing the constitution and notify appointments and elections in the form IV, enclosed herewith. It is open to them to nominate an official or a non-official. Instructions on this subject will be issued later.

6. Where a small town is being established in succession to a notified area, the Notified Area Committee should remain in office until the appointments and elections to the Town Committee have been notified by Commissioners.

IRRIGATION OF AREA BETWEEN THE RAVI AND SAKKI NALLAH.

2841. Chaudhri Nabi Bakhsh: Will Government be pleased to state whether they have under consideration any scheme for bringing under irrigation the area which lies in the Amritsar District between the Ravi River and Sakki Nallah. If not, will Government be pleased to give their consideration to the matter?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia: I regret that the answer to this question in not yet ready. It will be communicated to the honourable member when ready.

TAHSILDARS AND NAIB-TAHSILDARS IN AMRITSAR DISTRICT.

2842. Chaudhri Nabi Bakhsh: Will Government be pleased to state the number of Tahsildars and Naib-Tahsildars appointed in the Amritsar District during the last 20 years and how many of them were Muhammadans?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia: The collection of this information will not be worth the trouble involved which will be considerable.

GRANT OF LAND TO RESIDENTS OF AMRITSAR DISTRICT IN COLONIES.

2843. Chaudhri Nabi Bakhsh: Will Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of residents of Amritsar District who have been granted squares of land in the Colonies;

(*b*) the number of such grantees per community;

(*c*) the number of squares of land granted to each community;

(*d*) if it is a fact that Muhammadans have not benefited from these grants in proportion to their population?

(*e*) If the answers to the above are in the affirmative, will Government kindly keep an eye on the interests of Muhammadans in the matter?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia: The collection of the information would entail more time and expense than the Government are prepared to incur.

COMMUNAL REPRESENTATION IN PROVINCIAL EDUCATIONAL SERVICE.

2844. **Chaudhri Nabi Bakhsh:** Will Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) The number of officers per community who are on the Provincial Education Cadre?

(*b*) Is the proportion in the cadre in accordance with the populations? If not, why not?

(*c*) Will Government be pleased to accord a preference to the members of that community which is backward in education?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain: The following information is submitted:—

(*a*)—

Hindus ... ... = 39 (or 50·6 per cent).

Muhammadans ... ... = 24 (or 31·2 „).

Sikhs ... ... = 9 (or 11·7 „).

Christians ... ... = 5 (or 6·5 „).

(*b*) No.

(*c*) Government does its best to encourage all communities. This question was discussed at some length by the Director of Public Instruction in his last report to which the honourable member is referred.

MUSLIM RAJPUTS IN PROVINCIAL EDUCATIONAL SERVICE.

2845. **Chaudhri Nabi Bakhsh:** Will Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of *Muslim* Rajputs in the Provincial Educational Service;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that their number is very small?

(*c*) If so, will Government kindly accord preference to the members of this community in their appointments to the Provincial Educational Service?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain:

(*a*) Five.

(*b*) This is a matter of opinion.

(*c*) Government does its best to encourage all communities.

COMMUNAL ELECTORATES FOR ELECTION OF DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS.

2846. Mian Ahmad Yar Khan, Daultana : Will Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) Whether it is a fact that Hindus form a minority in the District Boards of Lyallpur, Sargodha, Multan, Dera Ghazi Khan, Jhelum, Rawalpindi, Attock and Muzaffargarh ? If so, will Government be pleased to state what steps they have taken for the representation of Hindus as elected members in the District Boards mentioned above ?

(*b*) Whether it is a fact that Muhammadans form a minority in the District Boards of Amritsar, Lahore, Ferozepore, Gurdaspur, Jullundur, Ludhiana, Hissar, Karnal and Hoshiarpur ? If so, will Government be pleased to state what steps they have taken for the representation of *Mussalmans* as elected members in the District Boards mentioned above ?

(*c*) Whether Hindus or *Mussalmans* in some of the districts mentioned above have asked for separate communal electorates for election of District Board members, and, if so, whether local officers in several cases supported them ?

(*d*) Whether they have rejected all such representations and recommendations ?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : The honourable member's attention is invited to the Note on the reconstitution of the Municipal Committees and District Boards of the Punjab, a copy of which has been supplied to him.

BATALA MUNICIPALITY.

2847. Malik Firoz Khan, Noon : Will Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) Whether it is a fact that *Mussalmans* are nearly double in population as well as in voting strength in the city of Batala as against non-*Muslims* ?

(*b*) Whether it is a fact that *Mussalmans* in Batala are under the formula laid down by Government, *viz.*, representation should be in proportion to population as modified by voting strength entitled to 8 seats out of 12 elected seats ?

(*c*) Whether it is a fact that the wards before the reconstitution of the municipality were so constituted that the number of wards in which *Muslim* voters preponderated was smaller than those in which non-*Muslim* voters preponderated ?

(*d*) Whether it is a fact that under the reconstitution scheme the wards are so constituted that in only 6 wards do *Muslims* preponderate as against non-*Muslims* ?

(*e*) Whether it is a fact that in one of the wards all candidates having withdrawn no election was held ; if so, who was nominated ?

(*f*) The number of elected and nominated *Muslims* as against the number of elected and nominated non-*Muslims*.

(*g*) The number of Sikhs and Christians in population and voting strength, respectively ?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : (*a*) Yes, approximately, which has been circulated to honourable members.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) No, in 7.

(*e*) Yes in Ward No. 11, no one has yet been nominated.

(*f*) Nominations have not yet been made.

(*g*) The number of Sikhs as given at entry No. 57 of statements I and III published with the note on the reconstitution of the local bodies in the Punjab, but the number of Christians is not at present available.

ACTION TAKEN IN POLICE DEPARTMENT ON THE REPORT OF THE CORRUPTION COMMITTEE.

2848. Maulvi Muharram Ali, Chishti : Will the Government be pleased to state how many Police Officers have been fined, censured, degraded or dismissed on the basis of the recommendations made by the Corruption Committee ? (Please note the names and post of each officer.)

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : I regret that the answer to this question is not yet ready. It will be communicated to the honourable member when ready.

THE CORRUPTION COMMITTEE.

2849. Maulvi Muharram Ali, Chishti : Will Government be pleased to state the names (with description) of the officers who have been punished for corruption in all the departments, since the publication of the report of the Corruption Committee ? (Please state the nature of punishment awarded in each case.)

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : Reference is invited to the replies given to question Nos. 2785,* and 2802†.

PANIPAT RIOTS.

2850. Maulvi Muharram Ali, Chishti : Will Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) Whether it is a fact that disturbances have occurred at Panipat on account of Hindu-Muhammadan tension with reference to the performance of religious rites?

(*b*) Whether it is a fact that punitive police has been posted at Panipat ? If so, what is the strength of the force and what is its monthly expense ?

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*Volume V, page 271.
†Volume V, page 281.

(c) How many Hindus and how many Muhammadans have been put on security under the Criminal Procedure Code?

(d) How many Hindus and how many Muhammadans have been ordered to be enlisted as Special Constables?

(e) Whether it is a fact that the Muhammadans were prohibited from saying their evening prayers in six mosques and the Hindus from performing their *Sandhia Arti* in four temples?

(f) Whether there is any precedent of a similar order having been promulgated in the province since the advent of the British Rule?

(g) Whether it is a fact that the said orders were rescinded after more than six weeks? Did the Government take any initiative in having these orders rescinded?

(h) Whether the Hindus are now acting upon the advice of the District Magistrate which was given in his order, dated 25th September 1923, that they should "perform their *Arti* a few minutes later so as not to let it clash with Muhammadan prayers which last only seven minutes"? If not, what action does Government propose to take in the matter?

(i) Whether they would be pleased to consider the desirability of appointing a committee of officials and non-officials to make a full enquiry into the circumstances which created the present situation at Panipat?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: (a) Yes.

(b) Yes. The strength of the Punitive Police Force employed at Panipat is as follows:—

Sub-Inspectors of Police	...	...	Two.
Head Constables of Police	...	...	Eight.
Foot Constables of Police	...	...	Fifty-eight.

The total monthly expenditure on the force is Rs. 2,290-8-2.

(c) Seventeen Hindus and twenty Muhammadans were placed on security under section 107, Criminal Ponal Code, to keep the peace.

(d) Forty-five Hindus and seventy-two Muhammadans have been enrolled as special constables.

(e) Yes. This action was taken under section 144, Criminal Procedure Code, by the District Magistrate, Karnal, after he and the Commissioner of the Division had failed to bring about a compromise between the parties.

(f) The answer is in the negative. It may be pointed out that the orders were promulgated with the concurrence of the representatives of the two communities, neither of which applied for revision of the orders.

(g) The orders were rescinded on September 25th.

With regard to the second portion of the question, Government has no legal control over the proceedings of magistrates as such.

(*h*) The Hindus are not acting fully up to the District Magistrate's advice relating to the performance of the *Arti* a few minutes later, but they are performing it with restraint. This, however, is not acceptable to the Muhammadans. The matter is engaging the attention of Government.

(*i*) Government does not consider that the appointment of a committee as suggested would answer any useful purpose.

MEDICAL EXAMINATION OF CANDIDATES FOR GOVERNMENT SERVICE.

2851. Maulvi Muharram Ali, Chishti: (*a*) Will Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that under the Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals, Punjab's circular letter No. 5874-Genl., dated the 23rd June, 1920, Heads of Departments cannot ask Civil Surgeons for information as to their reasons for rejecting candidates sent up for medical examination under Fundamental Rule 10?

(*b*) If so, will Government be pleased to consider the advisability of directing the Civil Surgeons of the province to inform the rejected candidates through the Heads of their Departments of the nature of their diseases, if so desired by the candidates themselves?

(*c*) If the reply to (*b*) be in the negative, will the Government kindly state its reasons?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain: I regret that the answer to this question is not yet ready. It will be communicated to the honourable member when ready.

2852. Maulvi Muharram Ali, Chishti: (*a*) Is it a fact that under Article 40 of the Civil Service Regulations, candidates could produce the requisite health certificate either from a Commissioned Medical Officer or from the Civil Surgeon of a District; whereas rule 2 under Fundamental Rule 10 issued with Finance Department No. 1058, dated the 18th January, 1922, says that the certificate shall be that of the Civil Surgeon of the District in which the candidate applies for employment unless the Head of the Office or of the Department, in which the candidate seeks service, directs that the Civil Surgeon of some other district should grant the certificate?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state why Commissioned Medical Officers have been excluded from the above rule? Have they been ignored for want of confidence or competence or any other reasons.

(*c*) If not, will the Government be pleased to consider the advisability of including the Commissioned Medical Officers as well in the rule in question, as was laid down in Article 40 of the Civil Service Regulations?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain: I regret that the answer to this question is not yet ready. It will be communicated to the honourable member when ready.

HONORARY MAGISTRATES TO PASS THE LOWER STANDARD TEST.

2853. Maulvi Muharram Ali, Chishti: Will Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) if it is a fact that some of the Honorary Magistrates of the Punjab have been asked by the Deputy Commissioners to pass the test, in the lower standard, prescribed for candidates for the post of Extra Assistant Commissioners and they have been further directed that failing to show their readiness to undertake to do so, they should resign ;

(*b*) to which districts of the Punjab has this order been made applicable ;

(*c*) Whether the Deputy Commissioners of the Districts concerned have done this on their own initiative or under the orders of the Government ?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : (*a*) & (*b*) Government has no information on the subject, but attention is invited to rule 5 of the rules for the appointment of Honorary Magistrates of which a copy is laid upon the table.

(*c*) No orders on the subject have issued from Government beyond the rules already mentioned.

No. 1564-S., dated Simla, the 7th July, 1923.

From—D. J. BOYD, Esq., I.C.S., Home Secretary to Government, Punjab,

To—(1) The Registrar, High Court of Judicature at Lahore.
(2) All Commissioners and Deputy Commissioners in the Punjab.

SUBJECT :—*Rules for the appointment of Honorary Magistrates and Honorary Subordinate Judges in the Punjab.*

I AM directed by the Governor in Council to forward for (1) the information of the Hon'ble Judges, (2) your information and guidance, a copy of the rules regarding the appointment of Honorary Magistrates and Honorary Subordinate Judges in the Punjab, and to request that these rules may be observed in making all future proposals.

Rules for the appointment of Honorary Magistrates and Honorary Subordinate Judges.

(1) Appointments should be made solely for the benefit of the public and not for the sake of rewarding the person appointed. They may, however, be made on the ground that the gentleman appointed has hereditary or feudal influence in the area concerned.

(2) *Qualifications for appointment* :—

The person appointed must possess ability, commonsense, a sense of justice and sufficient knowledge of law and procedure.

Other qualifications for 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.

(3) (*a*) Proposals for nomination and appointment should be made officially and not confidentially. They should be submitted to Government by the District Magistrate through the Commissioner in cases of first appointments as Honorary Magistrates, and by the District Judge through the High Court in the case of Honorary Subordinate Judges.

(*b*) Whenever it is proposed to confer judicial powers of any class upon retired Government officials who have exercised judicial powers while in the service of Government and in all cases in which it is proposed to confer judicial powers of the 1st class on any person, the recommendation should be submitted through the Judges of the High Court.

(*c*) In cases of re-appointment and enhancement of powers of Honorary Magistrates, recommendations should be made by the District Magistrate in consultation with the District Judge and should then be forwarded by the Commissioner through the High Court to the Local Government. In the case of re-appointments of Honorary Subordinate Judges, the proposal should be submitted by the District Judge through the High Court as in the case of first appointments.

(4) The original appointment should be for three years with the proviso that it may be terminated or suspended by Government at any time.

(5) Honorary Magistrates should be encouraged to pass the Extra Assistant Commissioners' Departmental Examination by the lower standard.

(6) *Age.*—The limits of age are 30 and 65 years, but neither limit is to be regarded as hard and fast.

(7) The court of every Honorary Magistrate, Bench or Subordinate Judge, should be inspected at least once a year by an experienced judicial officer, whose report should be submitted by the District and Sessions Judge through the High Court to Government.

(8) Honorary Magistrates and Subordinate Judges should sit at Tahsil headquarters or in a town and should hold their court in a fixed place not used as residential quarters. They should observe the regular court hours.

APPOINTMENTS OF HONORARY MAGISTRATES.

2854. Maulvi Muharram Ali, Chishti: Will Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) Whether they have considered the report of the Committee appointed to consider the question of the future appointments of Honorary Magistrates?

(*b*) When was the report received by the Government?

(*c*) Whether final orders have been passed on the report?

(*d*) If not, will the Government be pleased to state the reasons for the delay and to state the approximate time when the report of the Committee, together with the opinion of their Lordships of the Lahore High Court thereon and the final orders of the Government, will be published?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The report was received on or immediately after the 14th February, 1923.

(*c*) Yes. The orders were issued on 7th July, 1923.

(*d*) Reference is invited to the proceedings laid on the table with the reply to question No. 2713*.

GRANT OF JAGIRS.

2855. Maulvi Muharram Ali, Chishti: Will Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) how many new Jagirs have been granted by them since January 1st, 1921, up till now;

(*b*) the names of the grantees;

(*c*) what conditions have been attached to the Jagirs;

(*d*) whether the Jagirs, in each separate case, were for the life of the grantee or hereditary?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia: The attention of the honourable member is invited to the proceedings of the Government of the Punjab in the Department of Revenue and Agriculture Free-Grants No. 3705, dated 4th February, 1922, and No. 4117, dated 27th March, 1923, published in the Government Gazette dated 10th February, 1922, and 30th March, 1923, respectively.

ASSISTANT JAILORS.

2856. Maulvi Muharram Ali, Chishti: Will Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) Whether it is a fact that an official circular was issued by the Heads of the Jails Department, in August last, to the effect that for each delay in submission of the returns, etc., a fine of four annas per day is to be realised from the Assistant Jailors?

(*b*) If so, what is total amount of the fine thus realised?

(*c*) The names of the Assistant Jailors from whom the fine was realised; the amount of the fine realised from each one of them and also the amount of their salaries?

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*Volume V, pages 204—213.

(*d*) Whether it is a fact that the circular in question, though issued in August, has been given retrospective effect from the three previous months? If so, will the Government be pleased to quote the regulations under which such a procedure is permissible?

(*e*) Whether the circular has been extended to the Head Office of the Jails Department and other Government Offices also? If not, why not? And why an exception has been made in the case of Assistant Jailors only?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: I regret that the answer to this question is not yet ready. It will be communicated to the honourable member when ready.

PROVINCIAL CIVIL SERVICE OFFICERS AND SUPERIOR POSTS.

2857. Maulvi Muharram Ali, Chishti: (*a*) Will Government be pleased to state what effect has been given to the resolution of this Council recommending the appointment of 25 per cent. of Provincial Civil Service Officers to superior posts?

(*b*) Is it a fact that Government contemplate augmenting the number of selection posts on the executive side of the Provincial Civil Service?

(*c*) If so, will the Government be pleased to state the approximate time within which the sanction to this scheme will be accorded?

Mr. C. A. H. Townsend: I regret that the answer to this question is not yet ready. It will be communicated to the honourable member when ready.

LAHORE MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE AND FILLING UP OF VACANT SEATS.

2858. Maulvi Muharram Ali, Chishti: Will Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) how many seats of Hindu, Muhammadan, Sikh and Christian Municipal Commissioners are now vacant in the Lahore Municipal Committee;

(*b*) when will the new elections of the Committee take place?

Will the Government hold any bye-elections in the *interim*?

(*c*) Whether the Deputy Commissioner of Lahore offered a seat in the Committee to Rai Bahadur Lala Narinjan Das and did he agree to accept it on a certain undertaking being given to him? If so, what was the undertaking asked for and was it given or not?

(*d*) Whether any of the vacant seats were offered to any other Hindu gentlemen? If so, with what result and what are the names of the gentlemen concerned?

(*e*) Whether they have come to a final decision with regard to the number of seats to be allotted to each community in the Lahore Municipal Committee? If so, what is the number of seats allotted to each community?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain: (*a*) 7, 1, 1, 3, respectively.

(*b*) It is proposed to hold the new elections as soon as possible.

(*c*) The Deputy Commissioner did not offer a seat to the gentleman named; but he reported to Government that the gentleman was willing to accept nomination if he were considered for re-nomination to the re-constituted Committee. Government, however, could not commit itself to an indefinite undertaking of this sort.

(*d*) The question not being clear it is regretted that it cannot be answered.

(*e*) The honourable member is referred to Punjab Government notification No. 23749, dated the 11th October, 1923 (a copy of which is laid on the table)*, for the constitution of the Lahore Municipal Committee as now finally fixed by Government.

PROFESSOR GHULAM HUSAIN.

2859. Maulvi Muharram Ali, Chishti: (*a*) Is it a fact that Professor Ghulam Hussain is being detained by the Punjab Government under Regulation III of 1818? If so, since what date?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to state the names of all other persons detained under the said Regulation together with the dates of their detention?

(*c*) Is the Government prepared to adopt the same procedure as adopted by the Bengal Government in case of persons detained under the said Regulation (*viz.*, submitting the charges against such detenues and the evidence on which they rest to the scrutiny of two Hon'ble Judges of the High Court and allowing the detenues concerned to personally attend and give their explanations before the Judges)?

(*d*) If not, will the Government be pleased to state its reasons?

Mr. C. A. H. Townsend: (*a*) Yes; from 12th June, 1923.

(*b*) No other prisoners are detained at present in the Punjab under the Regulation.

(*c*) Government is not aware of the procedure adopted in Bengal. Detentions under the Regulation are made under the authority of the Governor General in Council and the Regulation does not provide for a reference to the High Court. This Government is not prepared to accept the suggestion of the honourable member.

(*d*) In view of the reasons given in (*c*) above, does not arise.

ACTION ON RESOLUTIONS PASSED BY THE COUNCIL.

2860. Maulvi Muharram Ali, Chishti: Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a list of all the resolutions of the Council on which no action has been taken by Government up to this time with remarks in each case as to whether the proposals embodied in the resolution were rejected totally or postponed and also stating the reasons for such rejection or

*(Not printed.

postponement? In case of postponements it may be shown whether the proposals were indefinitely postponed or for some definite period? If for a definite period, the length of the period may be stated?

Mr. C. A. H. Townsend: The honourable member's attention is drawn to Punjab Government notifications:—

No. 25851, dated 22nd October, 1921;

No. 5482, dated 17th February, 1923;

No. 6574, dated 26th February, 1923;

No. 18768, dated 11th July, 1923;

which show the action taken by Government on the resolutions passed by the Legislative Council. It is regretted that the further detailed information which he requires cannot be furnished without an amount of labour which Government considers incommensurate to the value of the information required.

MUHARRAM HOLIDAYS.

2861. Maulvi Muharram Ali, Chishti: With reference to the announcement in the *Punjab Gazette*, dated 13th July, 1923 (under notification No. 18768), to the effect that the question of increase in the number of Muharram holidays was under consideration, will the Government be pleased to state whether it has now considered the question? If not, will the Government be able to announce its final decision before the dissolution of this Council?

Mr. C. A. H. Townsend: The honourable member is referred to the reply already given to Council Question No. 2640.*

Chaudhri Muhammad Amin: Sir, I have a supplementary question. Can Government please quote the paragraph of the Retrenchment Committee's Report in which it has been recommended that the number of religious holidays should be reduced?

Mr. C. A. H. Townsend: I am afraid, I must ask for notice of that question.

OVERLAPPING AMONGST THE BRANCHES OF PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, IRRIGATION, BUILDINGS AND ROADS AND DISTRICT BOARDS.

2862. Maulvi Muharram Ali, Chishti: Has the Government now considered the question of the appointment of the committee referred to in item (7) under notification No. 18768 published in the *Punjab Gazette* dated 13th July, 1923? If so, what is the constitution of the committee? If not, will the Government appoint the committee before the dissolution of this Council?

The Honourable Lala Harkishan Lal: Government is still considering the question of the appointment of a Committee to enquire into the alleged overlapping of duties between the Buildings and Roads and Irrigation Branches of the Public Works Department and District Boards. The delay in

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*Volume V, page 137.

notifying the constitution of the Committee is due to preparation of certain data without which it will be difficult for the Committee to make any headway. Every endeavour is being made to expedite the matter and it is hoped to make an announcement shortly.

MADRAS MUNICIPAL CORPORATION AND OATH OF ALLEGIANCE.

2863. Maulvi Muharram Ali, Chishti : Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table the answer to my question No. 1668* put by me on 8th August, 1922 ?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : The answer is laid on the table.

Answer to Question No. 1668.

With reference to the reply given to Council question No. 1668 the attention of the honourable member is invited to section 6 of the Punjab Municipal (Amendment) Act, 1923, which received the assent of His Excellency the Governor-General on the 24th April, 1923, and is now law. As an oath of allegiance is now obligatory in the Punjab before a Municipal Commissioner can take his seat, the Government consider it unnecessary to pursue the enquiry.

LUDHIANA MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE.

2864. Maulvi Muharram Ali, Chishti : With reference to the statement published in the *Punjab Government Gazette*, page 392, dated 24th August, 1923, will the Government be pleased to state whether the voting strength of the various communities at Ludhiana as given in the statement (*viz.*, Muslims 3,376, Sikhs 150, Hindus and others 2,965) is wrong and the correct figures are Muslims 3,785, Hindus and others 2,353 ?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : The voting strength noted in the statement is based on the figures supplied by the Deputy Commissioner in 1922. The Deputy Commissioner has already been requested to state whether the alleged mistake really exists.

INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF CRIMES.

2865. Maulvi Muharram Ali, Chishti : Will the Government be pleased to state whether they have come to a decision as to the future action, if any, which it is intended to take in order to meet the situation of an abnormal increase in the number of crimes of all sorts in the Punjab and if so, give detailed exposition of that intended action ?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : I regret that the answer to this question is not yet ready. It will be communicated to the honourable member when ready.

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*Volume IV, page 329.

BURGLARY IN THE HOUSE OF ASSISTANT SURGEON, TALAGANG.

2866. **Mr. Manohar Lal:** (*a*) Is the Government aware of the burglary committed in the house of the Assistant Surgeon, Talagang Dispensary, on the night of the 13-14th August, 1923 and the great loss suffered by him in consequence of the burglary ?

(*b*) Is it a fact that there was no chaukidar sanctioned for the Talagang Dispensary ?

(*c*) Is it a fact that the Assistant Surgeon had requested even before the occurrence of the burglary for the sanction of a chaukidar for the dispensary but that the Deputy Commissioner had refused to accord the sanction ?

(*d*) Is it a fact that even after the occurrence of the burglary sanction has not yet been given for the employment of a chaukidar and that the Assistant Surgeon has engaged one in anticipation of sanction ?

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

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: I regret that the answer to this question is not yet ready. It will be communicated to the honourable member when ready.

2867. **Mr. Manohar Lal:** (*a*) Is it a fact that the police has not so far been able to trace the culprits of the burglary committed in the house of the Assistant Surgeon, Talagang Dispensary ?

(*b*) If so, will the Government consider the desirability of detailing a special responsible police officer to investigate the case thoroughly ?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: I regret that the answer to this question is not yet ready. It will be communicated to the honourable member when ready.

GRANTS OF LAND, ETC., TO CIVIL OFFICERS.

2868. **Sardar Sangat Singh:** Will Government be pleased to lay upon the table a statement showing—

(*a*) the names of all the civil officers, Tahsildars, Munsifs, Sub-Judges, Extra Assistant Commissioners and Police officers who have been rewarded by (*i*) grants of land (free of cost), (*ii*) sales of Government lands on concession rates, and (*iii*) jagirs since the outbreak of the war till now for war services ;

(*b*) the names of the officers on whose recommendations such awards were made ;

(*c*) the nature of the war services rendered ?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia: The labour of obtaining the information which is scattered over numerous records is incommensurate with any public advantage it may be intended to serve and it is regretted that Government cannot undertake to supply it.

SIKHS IN POLICE DEPARTMENT.

2869. Sardar Dasaundha Singh : Will the Government be pleased to state the number of Sikhs in the Police Department in the grades of Superintendent of Police, Assistant Superintendent of Police, Deputy Superintendent of Police, Inspector and Sub-Inspector in January, 1921 and in September, 1923 ?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : The following statement gives the information required so far as it can be obtained during the sessions of this Council :—

Statement showing the number of Sikhs in the Police Department in various grades in January, 1921 and September, 1923.

Grade.	In January, 1921.	In September, 1923.
Superintendents of Police	*Nil*	*Nil*
Assistant Superintendents of Police	1	2
Deputy Superintendents of Police	3	4*
Inspectors	26	18
Sub-Inspectors	Not available.	

* Includes one Honorary Deputy Superintendent of Police.

SIKHS IN IMPERIAL AND PROVINCIAL EDUCATIONAL SERVICE.

2870. Sardar Dasaundha Singh : Will Government be pleased to state the number of Sikhs and Muhammadans separately in the Education Department in the Imperial Service, and in the Provincial Service in January, 1921 and in September, 1923 ?

The Honourable Khan Bahaudr Mian Fazl-i-Husain : A reply to this question will be found in the reply given to Council Question No. 2630.*

SIKHS IN MEDICAL DEPARTMENT.

2871. Sardar Dasaundha Singh : Will Government be pleased to state the number of Sikhs in the Medical Department in the Assistant Surgeon grade in January, 1921 and in September, 1923 ?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain : I regret that the answer to this question is not yet ready. It will be communicated to the honourable member when ready.

* Volume V, page 134.

SIKHS IN JUDICIAL SERVICE.

2872. **Sardar Dasaundha Singh:** Will Government be pleased to state the number of Sikhs in the Judicial Service as Extra Assistant Commissioners, Sub-Judges or Munsifs in January, 1921 and in September, 1923?

Mr. C. A. H. Townsend: The honourable member will find the information he desires in the Punjab Civil Lists for January, 1921 and October, 1923.

SIKHS IN REVENUE AND EXECUTIVE LINES.

2873. **Sardar Dasaundha Singh:** Will Government be pleased to state the number of Sikhs in the Revenue and Executive lines as Extra Assistant Commissioners, Tahsildars and Naib-Tahsildars in January, 1921 and in September, 1923?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia: I regret that the answer to this question is not yet ready. It will be communicated to the honourable member when ready.

COMMUNAL REPRESENTATION AMONGST PUBLIC PROSECUTORS.

2874. **Sardar Dasaundha Singh:** Will Government be pleased to state the number of Hindus, Muhammadans and Sikhs as Public Prosecutors in January, 1921 and in October, 1923?

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: In January, 1921, Public Prosecutors were divided among the different communities as follows:—

15 Hindus, 1 Sikh, 8 Muhammadans, 1 Christian.

In October, 1923 the figures are 15 Hindus, 1 Sikh, 10 Muhammadans and 1 Christian.

COMMUNAL REPRESENTATION AMONGST DISTRICT AND SESSIONS JUDGES.

2875. **Sardar Dasaundha Singh:** Will Government be pleased to state the number of Hindus, Muhammadans and Sikhs as District and Sessions Judges and District Magistrates in January, 1921 and in September, 1923?

Mr. C. A. H. Townsend: The honourable member is referred to Part II-E., of the Punjab Quarterly Civil Lists for January, 1921 and July, 1923, which contain the required information.

SIKH REPRESENTATION ON COMMUNAL BASIS IN VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS.

2876. **Sardar Dasaundha Singh:** Will the Government be pleased to state what steps, if any, they propose to take to give to the Sikhs their proper share on the communal basis in the various Departments?

Mr. C. A. H. Townsend: It is regretted that the meaning of the honourable member is not sufficiently clear for a reply to be given to his question.

DISTRICT BOARD ELECTIONS.

2877. Sardar Dasaundha Singh: Will Government be pleased to state if any communication was addressed by the Government to Deputy Commissioners to reconstitute the areas for election of District Board members in such a way as to bring in more Muhammadans in the election than before?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain: No. Paragraph 9 of the Note on the Reconstitution of the Municipal Committees and District Boards of the Punjab, a copy of which has already been supplied to the honourable member, deals with this subject.

LAND REVENUE, ETC., PAID BY SIKHS AND MUHAMMADANS IN LUDHIANA DISTRICT.

2878. Sardar Dasaundha Singh: Will Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) the total land revenue paid by Sikhs and Muhammadans in the Ludhiana District;

(*b*) the total area of land held by the said communities, respectively;

(*c*) the population of Sikhs and Muhammadans in the District;

(*d*) the number of Sikh and Muhammadan members of the District Board, respectively.

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia: (*a*) and (*b*) Information regarding these is not available.

(*c*) Sikhs ... ... 285,721.

Muhammadans ... ... 192,961.

(*d*) The number of Sikh and Muhammadan members of the District Board is 21 and 10, respectively.

CONTRACT FOR WOODWORK GIVEN TO MESSRS. SPEDDING AND CO.

2879. Sardar Dasaundha Singh: Will the Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) Why the whole contract for woodwork for the broadly scattered centres of construction was given to Spedding and Co.?

(*b*) Whether it is a fact that no tenders were called when the contract was given?

(*c*) Whether it is a fact that rates allowed to Spedding and Co. are much higher than the market rates and that many contractors are prepared to do the work on considerably reduced rates?

(*d*) If the answers to the above are in affirmative, will the Government be pleased to make a thorough enquiry into the matter and take necessary steps to set the whole thing right?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia: I regret that the answer to this question is not yet ready. It will be communicated to the honourable member when ready.

RELIEF MEASURES FOR ZAMINDARS.

2880. Sardar Dasaundha Singh: (*a*) Is it a fact that the marked fall in the price of grain has very considerably reduced the income of zamindars, while the cost of farm labour, cattle, etc., remains stationary?

(*b*) If so, will the Government be pleased to devise means for the relief of the zamindars?

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia: Government is not of opinion that the recent fluctuations in the value of agricultural produce and the comparative stability of other markets have produced a state of affairs that demands Government intervention.

RESIGNATION OF THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION.

2881. Maulvi Muharram Ali, Chishti: Will the Honourable the Minister for Education kindly state whether he has resigned his post? If so, from what date? Will he be pleased to lay on the table a copy of his resignation if really tendered? If not, will he state his reasons for withholding the information from the House?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain: The answer to the first part is in the negative, and therefore the rest of the question calls for no answer.

RESIGNATION OF THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE.

2882. Maulvi Muharram Ali, Chishti: Will the Honourable the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state whether he has resigned his post? If so, from what date and will he be pleased to lay on the table a copy of his resignation? If not, will he state his reasons for withholding the information from the House?

Mr. C. A. H. Townsend: The Minister for Agriculture has not resigned, but has obtained His Excellency's permission to resign from the 1st of November next. The rest of the question therefore requires no answer.

PUBLICATION OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE COUNCIL IN URDU.

Mr. President: The ordinary time for settling the little matter of the publication of the proceedings would be the present, but I am sorry to say that the House is rather thin. Lest it should be thinner still in the afternoon, we might dispose of it now. The proposal is that the translation of the proceedings of the Council should be regularly published in Urdu. I may explain that we can provide money from the Council budget. The cost would be Rs. 4,000 per annum. We can provide money this year and probably for next year. Of course if the money is spent on this publication, there is no chance of its lapsing. Nor will it be available for any other unforeseen expenditure.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: Before forming my opinion I should like to feel assured that the estimate of expense includes all the expenses likely to be incurred, *e.g.*, the employment of a skilled translator would mean a large expenditure, then there is the lithographing.

Mr. President : An estimate was obtained from the press for the actual expenses of preparing the lithographing stones and for the paper and printing, and it came, I think, to Rs. 2,880. I thought that the employment of a skilled translator would bring the amount to a little over Rs. 4,000 but under Rs. 5,000. I will now take the voting.

There were 15 for and 4 against the proposal.

Mr. President : I will represent this state of affairs to His Excellency and he will decide what is to be done.

RESOLUTIONS.

RESOLUTION RE THE TIME OF PAYMENT OF LAND REVENUE IN THE TREASURY.

Mr. President : The resolution under discussion is—

> "That this Council recommends to the Government that the time for the payment of land revenue in the Treasury be extended by two months, *i.e.*, the date be changed for *kharif* from 1st of January to the end of February and for *rabi* from 1st of August to the end of September."

(Chaudhri Ali Akbar [Kangra-*cum*-Gurdaspur (Muhammadan), Rural] (Urdu) : Sir, the zamindars will neither gain nor lose anything by the passing of this resolution. The mover wishes that two months more be given to the zamindars to facilitate the payment of revenue, but I can say from my own experience that there is no difficulty in the present system. Rice ripens in November and the peasants sell their produce by December. The *rabi* crops (wheat) are sold as late as June, and the zamindars have sufficient money to meet their liabilities. If you change the date to the end of February it will mean that the peasants will have spent the proceeds of the sale of rice. They cannot save money, sometimes they have calamities to face, or there are marriages, etc., and forgetful of the payment of revenue they spend the money. Similarly, the *rabi* is ready in June, and, in my opinion, there are no crops worth considering except the wheat. If time be allowed up to the 15th of August, it will be better, as it will satisfy the mover.

In my district there are no rich landholders, so the farmers of my district cannot afford to keep their produce by them. Therefore, in my opinion, some time should be allowed, but not as much as the mover wishes.

Mian Bel Ram [Hoshiarpur (Non-Muhammadan), Rural] (Urdu) : Sir, I do not see the necessity of wasting so much time on this discussion. The thing can be arranged through local officers. The honourable the Financial Commissioner has already said that in case of a complaint the Deputy Commissioner should be informed and he would take necessary steps. The whole affair can be arranged amicably by a meeting of the leading zamindars in the local district boards, where their opinion can be ascertained. There is no need for passing a resolution in the Council.

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain (Minister for Education) : I move, Sir—

"That the question be now put."

Mr. President : The question is—

"That the question be now put."

The motion was carried.

Sardar Randhir Singh [Sialkot-*cum*-Gurdaspur (Sikh), Rural] (Urdu) : Sir, no doubt I know there is already some time given to the zamindars, but I wish that the period be prolonged by two months. If Mr. King will give an assurance that he will give a little facility by prolonging the period, I am ready to withdraw my resolution.

In my district, a part of which has been amalgamated with the Sheikhupura District, rice is grown, but many a time on account of very heavy rains the means of communication are closed, and the zamindars have to face a great difficulty in taking their produce for sale to the town markets. My friend Malik Muhammad Amin has also said the some thing about heavy rains. What I mean to say is not that the zamindars should keep their produce but should be given time to sell it at a higher price. The prices of crops are controlled by the law of supply and demand, *i.e.*, when there is abundance of produce brought to market the prices fall, and *vice versâ*. Therefore the zamindars should be given enough time to consult their advantage and to sell their produce when better rates prevail. In the Punjab Canal colony there is abundance of "*toria*," which is a very profitable thing, but that ripens and is ready for sale in the middle of January or the beginning of February. If the Government postpones the date of payment of revenue by two months, the people will be able to pay their dues easily and there will be no difficulty in the payment of revenue. In the end I will say that it would be better if sufficient time is allowed, but if the Government does not agree, I have nothing more to add against their wishes.

Mr. C. M. King (Financial Commissioner) : Sir, I do not wish to repeat all that I said before. I think that I explained fully that the object of the Government is precisely the same as that which is stated by the mover of the resolution to be his. He wishes that the time to pay land revenue should be so fixed that it may cause the least trouble to the payer of the land revenue, and as the majority of those who pay land revenue are small holders, we try to fix the dates for the payment of land revenue so as to suit the small holder. As I explained before we have fixed dates for different districts and different tahsils so as to suit the majority of revenue payers of each tahsil and district. The dates fixed vary from tahsil to tahsil and from district to district; and that variation is essential because there is variation in the time of the harvest and the time therefore for payment of land revenue has to be varied to suit the time when the revenue payer has money in pocket. The mover of the resolution has, I think, failed to see that the effect of this resolution will be to fix a hard and fast system which is to be applied to every district and every tahsil in the Punjab His resolution distinctly says that it recommends that

[Mr. C. M. King.]

the time for payment of land revenue be extended by two months; and then it goes on to explain what is meant by two months. The date when the *kharif* land revenue is to be paid to be changed from 1st January to the end of February, and from August to the end of September for *rabi*. As I read this resolution, I take it to mean that in every tahsil, and in every district, the land revenue for kharif is to be paid on the 1st of March, and the land revenue for *rabi* on the 1st of October. I wish to point out very clearly that the 1st of October is the date when the land revenue for *rabi* is to be paid.

Now those dates may be suitable in some parts of the Punjab such as the hills or where there are special conditions. But I maintain that those dates are quite unsuitable for other parts and therefore it will be a very great mistake to bind ourselves as the mover of the resolution wishes to bind Government by fixing the dates for the whole province. I think my friend Chaudhri Ali Akbar has put the case of the small revenue payer very clearly and distinctly and he has put it on exactly the same grounds as the Government. We have tried to choose the time when the small holder will have sold his produce and before he has been induced by any reason to fritter away what he has got for that produce, just in that narrow margin of time, we try to get him to pay the land revenue into the tahsil. This method has been most successful in the past and there is no reason why it should not be adopted in the future. But though we have fixed these periods, as I said before if any particular case is brought to notice that particular dates fixed are unsuitable for the particular area I am quite willing to give an undertaking that I will give the matter my full consideration and if it is found that there is a general desire in any tahsil or district to alter the date I am prepared to alter it so as to convenience all the inhabitants of that particular tahsil or district. I cannot, however, accept this resolution which will tie the hands of the Government for the whole province.

Sardar Ranbir Singh: Sir, if it is the wish of the House that I should withdraw the resolution, I beg leave to withdraw it.

The resolution was by leave withdrawn.

RESOLUTION *RE.* REMOVAL OF RESTRICTIONS ON THE POSSESSION OF SWORDS.

The following resolution standing in the names of Khan Bahadur Sayad Mehdi Shah and Khan Bahadur Rai Wali Muhammad Khan was not moved.

"That this Council recommends to the Government to move the Central Government that all restrictions imposed on the possession of swords in the Punjab be removed forth with".

RESOLUTION *RE.* TRANSFER OF JAIL OFFICIALS.

Captain Sardar Gopal Singh (Representative of the Indian Army) (Urdu): Sir, with your permission I move the following resolution —

"That this Council recommends to the Government that Superintendents of Central Jails and Jailors of any Jail (Central or District) should not remain in charge of jails at one station more than three years and two years, respectively, and those who have already spent longer terms than this at one station should soon be transferred".

Sir, everybody —the people and the Government officials —know that there is corruption and bribery going on in the jails. Prisoners are sent to jail, so that evil be stopped, but there are more diabolical evils in the jails waiting for them. Nothing can be done against the jail officials, because whenever a voice is raised against them, it is impossible to get evidence from outside, and to obtain it from inside the jails is also impossible because no prisoners will be bold enough to raise a voice against the jail authorities. To do so would mean great hardship for the rest of their sentence. *Per contra* prisoners offer to help their jailors by giving evidence in their favour, which means a great advantage to themselves, for the rest of the period of their sentence will be a time of enjoyment to them. When I went to inspect the Montgomery Jail, I found prisoners who said that they had undergone different periods of imprisonment, and had lived in different jails, but they were much happier at present, for their jailor was a very kind man. The various prisoners are coached to make such statements in order to convince the Inspection Committee. The impression I derived was just the opposite—in fact I smelt a rat. I met two prisoners — one Sikh, Fateh Singh and Gama, a Pathan, — who told me that the jailors committed atrocities thinking themselves quite secure. The committee that was appointed to investigate corruption, either ignored the jails, or if it touched this department they did not go thoroughly into the causes of corruption so far as this department was concerned. The jailors live much more sumptuously than even the very high officials. Many of them possess motor cars, horses, carriages, cows, buffaloes and a number of servants. For instance Sheikh Abdul Ghafoor, Jailor of Montgomery, has grown very rich, he is planting a garden in Gurdaspur and in order to look after it and get service gratis he has by the kindness of officials been appointed an Assistant Jailor there. Now these people are either very rich by inheritance or they are corrupt. The passing of this resolution will be very beneficial, as this will mean a stoppage of all corruption, and happiness to the common folk. Frequent transfers cannot altogether stop a man from doing evil, yet the evil can be lessened. Wherever Civil Surgeons are Superintendents of Jails, they are transferred from time to time, but the other Superintendents and Jailors remain at one place for 7 or 8 years at a stretch. They do not wish to leave their station, for example, the Jailor of Montgomery was transferred to the Lyallpur Jail, but after five months he had himself transferred back to Montgomery.

The prisoners who have rich relatives are provided with all luxuries, because Jailors at first give them trouble, but after some time rich relatives come to the rescue bringing bags of gold, silver, etc., for the jailors, who then become very kind. But the poor prisoners are the victims of all sorts of hardships.

In the end I will again say that a definite period should be fixed and I hope the House after favourable consideration will give hearty support to the passage of this resolution.

Chaudhri Ali Akbar [Kangra-*cum*-Gurdaspur (Muhammadan), Rural] (Urdu): Sir, I give a very hearty support to the resolution of my gallant friend, but I have one thing to say and that is that he has brought forward a proposal against the corruption in jails—probably, I am afraid, because there has been some ill-feeling between him and Sheikh Abdul Ghafoor—for he has

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said nothing against other officials. No doubt every officer when he stays at one place for a long time gets to know all about that city or district and then begins to take bribes. I do not say that every official is corrupt; but only those officials are honest who are either not intelligent in the performance of their duties, and who are therefore afraid of taking bribes, or those who are new in a district. Bribes are always taken with the help of touts and long periods of service in one place facilitate such matters.

The gallant Captain is quite right in his recommendation. The reason is that when the prisoners know that they are on very good terms with the Superintendent or Jailor, they think themselves secure and on release are encouraged by this idea and are thus prompted to commit serious felonies. The gallant Captain has said that it is easy to gather evidence against the Police, but impossible to get it against the Jail authorities. . . . .

Jails are meant to curb evil, but the prisoners are provided liquor, opium tobacco and other luxuries by the corrupt officials. I therefore heartily support the resolution.

Mr. President: The resolution proposed runs:—

> "That this Council recommends to the Government that Superintendents of Central Jails and Jailors of any Jail (Central or District) should not remain in charge of jails at one station more than three years and two years respectively and those who have already spent longer terms than this at one station should soon be transferred."

The question is that this resolution be adopted.

Rai Bahadur Lala Sewak Ram [Multan Division (Non-Muhammadan), (Rural)] (Urdu): Sir, the resolution put forward is very sound and to the point and everyone should support it. Chaudhri Ali Akbar has elucidated all the points very clearly. As no notice was taken of the recommendations of the Corruption Committee and the jail affairs were left untouched, the result is that the jail officials are encouraged in their corrupt practices. Every Jailor thinks a jail to be his property, and in order to secure his position he always remains on very good terms with the Superintendent of the Jail. His position being thus secure he enjoys the fruits of his corruption. In my opinion they should remain at one place for one year only, because this will not cause any loss to the Government. This stroke at the root of the jail corruption will be a lesson to other departments as well.

3 P.M.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard (Finance Member): Sir, I think I might explain at this stage what the attitude of Government is towards this resolution. I am afraid that it is true that corruption prevails in the Jail Department as it pevails in some other depratments—as it prevails in municipal administration, as it prevails in private concerns and in all institutions in this country. The Jail Department is unfortunately no exception to the general rule of corruption. The question is not whether we admit that this unfortunate state of affairs exists, but whether the method which it is pro-

posed by the mover of this resolution to adopt is the best method by which the diminution of the evil can be achieved, or is it even a method which will tend precisely in the opposite direction from that which the mover of the resolution and his supporters desire. What are the methods by which it is possible to stop corruption where it exists? Non-official visitors are playing a part from outside the jail. They periodically visit the jails and forward their opinion to the proper authority. That is one method by which outside opinion can have influence inside the jails. Is there any other method? The answer is that any further remedy must depend on something to be done within the department itself. It must be something, some supervision, some control which the department itself or its officers will be able to exercise. Now, Sir, we are asked in this resolution—and nobody has justified or attempted to justify that specific recommendation—we are asked to provide that Superintendents of Central Jails who are officers of high standing and unblemished character shall in consequence of this prevalence of corruption in jails be periodically transferred at short intervals. If this House will give its thought for a few moments to this particular subject, I believe that the members will realise that in proposing frequent transfers of those who supervise the work of jails, they are proposing what will directly tend to increase the amount of corruption and evil which prevails there. Is it not notoriously true that when a supervising officer goes for the first time to a new place, he cannot be useful until he knows all his men and the various devices to which they are likely to be addicted? Is it not true that so long as he is new he cannot exercise full supervision and prevent mischief of this character? It is only when he has spent a reasonably long time in his charge, when he has learned what his men are like and when he has learned their tricks, it is only then that he becomes useful. So I think that this proposal for the transfer at short intervals of Superintendents of Central Jails is a method of adding to the very evil which we all deprecate. Then there remains another question, the question of the transfer at short intervals of the jailors or *daroghas* of the jails. That is in some measure similar, but I am quite ready to admit that it is not on all fours with the question of transferring the Superintendents. These officers are themselves not immune from the reputation of that evil which we desire to prevent. There are reasons for taking the precaution seeing that they should not remain for an unduly long time and so be enabled to work their way in and establish themselves in such a manner as to resist the attempts of the department to stop corruption. There are, however, on the other hand, certain other considerations and one of them is the efficiency of the work of the department and the avoidance of expense. When a jailor goes to a new jail, he probably has to learn all about the manufacture and all about the organisation of that jail. He is a learner for at least six months. Then we cannot ignore the fact that a certain financial loss will inevitably be caused by too rapid transfers. We know, moreover—it is a notorious fact well known to the department, that for a good many months a jailor probably does very little because he wishes to demonstrate by the figures of his first complete year of work that his own administration has been considerably better than that of his predecessor. There is, moreover, the further question of the cost of transfers.

Sir, I have put before you these contradictory or partially contradictory considerations, and the conclusion to which I come is this. As regards the Jailors of Central and District Jails, though it is undoubtedly desirable

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that they should not stay long in their charges, it would be folly to attempt to ask the department to transfer them at such short intervals as two years. Therefore I am unable to accept even this part of the resolution, but I am quite prepared to assure the House that the desirability of leaving Jailors and *daroghas* of jails in their posts for too long a period will be carefully kept in mind. But as regards the first part of the resolution it cannot be and will not be the policy of the department to transfer Superintendents of Central Jails at short intervals.

Sayad Muhammad Hussain [Montgomery, (Muhammadan), Rural]: I move, Sir,

"That the question be now put."

Mr. President: I hardly think that the question has been sufficiently discussed to be closed.

Diwan Bahadur Raja Narendra Nath [Punjab Landholders (General)] (Urdu): The Honourable Finance Member is generally able to bring round the House to his view, but he has not been able to convince me on the present occasion. No two executive officers are alike. There are differences of temperament and disposition, personal likes and dislikes. No administrator has ever been able to give universal satisfaction. No Deputy Commissioner is allowed to stay in one district for more than four years. Deputy Commissioners have recently been subject to more frequent transfers. The same is the rule with other officers of Government. I do not see why Superintendents of Jails and Jailors should be exceptions. I doubt if the Council will be satisfied by the very dubious answer given by the Honourable Finance Member that the desirability of not allowing Superintendents of Jails and of Jailors to remain too long in one place will be kept in mind. If Government agree that the tenure of Superintendent of Jail and Jailor should be made longer than what is proposed in the resolution, I would advise the honourable mover to agree to any change suggested. The tenure of Superintendents may be four years and that of Jailors two years. Corruption and bribery are not the only things which the honourable mover objects to. Changes are desirable on other grounds as well. A Superintendent of Jail acquires the necessary local experience in six months and a Jailor in three months and for the remainder of his term he has ample opportunity of utilising it.

Mian Bell Ram [Hoshiarpur (Non-Muhammadan), Rural] (Urdu): Sir, many logical arguments can be brought forward to support this resolution but I will only express a few ideas. Bribery depends upon the intelligence and the power of the officer concerned. As the power of an officer extends his efficiency in bribery too improves along with it. Bribery is unsuccessful when it has to combat stubborn resistance, but in the case of Jailors the prisoners are all at the Jailor's mercy and cannot show a bold front so they take bribes fearlessly. There is much more corruption in the Jail Department than in all the other departments and we ought to pay more attention to it. Every Government officer, for example the Governor and the Viceroy are

not stationed in one locality for more than five years; why should then the Jailors be exempt from this rule. We do not allege that Superintendents are dishonest but it is a human tendency for a man to become prejudiced, if stationed at one place for a long time, regarding many matters and nothing can change his opinion. I therefore vote in favour of this resolution.

Rai Bahadur Lala Hari Chand [West Punjab Towns (Non-Muhammadan) Urban] (Urdu): Sir, the question should be considered under two heads. Generally speaking the Superintendents of Jails are honest while the Jailors are dishonest. Corruption is present in every department as mentioned by Sir John Maynard. It would be abolished if the Government chose to transfer the officers about whom rumours that they are taking bribes begin to float about. But it is wrong to say that Government officers are not stationed in one locality for more than three or four years as alleged by the honourable Raja Narendra Nath. They have remained in some instances for more than four years.

Diwan Bahadur Raja Narendra Nath: Not now.

Rai Bahadur Lala Hari Chand (continued): Then, Sir, as I was saying, the officer about whom rumours are afloat should be transferred at once since they begin to take bribes when they are acquainted fully with their subordinate officers.

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain: Sir, I beg to move—

"That the question be put."

Mr. President: The question is—

"That the question be now put."

The motion was carried.

Captain Sardar Gopal Singh (Urdu): Sir, I have had an experience of more than six years in the Council and I have many a time seen that the Government opposes the unofficial member's resolution and the non-official members oppose the Government's resolution without any reason. This is the first resolution I have brought before the House and Sir John Maynard notwithstanding his being a very just man has refused to accept it. It is a resolution which would be beneficial both for the public and the Government. The finance Member has alleged that experience always makes a man more efficient. If this is so it is not understood why the Council is dissolved after every three years. The Jailors are more fortunate than the members of this Council because they have no limited periods of duty. But it is a fact that where no limited period is specified bribery is in full swing. I did not expect this from Sir John Maynard. I have laid the case before the Council and I think that it will be settled according to the dictates of conscience.

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: Sir, I should like to assure the House that the Government appreciate the intentions of the resolution which has been brought forward to-day, and also to assure it that the Government is always glad that the non-official members should speak out their full carts.

Sir John Maynard.]

The point I wish to make in reply to what has been said by my opponents in this matter is this. There are really two different resolutions before this House and not one. One is a proposal that the supervising agency whose function it is to check the evils which prevail in jails shall be transferred at short intervals. That is a proposal which I resist. The second is the proposal that the Jailors shall be transferred at intervals of two years. On this subject I have already said that my opinion approaches very closely to that held by the honourable mover. So strongly do I feel that these two parts of the resolution are quite separate matters that I will ask you to consider the possibility of putting the resolution to the Council, when the time comes, in two parts.

As to the rapid transfers of Superintendents I have already said al that I have to say. It is not desirable to send away those who supervise the management of jails before they have had full opportunity of acquainting themselves with their charges and utilising their experience locally. So far as Jailors are concerned, I am able after having consulted the Inspector-General of Prisons to say this, that in the case of central jails they will not be stationed for more than three years and in the case of district jails they will not ordinarily remain for more than two years.

Mr. President: The resolution proposed runs as follows—

> "That this Council recommends to the Government that Superintendents of Central Jails and Jailors of any Jail (Central or District) should not remain in charge of jails at one station more than three years and two years, respectively, and those who have already spent longer terms than this at one station should soon be transferred."

I propose to divide that resolution into two parts. It really contains two propositions, one relating to Superintendents of Central Jails and one relating to Jailors. I will first put that part of the resolution which relates to Superintendents of Central Jails and that part will run—

> "That this Council recommends to the Government that Superintendents of Central Jails should not remain in charge of jails at one station more than three years and those who have already spent longer terms than this at one station should soon be transferred."

The question is that that part of the resolution stand part of the resolution.

The motion was lost.

Mr. President: I will now put the second part—

> "That this Council recommends to the Government that Jailors of any Jail (Central or District) should not remain in charge of jails at one station more than two years and those who have already spent longer terms than this at one station should soon be transferred."

The question is that this part stand part of the resolution.

The motion was carried.

Mr. President: The resolution will then run—

> "That this Council recommends to the Government that Jailors of any Jail (Central or District) should not remain in charge of jails at one station more than two years and those who have already spent longer terms than this at one station should soon be transferred."

The question is that this resolution be adopted.

The motion was carried.

RESOLUTION RE ABOLITION OF COMMUNAL ELECTORATES AND THE CREATION OF JOINT ELECTORATES.

Mr. K. L. Rallia Ram (Representative of Indian Christians) : Sir, with your kind permission I shall read the resolution which stands in my name—

"That this Council recommends to the Government—

(*i*) to recommend that the Punjab Electoral Rules be so amended as to abolish the communal electorates and create a joint electorate without disturbing the communal proportion of seats ; and

(*ii*) to abolish the communal electorates in the various local bodies in the province without affecting the number of seats allotted to different communities."

The resolution is divided into two parts but the underlying principle is the same. Therefore, I shall speak on the principle. It is far from my wish to excite any unpleasant controversy on the subject but it is only because by exchange of ideas freely and frankly we can arrive at satisfactory conclusions concerning the problems with which we are confronted that I move the resolution. It is needless for me to say that of late in the Punjab the cleavage between the different communities is so deep that it has caused very great pain and worry to all those who seek the welfare of the country. It is not for me to dilate on those causes which have brought about such a sad state of affairs and I want to make it clear that I hold brief for no party. I blame them all. The question before us is how to bridge the gulf before it is too late. It is a well-known fact that municipalities and district boards specially and the Council too form a very great nucleus of all responsible Government in the Punjab, and when one studies the history of the development of these local bodies with the measure of success which they have achieved one does not have any hesitation in saying that they are not what they ought to be. They have not developed on very great national lines, nor are they efficient enough to really command the confidence of the people. We have got the material no doubt. Somebody a few years ago asked me to write a dessertation on municipal administration and I told him that I could do it in two or three words and he asked me what those words were. I said : An orgainsed, continued and sustained Hindu-Muhammadan quarrel. It is not for me to blame this party or that party, but I want to place before the House that circumstances in the committees and the local bodies are such that they perpetuate these differences. We will look at them with an open mind from all points of view. I will discuss the problem from three points of view—from the psychological point of view, the moral point of view and the political point of view. We are all governed by psychological laws. When a member is returned to a district board or a municipal committee wherever there is communal representation . . . . . .

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain (Minister for Education) : Please permit me to say that there is no communal representation in any of the Punjab district boards.

Mr. K. L. Rallia Ram (continued) : Thank you, Sir, I shall modify my statement. It has given me very great gratification to learn that there is no communal representation in district boards. Now, we could not say the same thing as regards municipalities. In a vast majority of the municipalities, in most of them, or perhaps it will be more safe to say, in some of them

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this communal representation does exist, and specially in the important ones. In some of the most important municipalities this communal representation by a separate electorate also does exist. What I notice is this, that the object of the member is to lose sight of everything but one thing and that is to please his own community in order that he may be returned again. That is a very laudable desire. I cannot blame a man for this. Everybody does so. We know that whatever be the function of these municipalities, it is not communal. The chief function of a municipality is to minister to the needs of the people of the city, to give them better health, to make better roads for them, to give them education, to have dispensaries for them, and so on. All these things affect everybody. He cannot see that by doing all these things he is doing any service to his own community. These are to him general matters, and he does not think of them. He will only try to create certain troubles in the committee while giving an impression to his community that he is doing such a lot for his community. Please do not think that I am blaming any particular community. The man may be a Hindu or he may be a Muhammadan, he may even be a Christian including myself. After all we are all human. Then it comes to fighting for a few posts. The municipality wants six chaprasis. Three must be Muhammadans and three Hindus. If there are six sweepers wanted and there are already three Muhammadan sweepers, why should not there be three Hindu sweepers? Such is the zeal of a Hindu member. Then in order to give a good impression to his community, he tries to shelter the municipal employees belonging to his own community, even when he knows they are in the wrong, from any charge which might be brought against them. I have not known of a single case where it has been possible for a big municipality to dismiss any Hindu or Muhammadan servant, even though charges have been brought home against him. If a Hindu is the culprit, he is defended by the Hindu members, if a Muhammadan, similarly, by the Muhammadan members. Once there were three men who were charged with taking bribery, one was a Hindu, another a Muhammadan, and the third a Sikh. While discussing the case, a member said:—we have got full communal representation in this case, let them go. Such is, Sir, the mentality of the members. If a man feels that he is responsible not only to his own people but to all, then I am sure his own mental horizon will be cleared. I have known, Sir, of places where the Hindus predominate, others where the Muhammadans predominate; but, Sir, I have never seen a place where one community alone resides. About 20 years ago, there was no communal representation. I remember myself that in Amritsar—and there is the oldest Amritsar member sitting here who can bear me out—once a Hindu member, who is now the president of the municipal committee, Sir Gopal Das, could not get votes from his own community. Somehow his people got angry with him, and they would not return him to the committee. He was, however returned by a preponderating majority by the Muhammadans to the municipal committee. There was no communal bias. Nobody thought of these things. They always considered whether the man was worthy of the charge he desired to hold. To quote another example, Sir. We remember that in 1909, when the first Council under Lord Morley's scheme was inaugurated, franchise was only given to the members o the municipalities. It was a common electorate. There was a Muhammadan gentleman from Rawalpindi who was standing for election; and in spite of the fact that he was opposed, by a Hindu, the Hindus gave votes to him. I remember also, if I am no

personal, that Rai Bahadur Lala Hari Chand was a candidate for one of the seats and he was opposed by a Muhammadan gentleman from Rawalpindi; and the majority of the Hindu votes went in the latter's favour. I remember the scene. One Hindu gentleman was making it a Hindu-Muhammadan question. I do not know if Lala Hari Chand knows it. He was not there. Those Hindus refused to vote for Lala Hari Chand. On the other hand, the Muhammadans said they would vote for Lala Hari Chand. So this was the condition a few years ago. Morally it is wrong: it narrows a man's vision of life it annihilates his sense of justice.

Now with these ideas and those circumstances, I do not think we can make any progress. We want self-government and we all want to be nearer it, but we must create the circumstances which will help its speedy attainment. Moreover, Sir, in all uncivilized countries where the people are illiterate, we find that the communal representation is emphasized. It starts with the tribal self, when a man says he will vote for a Kashmiri, another says he will vote for an Arora. Then there is communal representation, and then comes the National self.

Those who support communal representation often refer to England and other countries where no doubt some centuries ago, these religious differences had their full play. To them, I would say it is true that these differences did exist, but nobody looks back upon those days with feelings of pride. I have never heard an Englishman say that he is proud of those days when there were differences. In fact they would, if they could, take those pages out of their history.

Before I stop, Sir, I would say that the only objection I have heard so far is this. Both communities think that if they have joint electorates, the members of the other community will try to put in the best members of their own community and not ideal men from the other. That is, the Hindus will try to put in bad Muhammadans, and the Muhammadans will try to send in similar Hindus. But that does not stand any examination. Quite possibly, it is true to a certain extent. I admit, and it may happen in the beginning. But we must see the general advantages which will bring peace and harmony to the people. I am quite prepared to admit that there are suspicion and distrust between the two communities, but they will have a different outlook of life. At present we take a personal interested view. I am speaking very frankly. Some people are against it because they think that in common electorates, there will be no place for them. People will want men with good ideas. Their mental horizon will be quite different. They will take a broad view of the case. From my experience, Sir, I can say that this communal representation is detrimental to the efficiency of the municipal employees.

Pir Akbar Ali. Explanation please.

Mr. K. L. Rallia Ram. (continued): Come out with me, and I will show you that a Muharrir getting Rs. 20 per mensem earns Rs. 600 a month; a chaprassi has got Rs. 3,000 in a bank. These are facts and figures. I was connected with the municipal affairs for four or five years, and have been Secretary of the Lahore Municipality for a year; and I know all these things from actual experience. Bribery and corruption are rampant in the municipal administration and it is impossible to touch any one. Why? Because if he is a Hindu, he will be defended by the Hindu members; and if he is a

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Muhammadan, he will be shielded by the Muhammadan members of the committee. Whenever a charge is brought against a particular man, if he is a Hindu, the Hindus say why are not charges brought aginst the Muhammadans; and vice versa. Therefore, the municpal administration is very much lower than it was 20 years ago. My friend wants an explanation; and he has only to read the report of the municpalities. Almost all the municipalities are in a state of bankruptcy. What is the reason? It is this: bribery and corruption are rampant and nobody can check them. The non-official presidents too have not been able to do anything in this respect. I do not wish to make light of them; but they have to maintain their own position in the committee. They have to form a party; and to that party they have to show concessions. Otherwise they will be chucked out to-morrow. I do not say that all of them have proved failures; some of them are very good indeed.

Now, Sir, the recent note of the Ministry of Education on municipal representation was based on democratic principles; and one appreciates the attempt made by Government to introduce democracy in this country; but we make two mistakes. In the first place, in foreign countries, I have never seen that emocracy can be thrown down on the people from the pinnacle of authority. It is a thing which must grow by the creation of circumstances as contributing to greater national solidarity.

Real democracy must have three or four principles. The first is homo-
4. P.M. genity. Communal representation is a thing which instead of encouraging homogenity produces hetrogenity. On that account there can be no democracy unless people of all communities are brought together under one way of thinking. Then there can not be democracy unless there is literacy. What will democracy mean when only 4 or 10 per cent. of the population are literate? It will only mean oligarchy where a few ambitious people will have very great power. Then there must be a very high standard of integrity...

Mr. President: The honourable member has only got four minutes more.

Mr. K. L. Rallia Ram (continued): Very well, Sir. I will finish in four minutes. I am glad you have drawn my attention to it. There can be no moral integrity unless people feel a sense of responsibility, unless they are prepared to call wrong wrong and truth truth. People should develop a sense of moral integrity so that each man would be willing to have his own son hanged if he is found guilty. That is the sort of moral integrity that India needs. Unless this is developed there can be no democracy in India. Thirdly, Sir, unless there is national solidarity and healthy public opinion there can be no democracy. I know the temper of the House and perhaps it may not be in favour of my proposition at present. But this I can predict that after five or six years people will realise that as long as we emphasize our communal differences we show to the whole world that we are an inferior race, and that we deserve the derision and laughter of all the civilised nations. The only way to command self-respect and to show to the world that India is ready to take its place in the comity of nations is to rise above such petty communal differences and to live a peaceful and amicable life and even sacrifice our individual or communal interest for the sake of national interests. I do not want to be understood that I am referring to any particular

community. My remarks apply to all communities, whether Hindus, Muhammadans, Sikhs or Christians. We should learn to compromise among ourselves our differences, learn toleration, and also learn to uplift those who are below us. It is by these means only that we can solve our problem. Sir, before concluding I should like to thank the House for the very patient hearing they have given me, even though they may not agree with my views.

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Hussain: There can be no differences of views on what you have said.

Mr. K. L. Rallia Ram: Thank you, Sir. That is very kind of you.

Mr. President: The resolution moved runs—

"That this Council recommends to the Government—

(*i*) to recommend that the Punjab Electoral Rules be so amended as to abolish the communal electorates and create a joint electorate without disturbing the communal proportion of seats; and

(*ii*) to abolish the communal electorates in the various local bodies in the province without affecting the number of seats allotted to different communities".

The question is that this resolution be adopted.

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain (Minister for Education) (Urdu): Sir, as a rule whenever any matter of this sort has been coming up before the Council, I have been taking part in the debate towards the end. I decided to-day to speak at an early stage of the debate in the hope that the debate be confined to the relevant points arising from the Resolution. Sir, it is not quite easy to comprehend the meanings of this motion. Let us first of all know what it means? The honourable mover desires that the Electoral Rules in force regarding this Council be abolished and that there should be joint electorates, keeping the number of members of each community intact. According to the existing Punjab Electoral Rules the Province is divided into (1) Rural Electorates and (2) Urban Electorates. The rural and urban electorates are again divided into (1) Muhammadan and (2) Non-Muhammadan electorates. Now what does the honourable mover wish? Does he mean that the Muhammadans and Hindus be put together in one electorate or that the urban and rural constituencies be done away with and in their place one electorate should be created for the whole of the Punjab so that a certain number of members from each community for the Council be fixed and the whole of the Punjab should elect them? The motion is vague and apparently impracticable. Throughout the speech of the honourable mover I was waiting to hear how he proposed to carry out in practice his ideas, but I waited in vain.

As to the point that if joint electorates are created there will be no harm done what will be the result? Ever since the introduction of the system of election, as a rule, wherever one community has its majority in the electorate it elects one of its own members and seldom allows any person

Honourable Mian Fazl-i-Husain.]

belonging to the other community to be returned. This applies, not to one community only, but to all. The community which has got its majority in an electorate, as a rule, does not care for the interests of the minority and the minority is helpless. The Council ought to, I think, reflect the views and opinions held by the people; but if joint electorates are created the Council will reflect the views not of all but only of the majority. At the present stage of our political development, it is much to be regretted that thinking is done communally and not nationally. Where one community thinks that the representation on communal lines will be advantageous to it it demands communal representation, but where it believes that it will benefit by joint electorates it urges in favour of them. All that is kept in view is the self interest of one community or another. The most desirable thing from a national point of view is that instead of the communal selfishness the common interest of the whole of the country be the concern of all and all nationalists be so sincere, so honest, both in theory and in practice, that the minorities may have no misgivings in entrusting themselves to the care of the majorities; that instead of promoting the interests of one community alone, the interests of all the communities be borne in mind. Had this been done in the past the question of separate communal electorates would never have arisen.

When we see that in the past, elections have, as a rule, been conducted on communal lines, can it be said that at the present time joint elections stand any chance of being run on lines other than communal? Joint electorates can be successful only when communal prejudices, animosities and selfishness cease to exist. We want to attain national unity, there are several communities here and they are not pulling on as well as they ought to. How can national unity be then attained? Only two things are possible; either crush the weak out of existence. History tells us that this policy has been tried in the past, but has seldom succeeded. Moreover, it is inhuman and as things stand can well be said to be outside practical politics.

The alternative course is that the weak should be lifted up and their condition ameliorated. This is the rule which the civilized people have advocated. Will the honourable member's resolution help the minorities? Will it enable the minorities to develop on lines other than those of absolute subservience to the majority. The joint electorate will result only in this that the community which has its majority will be all in all and no member who dare differ from its political creed will be returned to this Council. I may invite the attention of the House to the District Boards where there is no separate communal representation and no separate electorates. There too the fact is that the electors vote for that candidate only who belongs to their own community and it is seldom that a candidate belonging to a different community is elected. As regards the municipalities almost half of them are such where there is no communal representation while in the other half there is such a representation. Now in those municipalities where there is no communal representation the election in fact is communal, for the electors as a rule give

their votes to the candidate who is of their own community. The Hindu votes for a Hindu candidate and a Muhammadan votes for a Muhammadan. The electioneering campaign in municipalities with joint electorates is run on communal lines and now as in the past results in the return of candidates belonging to the community which has the majority of electors. Sialkot, Gujrat, Rawalpindi and Jhelum, Hissar and Panipat are not cities which can be overlooked, and many honourable members here are aware of the happenings in Panipat and in Gujrat.

Communal considerations and selfishness prevail in different degrees everywhere and it is this communal mentality that guides the voter whether the system of election is one of separate or joint electorates. Wherever this evil of communal jealousy has spread it has taken such a hold of the people that elections are as a matter of course influenced thereby. No part of the country seems to be safe from it.

Up to 1922 the Hindu-Muslim unity was strongest in Amritsar and was believed to have developed to such an extent that the whole of India was proud of it. Since 1922 that unity has gone, and has left in its place communal dissensions, animosity and hatred. Why? separate communal representation had been in existence for the last 35 years or more. In spite of it Hindu-Muslim unity in Amritsar was exceedingly strong. During the last two years every vestige of it has disappeared. This shows that the disease is *not* due to separate communal electorates, but to something else. 3

What the honourable mover has stated about the municipalities is somewhat exaggerated. Unless there is a change in the mentality of the country, our religious, social and political life cannot free itself from its present defects. To say that if these electoral rules are abolished and joint electorates created, the voters will give their votes to the right man and will look to the merits and ability of the candidate rather than to the religion or community he belongs to, is absolutely wrong. The fact is that the country unfortunately thinks communally, and the selfishness of each community, it is much to be regretted, increases with the increase of its knowledge of things and affairs. Those who have studied carefully and in a philosophic mood the actual state of affairs in the country know what the reality is.

The honourable member said that there was no communal representation thirty years back. Perhaps he is not acquainted with the official red books. The communal representation is found in the books of 1384. I do not know why it was there—whether it was to create or to remove communal hatred and animosity or not.

As to what the honourable member related about a certain Hindu gentleman who was boycotted by the Hindus, but got elected through the votes of the Muhammadans. This was of course an exceptional case. I will not raise the question whether that election was conducted on the merits of the candidate or not, but this much is certain that when a gentleman is discarded by his own community in this way, either the whole community is in the wrong or that gentleman is in the wrong. So this case only shows that the gentleman in order to capture Muslim votes or otherwise did something which all the Hindus disliked. What is the lesson to be derived from this. Joint electorates will return those who are slaves of the majority. 3

[Honourable Mian Fazl-i-Husain.]

It is said that there was no discord before. This is entirely wrong Separate electorates came into being because there was discord. The discord was there, it was not great at that time because there were not many opportunities for its coming into play. Now it has increased because the opportunities of discord have increased and along with them, the people have come to know the use which can be made of the Council membership and Municipal Commissionership. So much about the first part of this resolution.

As to the second part let us take the case of Lahore and Amritsar. In Lahore the majority of voters is Muhammadan, while in Amritsar the majority is that of the Hindus. Suppose twenty men are to be elected in each of the two places. Then in Lahore the elected members will be we will assume 12 Muhammadans and 8 Hindus while in Amritsar they will be 12 Hindus and 8 Muhammadans. The Muhammadans' majority in Lahore will elect Muslims and Muslim-Hindus while Hindu majority in Amritsar will elect Hindus and Muslim-Hindus. What then is the use of this joint electorate? Will it change the point of view of the people? Will the communal considerations and prejudices disappear by it. If the electorates are made joint, I am afraid it will make no change in the attitude of the voters and it is the voters who really matter. The votes will, it is much to be regretted, continue to be given on communal considerations and those will only be returned who have communal majority. It is said that if electorates are made joint the people will be guided in the use of their votes by the merit and ability of the candidate and not by communal motives and considerations. Are the voters so guided in the fifty odd municipalities in the Punjab where separate electorates do not exist? If these municipalities too are not immune from these communal evils, then what is the use of creating joint electorates elsewhere?

Joint electorate, no doubt, is and ought to be our ideal, but only when the electorates become politically-minded enough to rise above communal considerations, and when that time comes, it will not be necessary to fix the number of seats for each community, when the mentality, the point of view of the people, so changes that the people when voting for a candidate look to his real worth and merit and not to the religion and community he belongs to and when the conditions become so healthy that instead of the interests of one community alone, the interest of all the communities and the common interests of the country are kept at heart. The communities will have confidence in each other and the demand for separate communal electorates will disappear. To-morrow this Council will come to an end. The campaign for elections will begin from the day after to-morrow. Even if the resolution under discussion be now passed it cannot affect the coming elections. It can affect only the elections which will take place in 1927. So it is of no use even if it is passed to-day.

Rai Bahadur Lala Hari Chand [West Punjab Towns (Non-Muhammadan), Urban] (Urdu): Sir, I have attentively listened to the two speeches which have been just delivered. I think the Education Minister has never perhaps been a member of any Municipal Committee. I have been nearly for 25 years in municipal committees and am fully acquainted with the state of affairs with respect to them. At first the electorates were joint and the

Hindus and Muhammadans voted jointly. Those who know those times can tell the House how cordially and brotherly the Hindus and Muhammadans lived together. There were no present-day communal ideas and the two communities lived peacefully and never quarrelled as they do now. Now the electorates are made separate on the basis of religion and national considerations have given way to communal differences. Now a voter gives his vote to a candidate who is his co-religionist. The members elected now care for their own community who elected them, while in former times they had the common interest of both the communities at heart because then they were elected by both the communities jointly. In those days Hindus usually gave their votes to a Muhammadan candidate and the Muhammadans likewise gave their votes to a Hindu candidate. Now-a-days a gulf has been created so that a Hindu votes only for a Hindu and a Muhammadan votes for a Muhammadan only. In the time of Sir Louis Dane when the Municipal Bill was put before the Council, there too I stood for joint electorates, though it was not accepted on account of the opposition.

Any one who remembers the good old times when there was no communal representation and the people lived with mutual love and unity, will support this resolution. I well remember when I stood for the Council in 1913 the Muhammadan voters in that joint electorate were more than all the voters of other communities put together. A Muhammadan, Abdul Haq, was my rival. Nevertheless I beat him by twenty votes. The result was that mutual love between Hindus and Muhammadans was all the more increased. Now hatred has been engendered by this communal representation. Quarrels regarding seats and services have arisen which were never heard of before. Posts are sought on communal basis, a system which can never give an efficient staff. It is necessary that this resolution be accepted.

[*At this stage Mr. President left the chair which was occupied by the Deputy President.*]

Pir Akbar Ali [Ferozepore (Muhammadan) Rural] (Urdu) : Sir, from the two speeches which have been made in support of this resolution I can find nothing but a theory propounded but which is never acted upon. It is just like this that a man advocates that as little food ought to be taken as possible but when he himself sits down to the table he eats more than anybody else. It is alleged that the existing strifes and quarrels regarding Municipalities and District Boards are due to the communal representation. Sir, I repudiate this assertion as totally untrue. When there was no communal representation and separate electorates even then these communal prejudices existed and votes were given and sought on the sole ground that this man is a Hindu and that man a Muhammadan. Hindus voted for Hindus and Muhammadans gave their votes to a Muhammadan candidate. Has a Muhammadan been elected even once by the Punjab University Graduates during the last 16 years ? Though there were able men amongst them, as for example Dr. Iqbal and many others ? The fact is that among these voters the Hindus form the majority.....

The Honourable Sir John Maynard : Sir I believe the honourable member is very much mistaken. If I remember right, the Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Fazl-i-Husain, the present Education Minister, formerly represented the University in the Council. He was elected by the University.

Pir Akbar Ali (continued): The honourable member of the Government has misunderstood me. I mean that within these 16 years no Muhammadan has been elected as a fellow of the University.....

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: The honourable member is mistaken Mian Fazl-i-Husain was actually elected as member for the University by the Senate.

The Deputy President: I think Pir Akbar Ali is referring to the election of fellows to the University by the registered graduates. I do not think he means election to the Council.

Pir Akbar Ali: Yes, Sir.....

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: All right, Sir. Yet the fact remains that the Honourable Mian Fazl-i-Husain—a Muhammadan—was returned by the University as their representative on the Punjab Legislative Council.

Pir Akbar Ali (continued): I was saying that during these 16 years not a single Mohammadan has been elected a fellow of the University, the reason being that the majority happened to be Hindu voters. The Honourable Member of Government has said that Mian Fazl-i-Husain has in fact been an elected member of the Punjab Legislative Council for the University. It was good that he was elected but the fact is that he was at that time thought of as a Hindu rather than a Muhammadan.

What the honourable mover's desire is that separate electorates be abolished, but he has advanced not a single argument that could prove that there ought not to be separate electorates. As he has not done so, I give reasons as to why the electorates should be separate. Wherever I have gone and as far as I have been able to see the matter as it stands, I have invariably found that candidates are elected solely on communal consideration. "Do give him your vote for he is a Hindu" and "vote for him because he is a Muhammadan." I know it from my personal experience that in Ferozepore a Hindu cooly was elected in opposition to a Muhammadan Vakil. If now the electorates are made joint no able man like Mian Fazl-i-Husain will be returned. It is said, in opposition to the communal system that the functions of the Committees (Municipal) are not communal. No doubt, but the argument altogether disappears when we take into consideration the communal animosities and the fact that one community does not take care of the interest of the other. Then it is said that when there are mixed or joint electorates abler men will be returned. But this can happen only when the intentions of all are good. When Pandit Malaviya came here for the purpose of removing the causes of Hindu-Muslim dissentions he wanted a mixed Committee of Hindus and Muslims for the purpose. He asked both the communities to send

5 P. M. a certain number of their men to form the Committee. The men who were so put forward by the Hindus were men who would not bear even to hear the name of a Muslim. It is said that corruption has resulted from communal representation. This is absolutely wrong.....

Mr. K. L. Rallia Ram: I did not say that corruption is the result of communal representation. I said that it has become more prevalent.

Pir Akbar Ali (continued) : The causes of corruption are quite different. If public opinion be so healthy and strong as not to look with favour but with contempt on those who take bribery, I think corruption will in time disappear. But the public is such that before a new official takes charge of his office it makes its enquiries whether he takes bribes or not.....

The Deputy President: I think the honourable member must keep more strictly to the subject.

Pir Akbar Ali (continued) : An other argument for joint electorate that was put forward was that on account of these quarrels about a few seats India will be degraded in the eyes of other countries, and it is desired that votes should be so used that the really able men irrespective of their religion and community should be returned. But as long as the point of view of the people does not change and as long as such thoughts are entertained by one community towards the other as at present, such a thing is an impossibility.

[*At this stage Mr. President resumed the chair.*]

The Rai Bahadur said that 25 years back there were no communal quarrels. The fact is that at that time the Muhammadans were uneducated and ignorant of their rights. Self-Government is demanded every where in these days, and if the Muhammadans demand their rights, why should it be taken ill ? I oppose this resolution not only because it is vague but also because it cannot be acted upon under the present conditions.

Mian Beli Ram [Hoshiarpur (Non-Muhammadan), Rural] (Urdu) : Sir before I speak on the resolution I want to say a few words about some of the very disagreeable things which ought not to have been said here. It has been said that when Mian Fazl-i-Husain was elected he was a Hindu. Now, that is very bad. This very fact speaks in favour of the resolution that a peace-loving man who should have the interests of all at heart be elected. Such arguments have quite the reverse effect. In 1916 the leaders of the Punjab who went to attend the Congress were neither Hindus only nor Muhammadans only but Punjabees. The question is whether such a change will be for the better or not ? When by this change the number of seats allotted to the separate communities will not be affected then what is the harm if such a change is made. This point has neither been dealt with by the Honourable Minister for Education nor by any other speaker. It is nonsensical to say that where the Hindus are in a majority there will be a Hindu member and where the majority is that of the Muhammadans only a Muhammadan will be returned. I can say that such is not the case. For example, in Hoshiarpur the people have no such ideas and without making communal distinction they elect the better man whether he be Hindu or a Muhammadan, a Beli Ram or a Ghulam Muhammad. When there is separate electorate and representation the candidate appeals to the religious and communal sentiments of his electors. The votes are given to the candidate who is the most orthodox and communal. If joint electorates are created such things will disappear. If it is said that separate electorates are made in order to remove dissensions and quarrels then why are there such quarrels in Lahore ? Community can be of race, blood, profession and many other things. Why it should be based on religion only ? The fact is that religious feelings are desired to be stirred up. For personal gain religion is made an instrument. By this some men can

[Mian Beli Ram.]

obtain some posts, that is all. When our functions are not communal why then should representation be on communal lines. In the District Boards there are not separate electorates. It is not proved that any harm has been produced thereby. Another argument which the Education Minister gave was that it will not have any effect upon the coming elections and will effect only the elections that will take place in 1927. It is regrettable that such a person as the Honourable Minister for Education should advance such an argument. Let it be passed through and let it have its effect in 1927. The fact that it will have effect only in the distant future, is no material objection to this resolution.

Maulvi Muharram Ali Chishti [Lahore City (Muhammadan), Urban] (Urdu): Sir, throughout the three years of this Council's term I can safely say that I have never exhibited any of those communal prejudices which have been alluded to in the course of the speeches now delivered and which sometimes have also found their way into the Council too. Thank God I have shown myself above them. So I am very glad that Mr. Rallia Ram has dealt with this question and put his views before the Council in such a manner that he has neither injured the feelings of any one nor shown himself a partisan. After all, these are his views which he sincerely holds and which everybody is at liberty to agree or disagree with. It has been said that in municipalities and district boards there are dissensions and strifes. But why take the case of others? Take the case of this very Council. Are not those things which are complained of found here too? Just consider the sort of questions which have been asked! The fact is that this disease is not confined to one locality but is prevalent everywhere. The present time is such that if a Hindu does not take part in these communal strifes he is not considered to be a Hindu and if a Muhammadan does not take part he is not considered to be a Muhammadan. I am an orthodox Muhammadan but I do not wish to injure a Hindu on account of his being a Hindu or unduly benefit a Muhammadan merely because he is a Muhammadan. We come here to look to the common interest of the country. But the tendency is such that everybody is involved in it. Communal jealousies and prejudices do in fact exist. What can be done to remove them? Rai Bahadur Lala Hari Chand and Mr. Rallia Ram have said that that there was much unity of the two communities in former days. Examples of that unity can be found even in these days. I am on very good terms with Raja Narendra Nath. Though we have differed in opinions on many things yet this difference has never made us quarrel with each other. But what is the present state of affairs in general? Communal ideas have taken hold of the people badly: There is a strife going on between the two communities for one-sided and selfish interests. The voters too give their votes to those members of their community only who are the orthodox partymen and most determined of the communal fighters and who have exhibited the greatest interest in communal wars. When such is the case I believe that there is much truth in what the Honourable Minister for Education has said.

The election is made from a certain point of view. The Hindus have their own point of view and the Muhammadans have their own. Last time three Hindu candidates stood for Lahore City (Non-Muhammadan), one of

whom was Lala Uttam Chand. The Hindu electors returned Lala Uttam Chand. (A voice) Raja Uttam Chand.

Maulvi Muharram Ali Chishti: Yes, I beg your pardon Raja Uttam Chand. The other two candidates were Rai Bahadur Lala Milkhi Ram and the late lamented Rai Bahadur Lala Mohan Lal. I do not know why they did not elect one of the other two gentlemen and why they voted for Lala Uttam Chand only. Perhaps they did it because they thought it desirable that a member of the Labour Party should be returned.

Mr. President: The honourable member is talking about an honourable member. It is not desirable to say anything which might be construed as a personal reflection. He was sailing very near the wind a short while ago.

Maulvi Muharram Ali Chishti: The resolution of Mr. Rallia Ram is inconsistent with the arguments he has given in its support. When the present state of things is such that a *Khatri* gives his vote to a *Khatri* and a *Zamindar* to a *Zamindar* and a Muhammadan to a Muhammadan and a Hindu to a Hindu then the creation of joint electorates is useless. Sir, the fault lies with the mentality of the people. The cure suggested is not the one which the disease requires. It is asserted that if joint electorates are made only able men will be returned. But, Sir, when the mentality of the people and the attitude of the two communities towards each other, is such the only result will be that the Muhammadans will try to elect a Hindu member who should be a mere simpleton and who should for his signature be able to make his thumb impression only. And the Hindus also would do the same. This proposal means no more then this, that while the disease is about the head the cure suggested is that one foot be cut of. Then it has been said that the former time was so good that Hindus and Muslims lived in love and unity. But we are to see what the present time is. In these days those good old relations are no more.

خواب تھا جو کچھ کہ دیکھا جو سنا افسانہ تھا

(What I saw was only a dream, what I heard was only a myth.) The present time is such that outwardly there is a lip-deep profession of friendship: they will dine with you at the same table, but as soon as you turn aside the same knife and fork which were meant for use on dishes only, will be thrust into your ribs. Lala Hari Chand lives in those old days even now, but I like to be an 'up-to-date' man. The cure suggested is even more dangerous than the disease and so I oppose this resolution.

Diwan Bahadur Raja Narendra Nath [Punjab Land-holders (General)] (Urdu): Sir, I have heard all the speeches from both sides with the greatest attention. I may tell the House that I have spent the best part of my life in studying the Hindu-Muslim question and the affairs of Municipal Committees and District Boards.

Two propositions admit of no controversy: (1) that the population of India at the present time consists of numerous castes and creeds, and (2) that

[D. B. Raja Narendra Nath.]

the various castes and creeds, should be welded into one National whole, and that amicable and brotherly relations should prevail between the two principal communities—Hindus and Muhammadans. There is however dispute as to the methods which should be adopted in order to attain the latter end. Some people would like to see communal representation in every sphere of activity: and others hold just the opposite view. The issue however before the Council is a very narrow one. I wish to say nothing as to communal representation, but the resolution moved by the honourable member proposes that conceding communal representation, and allowing communal proportions to remain what they are the electorate should be joint and not separate as at present. The greater part of speeches that have been made have dealt with the desirability of promoting brotherly relations between the two communities. No one disputes this, but the question is whether in order to promote good relations we shou'd have separate or joint electorates.

I was a witness before the Franchise Committee and I proposed communal proportions with joint electorate for the Provincial Council. Hindu-Muhammadan relations were good in those days, still I foresaw the desirability of joint electorates. I was severely cross-examined, but was unable to maintain my position. The Committee was unable to find any flaw in the proposal which was sound; but Sir Frederick Sly said, that the Congress League compact could not be easily ignored or set aside and the reforms were not going to be based on foundations which had not the support of the League and the Congress. I am however glad that the proposal now comes before the Council in the form of a resolution proposed by a Christian gentleman. The Congress has also put forward the same proposal.

(A voice) What about the League—the Muslim League.

I am not speaking of the League, because I am not concerned with it, but I am referring to the Congress which has many Mussalman members on it.

I have listened very carefully to the words of the Honourable the Minister for Education. He tried to show that joint electorates were unworkable and impracticable. I and the honourable member for Hoshiarpur have tried our best to form some idea of the unworkability. I confess I do not understand where the unworkable or impracticable nature of the scheme comes in.

The Honourable the Minister for Education has said that as there is no communal representation in the district boards, only those members are returned to them who belong to the preponderant religious community. He however forgets that the resolution fixes communal proportions and does not propose to disturb those already existing.

Many a time I have heard the Honourable the Minister for Education dilating on democracy and elucidating the principles on which it is based. More than once he has said that democracy meant rule by majority, but when the country is divided into castes and creeds and communal representation exists, rule by majority means rule by men of the preponderant creed. Joint electorates are advocated as a step towards the attainment of an end which is admittedly the goal, *viz.*, nationalisation.

It has been alleged that three kinds of members will be returned under a common electorate—(*i*) traitors or renegades, (*ii*) fools and block-heads and (*iii*) Hindus representing Muslim views or Mussalman representing Hindu views.

I may invite the attention of this House to a broad psychological fact. It is not in human nature to go directly against one's class or communal interests. Liberals and Conservatives have only different ways of viewing class interests. As to dishonest men and traitors, these you will find under every system, and in every country. There are Hindus who on temptations being offered to them are prepared to cut the throats of their friends or even of their brethren though elected by a separate electorate, and the same can be said of Muhammadans. As to the blockheads, there is an adage, which means, that a wise enemy is to be preferred to a friend who is a fool. No one can place any reliance on blockheads, who cannot be trusted by their own or by an alien community.

Again, the Honourable the Minister for Education has said that wherever there is a majority of Musalman voters, they will elect a Hindu member who represents Muhammadan views, similarily Hindu voters where they are in majority, will return Muhammadans representing Hindu views. I say that this is the very thing we want, as members should represent the views of the minority.

I may also add that the conditions in the country have reached such a pass that in a city in which there has been a breach of friendly relations, say Amritsar, it is impossible to constitute a Workable Conciliation Board. If such a Board is constituted and brings about reconciliation, and if any of the members of the Board seeks election I guarantee that he will never be elected for the Council or for the Municipal Board.

I support the proposal embodied in the resolution very heartily, but as the Council election has drawn very near and no change is possible in the near future, and as in Municipal Committees better communal feeling exists, I would request the honourable mover to withdraw his resolution.

Malik Firoz Khan Noon : Sir, I beg to move—

"That the question be now put."

Mr. President : The question is—

"That the question be now put."

The motion was carried.

Mr. K. L. Rallia Ram [Representative of Indian Christians] (Urdu) : Sir, many questions have been answered in the various speeches delivered by my honourable friends. I am thankful to the Honourable the Minister for Education who so sympathetically listened to my views when I expressed them to him outside the council of which he made a mention in his speech today. The Honourable the Minister for Education and other speakers have discussed the details of this proposal, but I wanted that the principle of my proposal should be discussed. The practicability or the impracticability of this is a separate affair. It takes time to bring a principle into action.

I have heard many speeches, and in some of them I was informed that a separate religion has taken its birth and that is a Hindu-Musalman or a Musalman-Hindu. The gist of nearly all the speeches was that if this proposal is passed, useless men will be returned on account of religious prejudices. It is only a false idea—a prejudice. But the best way to know about the success or failure of the scheme is to make an experiment, just as we teachers do in schools.

[Mr. K. L. Rallia Ram.]

At this time we are immediately concerned with the Punjab, so that let us make an experiment here. The Honourable the Minister for Education has told us the methods of election in different municipal committees. One of them can surely be taken to make an experiment. If it fails, I would be the first man to oppose my own proposal.

It has also been asserted that wherever there is communal representation, disputes have broken out. If so, then there is no need to speak in favour of separate representation. My honourable friend Pir Akbar Ali misunderstood me. What I meant was that by this communal representation corruption has increased, because Hindu members save the corrupt Hindu staff and the Musalman members save their co-religionists from their due punishment being awarded to them. I will request that an experiment be made of my proposal, but if the House wishes it, I am prepared to withdraw it.

Mr. President: Is it your wish that the motion be withdrawn ?*

(Leave to withdraw was refused.)

The Honourable Mian Fazl-i-Husain: I do not wish to reply.

Mr. President: I will put the resolution in two parts: The first question is —

"That this Council recommends to the Government —

(1) to recommend that the Punjab Electoral Rules be so amended as to abolish the communal electorates and create a joint electorate without disturbing the communal proportion of seats;"

The question is that that stand part of the Resolution.

(Mr. K. L. Rallia Ram called for a division.)

The Honourable Sir John Maynard: Sir, it is now 6 o'clock and according to the usual practice I would ask you to close the proceedings without taking votes.

Mr. President: It is now 6 o'clock, so there will be no division.

SPEECH BY MR. PRESIDENT.

Mr. President: I would ask the Council to bear with me for just a few minutes. I will be very brief. Firstly I want to say something about a motion of which notice was given some time ago by my friend Maulvi Muharram Ali Chishti. I will not read it out to the Council lest I should blush. The motion was quite admissible, but for technical reasons in view of the number of resolutions tabled, it could not possibly come up for discussion except under Standing Order 8, and I saw no reason why I should try to give precedance to it; moreover I did not wish to shorten the time available for non-official resolutions. Secondly, there is the question of principle. I think it undesirable that we should make a habit of indulging in motions of that sort relating to the President. There is a precedent, it is true, in the case of Mr. Butler, on the occasion when he was about to hand over charge of his office. But that was an exceptional case. Mr. Butler had the very onerous task of starting the Council and forming our procedure and traditions, and the Council is witness to the ability with which he discharged that task. There is nothing special, however, about the present

* NOTE.—The House was inadvertently asked whether it was their pleasure to grant leave to withdraw. This procedure was wrong and must not be taken as a precedent. In view of the fact that the closure had been applied, and the House had thus already decided that, after replies by the mover and Government member, the question should be put, any other proposition, such as withdrawal, was clearly barred. [President.]

occasion, and it would be a great pity to start a series of precedents which might some day prove awkward. The only occasion in my opinion when a motion relating to the President should be discussed, is if, which God forbid, any member should feel compelled to move a vote of censure.

Now, gentlemen, I want to thank you most cordially for the confidence and support which you have given me in the discharge of my duties and to express my appreciation of the great interest which you have shown in the public affairs committed to your charge and the great industry which you have displayed in your work and especially in that form of work which does not meet the public eye, namely the attendance from day to day at committees of various sorts, not only on Select Committees but on other committees. I have been a member of some of those committees myself before I became President and I know what an amount of time is taken up.

I should also like to say how very pleasant it is to feel that the discussions in this Council have, I think I may say, become more and more such as they should be, that is to say conducted with a proper sense of fairness and appreciation of the other man's point of view. I think the discussion which has been carried on this evening is a notable instance thereof. It has been characterised by perfect good feeling throughout and with a high standard of decorum throughout the debate.

Now, gentlemen the time comes to wish you farewell and I hope that I may see before me in a few months' time all those who wish to come back to the Council. I wish you all good luck in your elections and I can say no more. I should be very sorry if I miss any of the old faces that have been before me during the past fifteen months.

I have it in command from His Excellency the Governor to inform the Council that His Excellency desires to address the Council and for that purpose requires the attendance of the members at 10-30 A. M. to-morrow. I think it would be well if members are in their places at 10-20.

The Council then adjourned till 10-30 o'clock on Saturday the 27th October 1923.

PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

EIGHTH SESSION.

Saturday, the 27th October 1923.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR having arrived in procession with the officers of the Council and his personal staff took his seat on the throne.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S SPEECH.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR then addressed the Council as follows :—

Mr. President and Gentlemen, I was reading lately the speech which Oliver Cromwell delivered to his first reformed Parliament before he dissolved it. He was dissatisfied with this Parliament. The members had kept their debates to themselves, they had failed to communicate with him, and he told them that he did not know whether they had been alive or dead. They had spent their time discussing constitutional questions with no result, and had failed to help him in combating the seditious attempts of the *anti*-Government party in the nation. They had also omitted to vote him supplies. He accordingly informed them that it was 'not for the profit of this nation nor for the common and public good for them to continue here any longer,' and he therefore dissolved them.

I am glad that it does not fall to me to make a speech of this tenor in bidding you farewell to-day. We in this Province have, in these last few years, been passing through a time hardly, if at all, less perilous to the people than that through which the United Kingdom passed in 1654, but I am happy to say that during the past three years, the Executive and the Legislature have worked together for the promotion of peace. I do not mean to say that all your measures or all your resolutions have been those most conducive, in my own opinion, to the maintenance of peace. But my Government has always felt that in you as a body it had a companion and helper, anxious for the same ends and devoted to the same cause, namely the welfare and security of the people of the Punjab. The dangers of insecurity have been ever present to your minds and you have steadily given your approval to measures to combat it. The Government has realized how profoundly averse you are at bottom to any thing in the shape of violent change, to anything subversive of the popular contentment and security. For this you have my sincerest thanks.

I may also note that on the historical occasion to which I have referred, the Lord Protector, among a number of somewhat incoherent enquiries, asked his Parliament the searching question 'What have you brought forth', and his own reply was 'I did not nor cannot comprehend what it is.' Here again, we are in a better position to answer such a question. I will not attempt a catalogue of what you have done, but I may safely say that your outturn is one of which you need not be ashamed. In the field of local Self-Government alone, you have passed a series of important measures which

have carried into being the principles outlined by the Government of India in 1918 : you have amended and liberalized your Municipalities and District Boards : you have provided for the improved administration of Small Towns : you have introduced the system of Panchayats for which there had long been a demand : and you have initiated the machinery for the vital problem of Town Improvement. You have in your Resolutions passed in review a number of the main activities of Government, and your Standing Committees have done admirable work as points of liaison between the Government and your deliberations. Your Finance Committee and your Committee on Public Accounts have been of special value. By means of these Committees and of your budget debates, the Government has been guided sagaciously along the sequestered path of economy. It is a matter for regret that so great a part of your time has been passed under the shadow of financial depression. The Ministers have, with your help, done much to expand the activities of what we are now accustomed to term ' the beneficent departments ', but I realize only too well that what they have done is only a fraction of that which they would have wished to do if money had been available. You have in some degree helped to provide the means for balancing our budgets, but I cannot conceal from you my disappointment at your rejection of the finance bills which were placed before you last week. By means of the income which these bills were to secure we had hoped to be able to postpone, and possibly avoid altogether, the utilization of other and less agreeable forms of taxation and your decision was the more disappointing as you had in previous sessions realized and done your best to meet the financial needs of the Province.

With whatever departments of work you were dealing, it was not expected that you should always take the view approved by my Government, but whether you have taken it or not, you have, with few exceptions, attacked the questions before you with a due sense of your responsibility. In looking back on your debates, you may recall isolated errors of judgment or individual bursts of petulance—both official and non-official—but the outstanding characteristic of your labours has been a genuine desire to do what is good for the Province, and to do it without recalcitrance or friction. You have maintained under the guidance of your Presidents and Deputy Presidents a higher degree of dignity and decorum than is, I think, usual in such assemblies, and your own self-respect has led you to obtain in greater measure the respect of the world outside.

Before we part, I should like to hark back to a point which I ventured to urge when I first addressed you, along with the other notables of the Province, at our Darbar of January 1921. I there stated that, in my opinion, the form of Government was a matter of less importance than the temper of the people who compose it. We must have controversy. It is a concomitant—an unpleasant concomitant perhaps—of all democratic progress. But controversy is one thing and hatred is another. One of the greatest of Irish patriots has spoken of ' that wretched and wicked prejudice which admits a difference of opinion as a cause of hatred '. One of the greatest of geographers and himself a man of marked opinions, looking further afield, has said : ' On this round world that revolves rapidly in space, a grain of sand amid infinity, is it worthwhile for us to hate one another ? ' From whatever point of view we may look at it, the importation of hatred into our controversies is a grievous hindrance to the progress of the country. You, Gentlemen, have, in my opinion, done much by your mutual intercourse

and your open and free discussions, to allow controversy to proceed without hatred, but there are many outside, who have not had the same opportunities or perhaps the same good will. There is an unfortunate class of men who seem to be always on the look-out for causes of hatred, and who, not only express hate themselves, but do all they can to sow the seeds of hatred in others. You know to what this all leads, especially if the emotion of hatred is linked to a perversion of our highest emotions, those of religion. Those who sow this seed among a simple and manly people are incurring a great responsibility. The Government has its own crude ways of dealing on your behalf with such manifestations of hatred, but it is naturally loth to use them, and, while it is waiting—and in this province it has waited long and patiently—the evil is apt to grow worse. Let us count, Gentlemen, on your help to rid this Punjab of these waves of hatred, which have in these latter years so disfigured it. They have in some instances already passed away: in others unfortunately they are still with us. But with your help and your good will, I look to seeing them disappear before long into insignificance.

I have now the sad duty, Gentlemen, of bidding you—as Members of this Council—farewell. Among those of you who seek re-election, I hope to see not a few again when our new Council meets, but it cannot but be the case that there are some among you whom I shall not see again in this chamber. To one and all I wish a prosperous and useful career for the benefit of the Province which we all love, and, in offering you again my best thanks for your labours, I hereby declare the Council dissolved.

A translation of the speech was also read.

His Excellency the Governor then left the Council Chamber.

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